Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

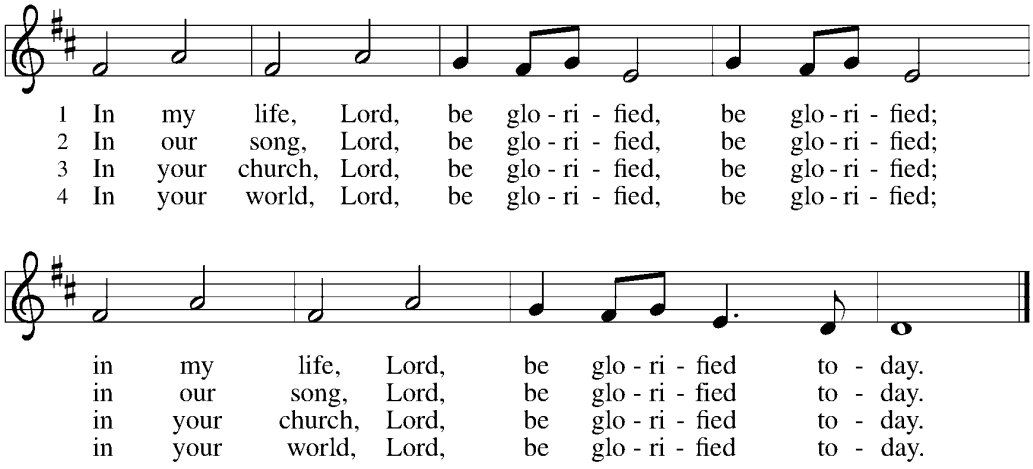
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

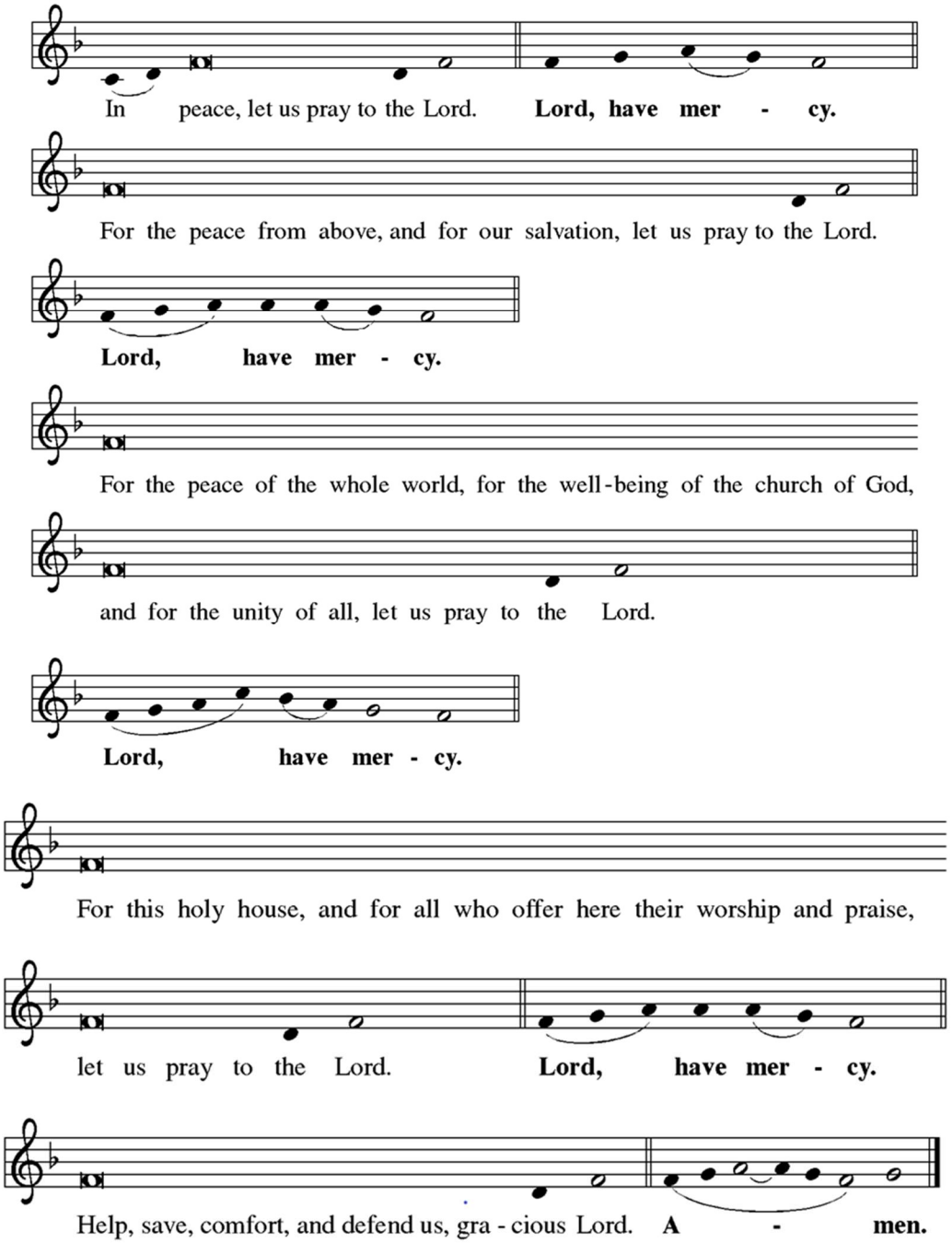
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

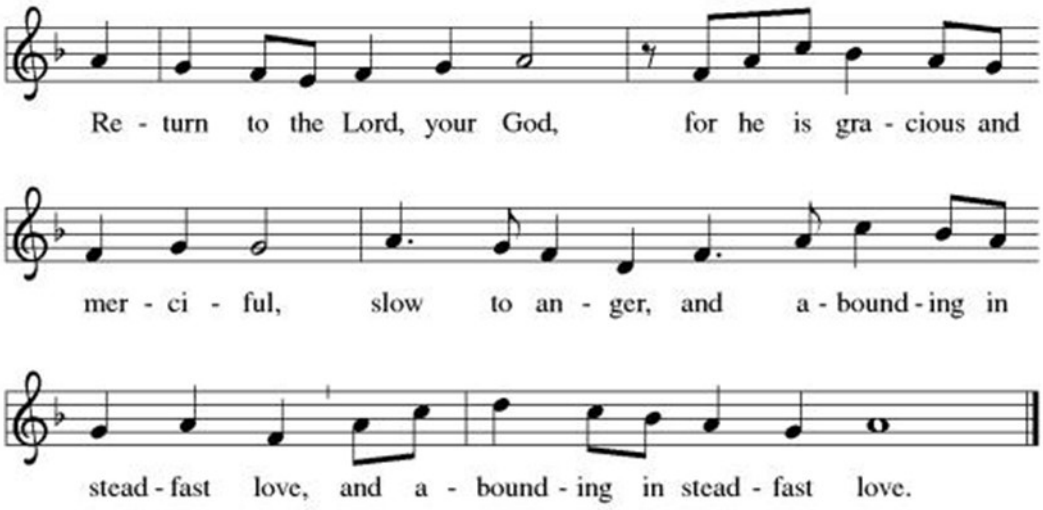
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

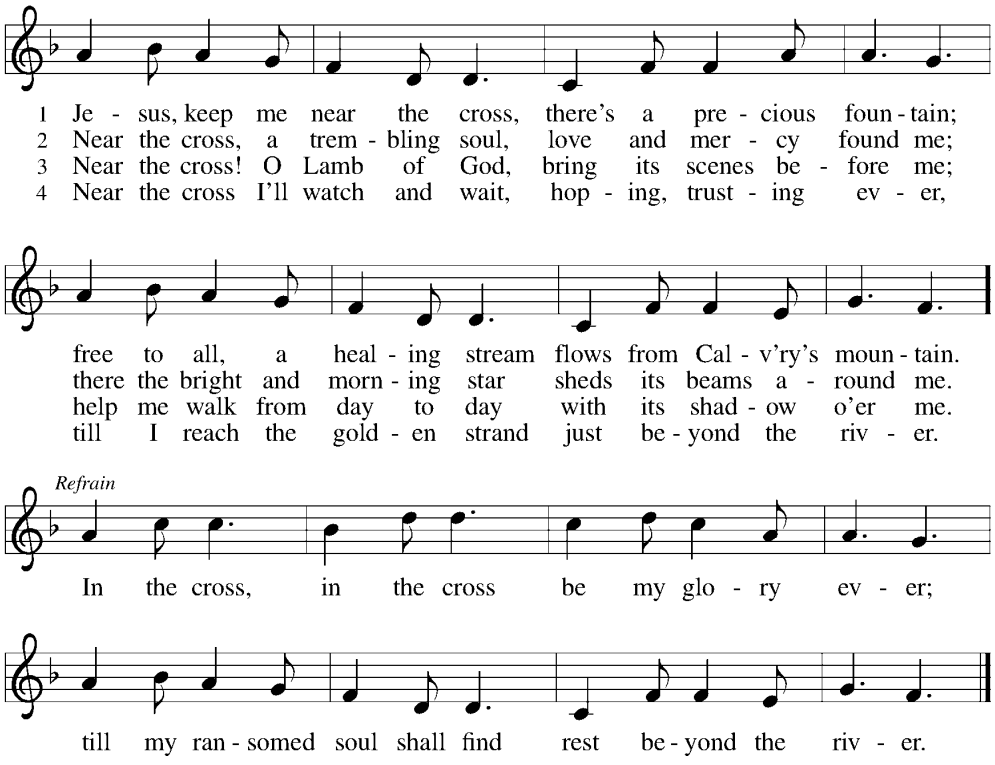
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

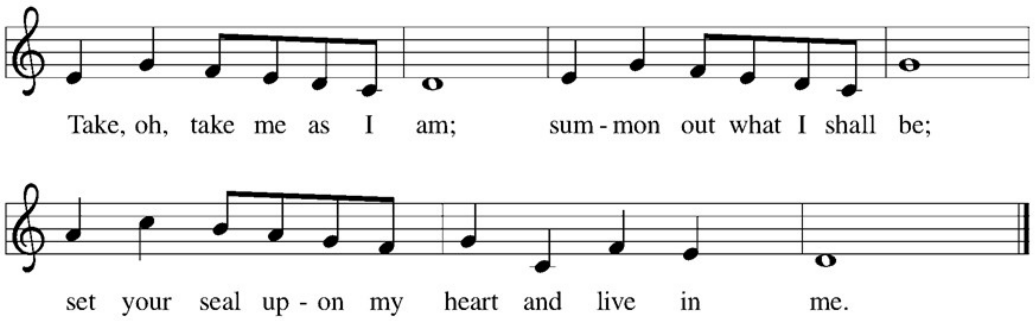
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

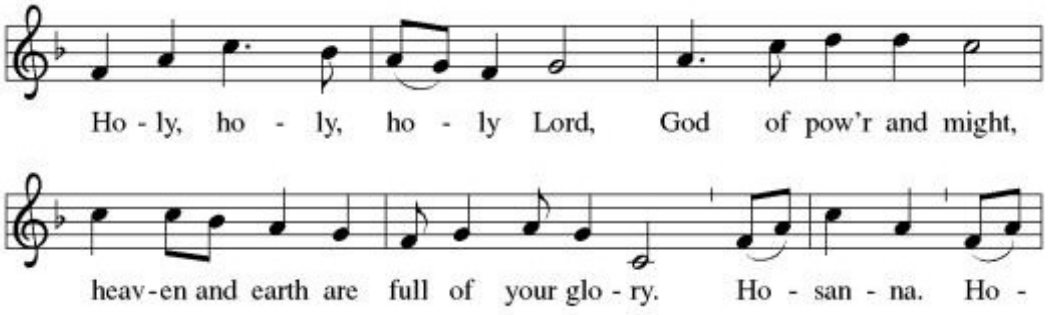
P: Lift up your hearts.

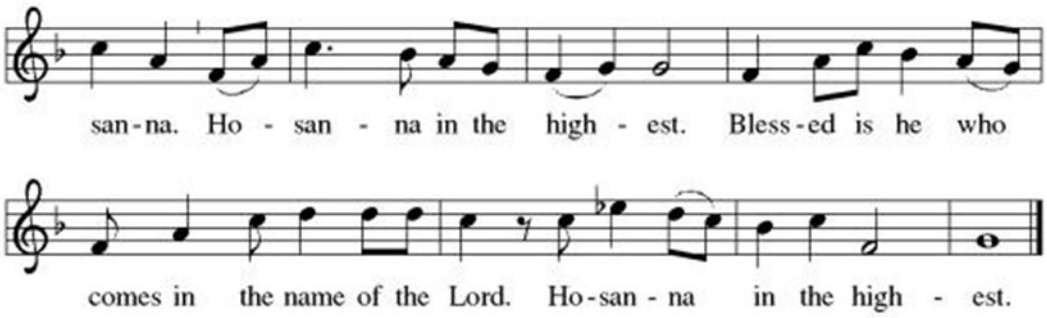
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

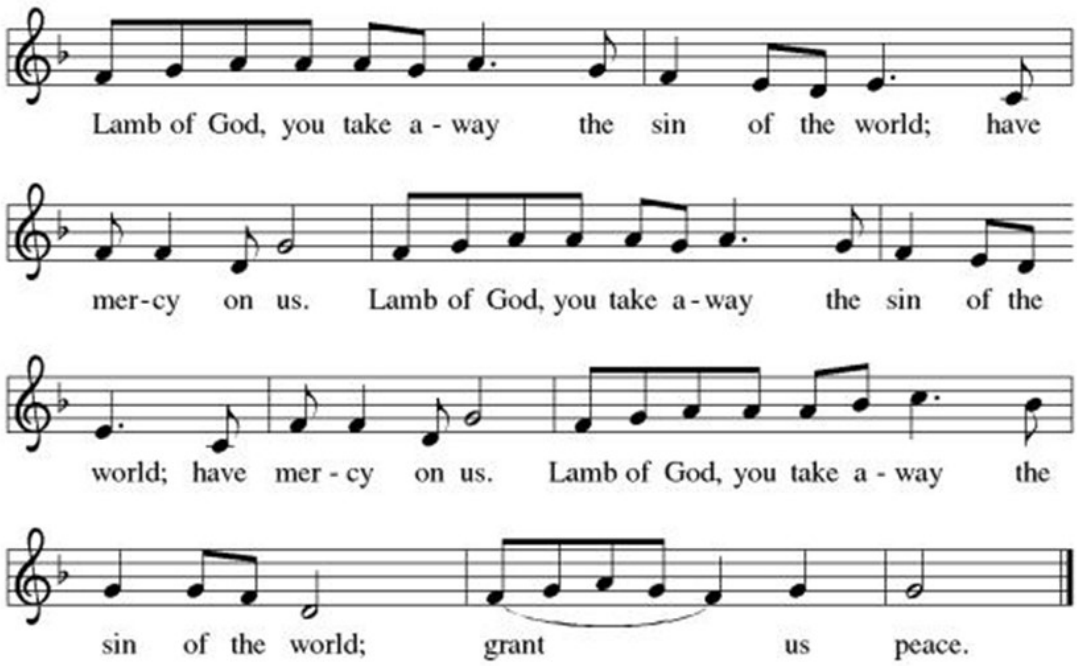
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
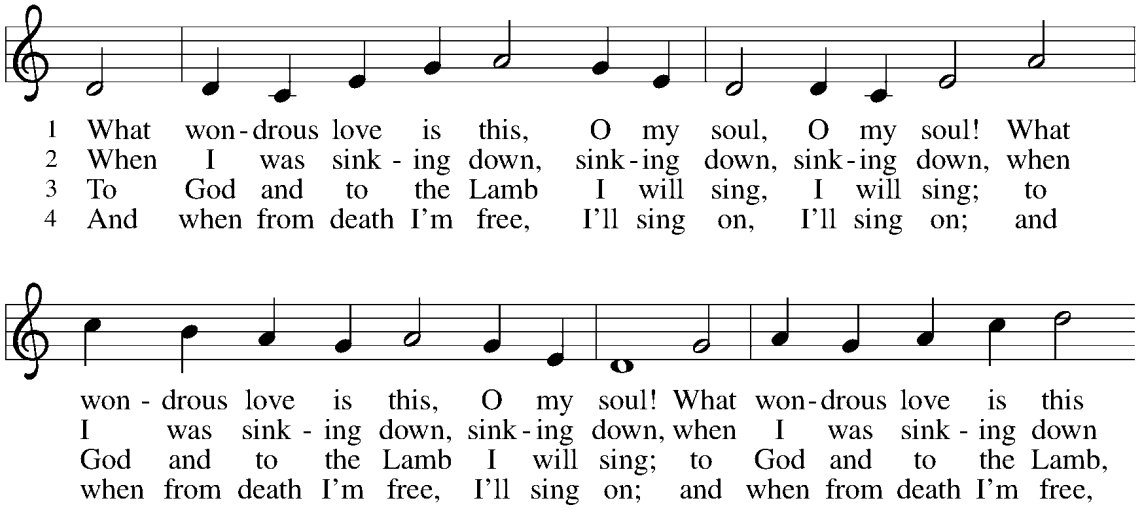
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



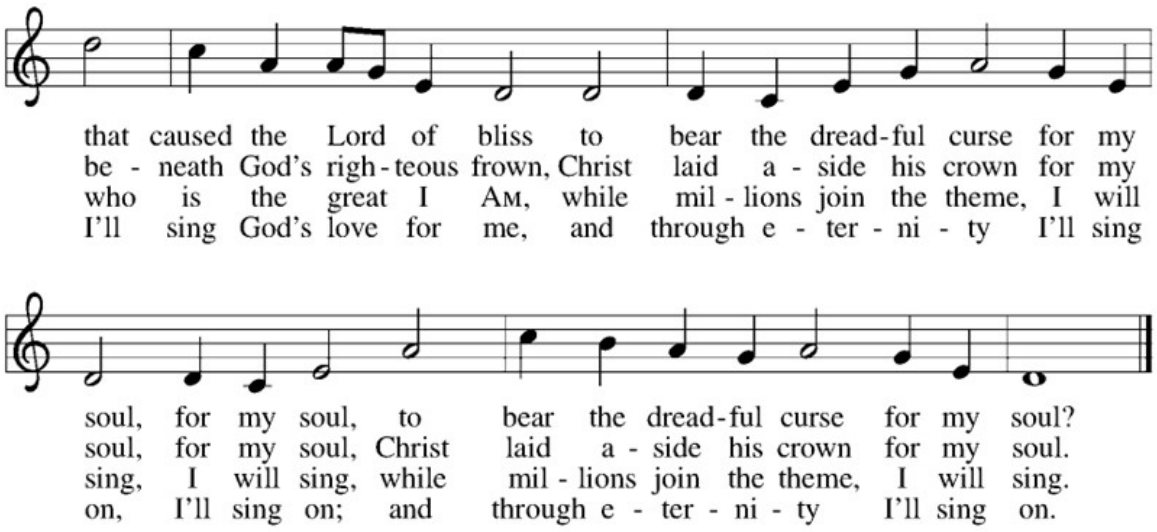
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

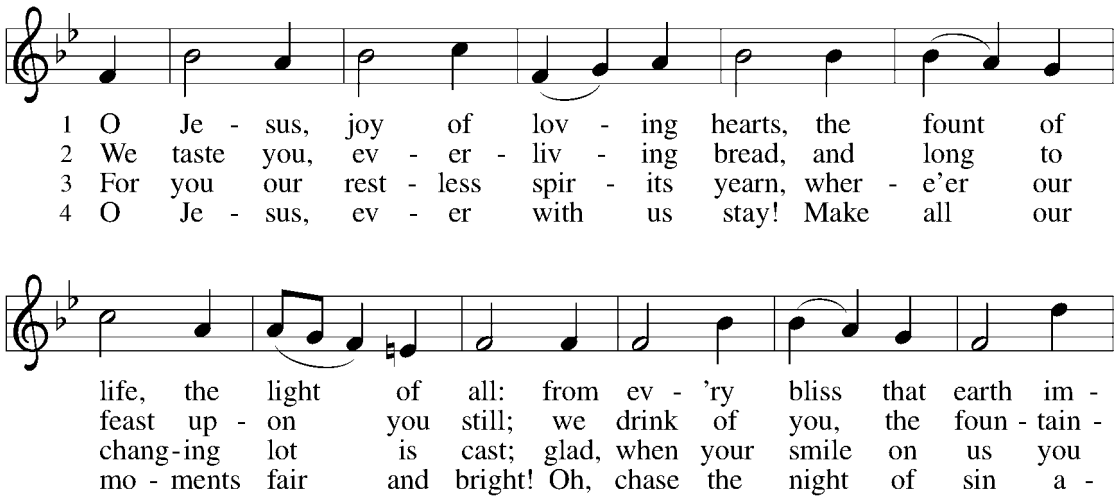
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
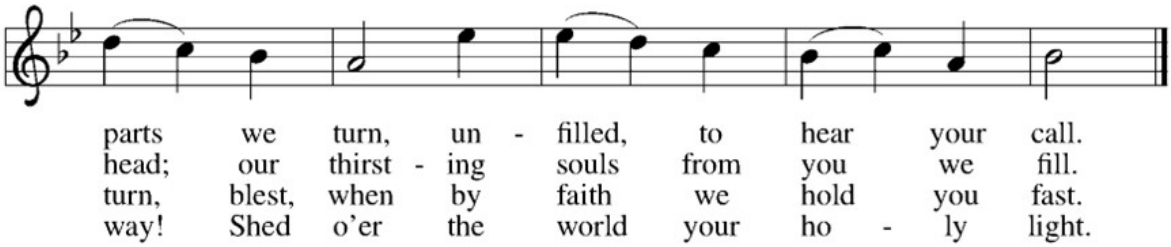
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

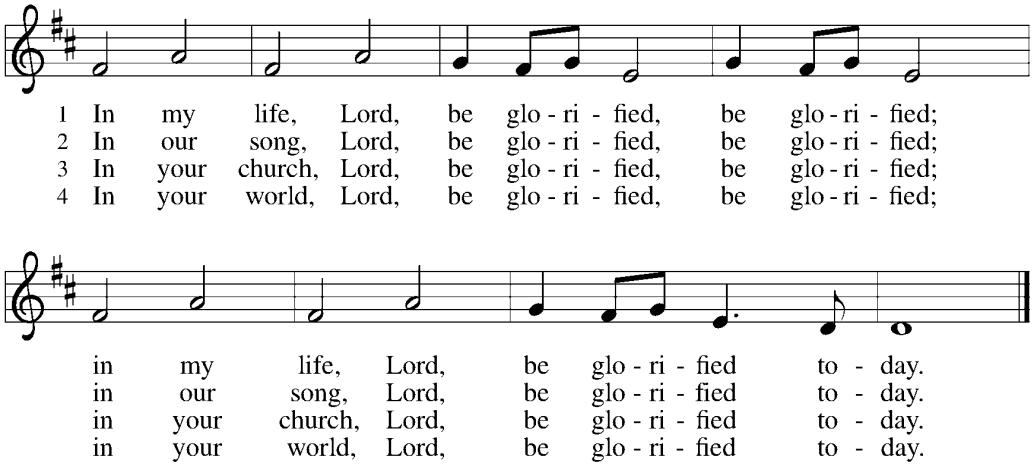
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

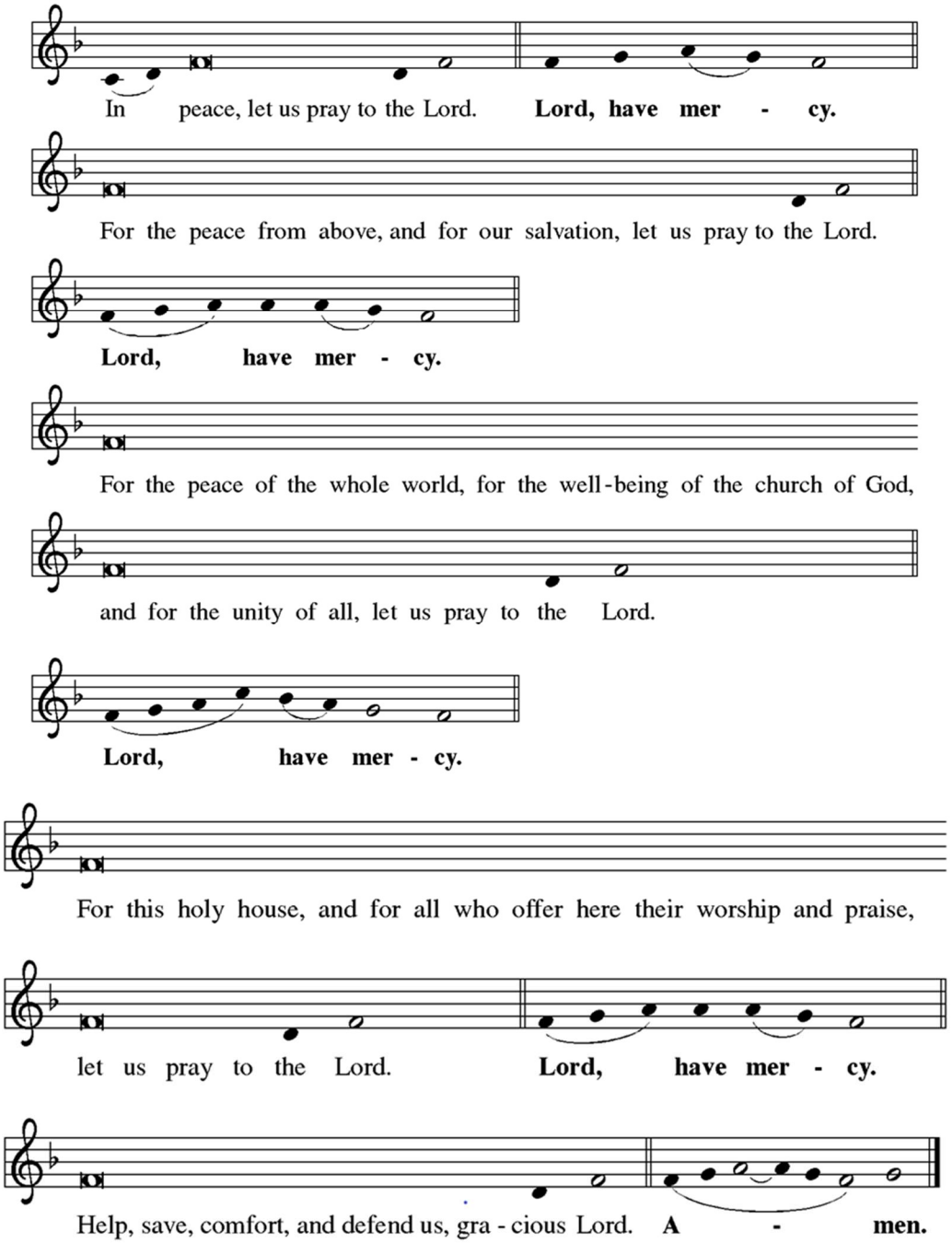
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

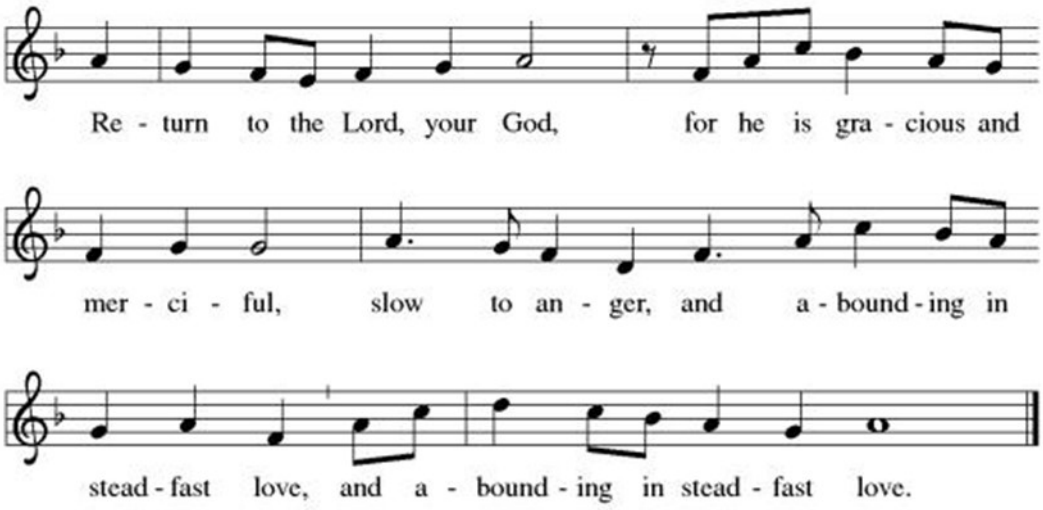
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

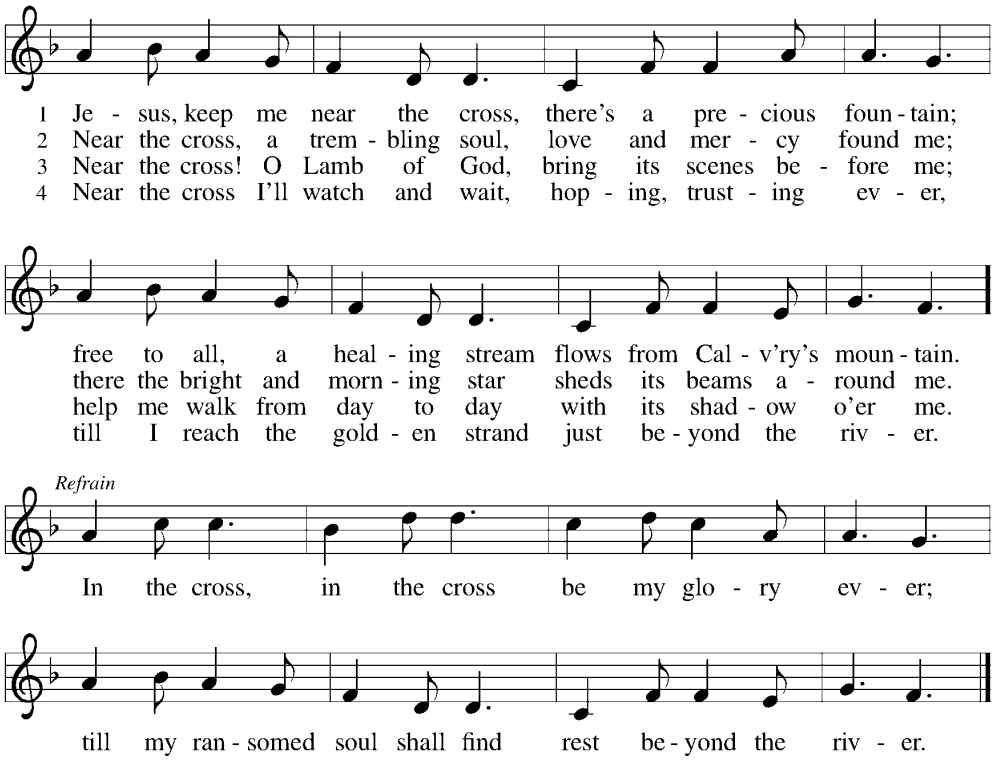
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

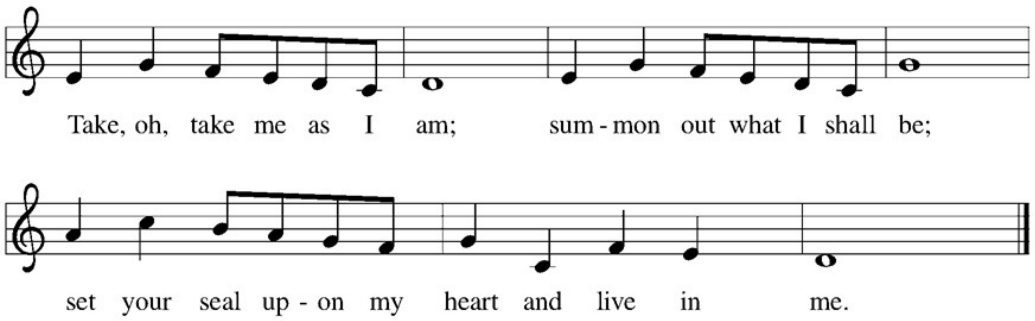
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

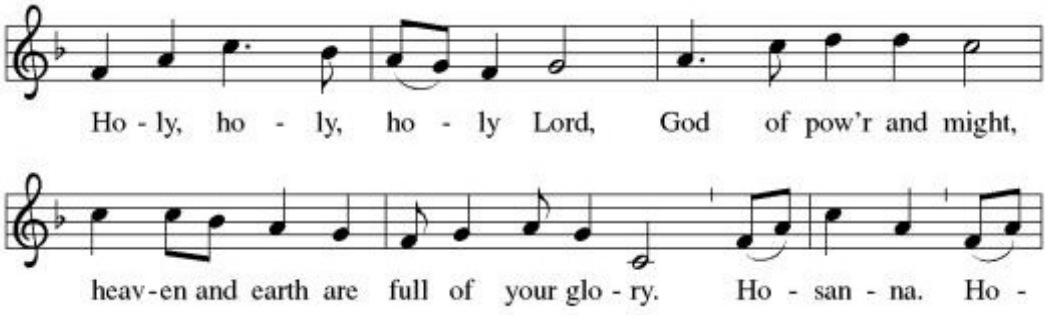
P: Lift up your hearts.

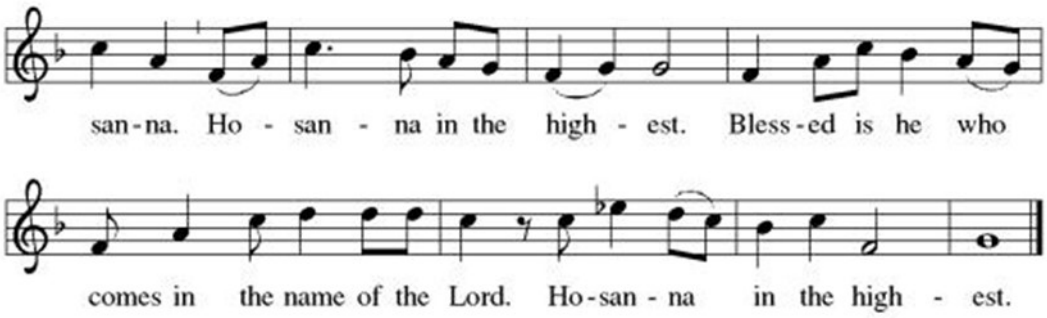
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

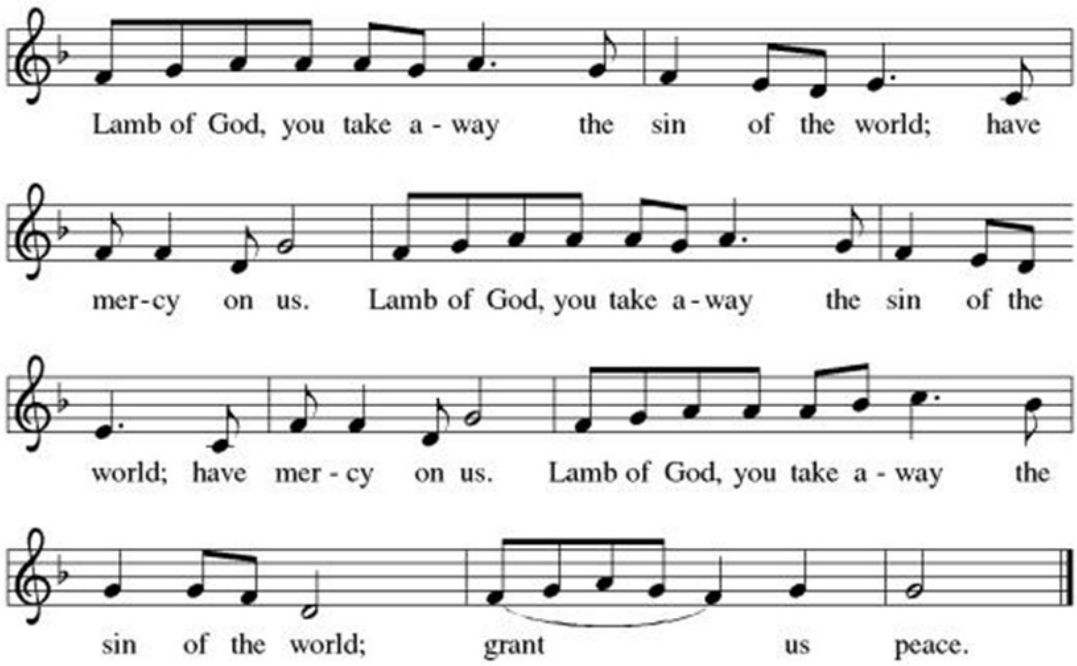
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
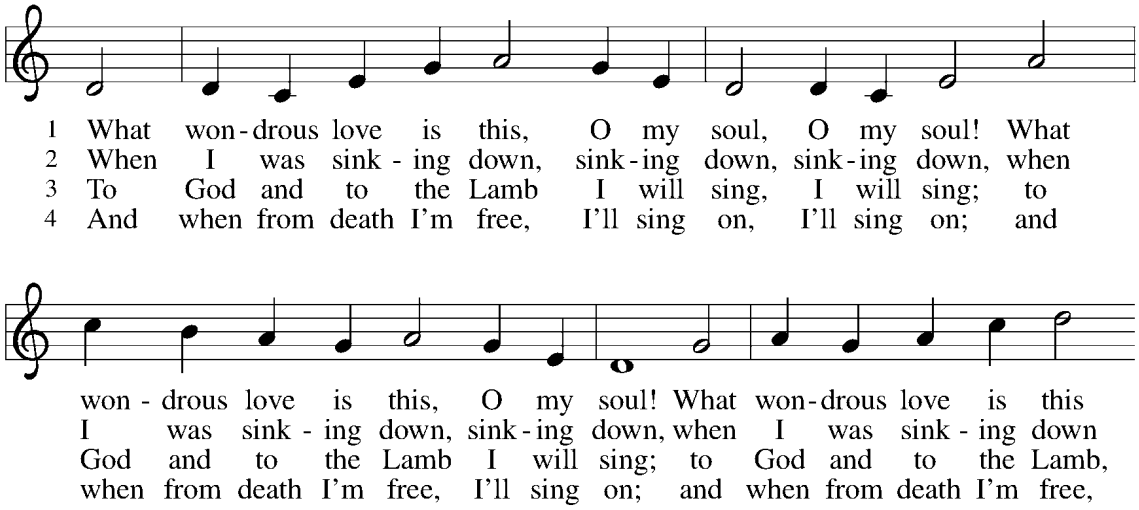
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



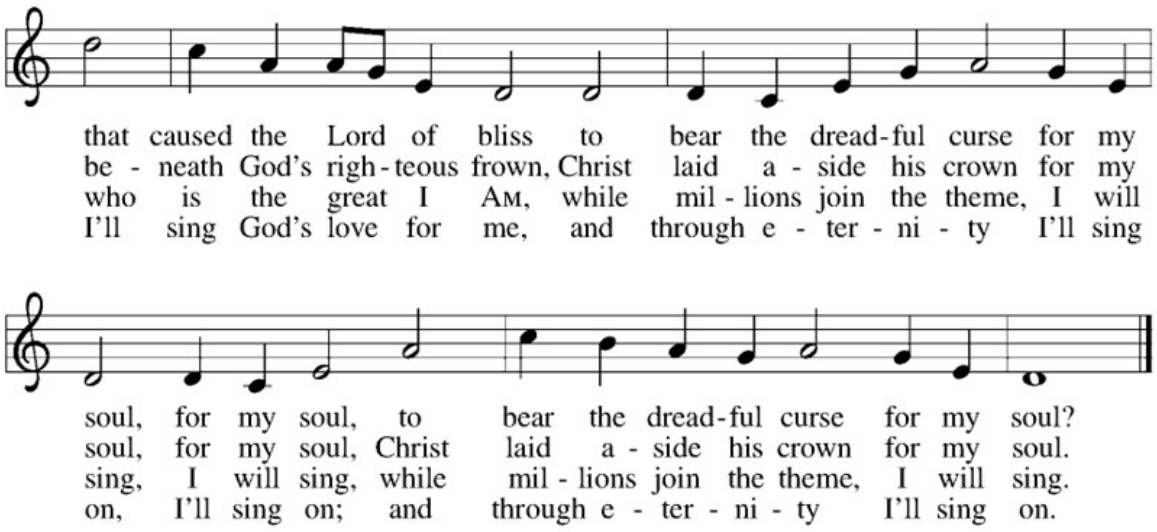
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

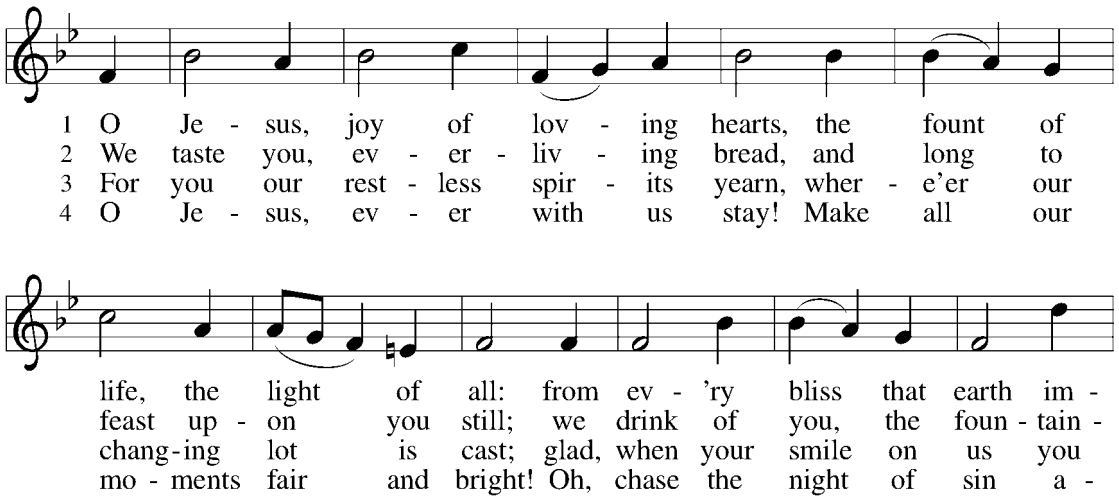
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
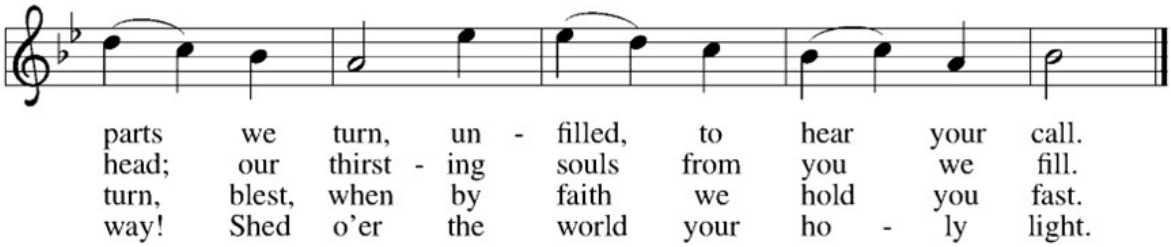
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

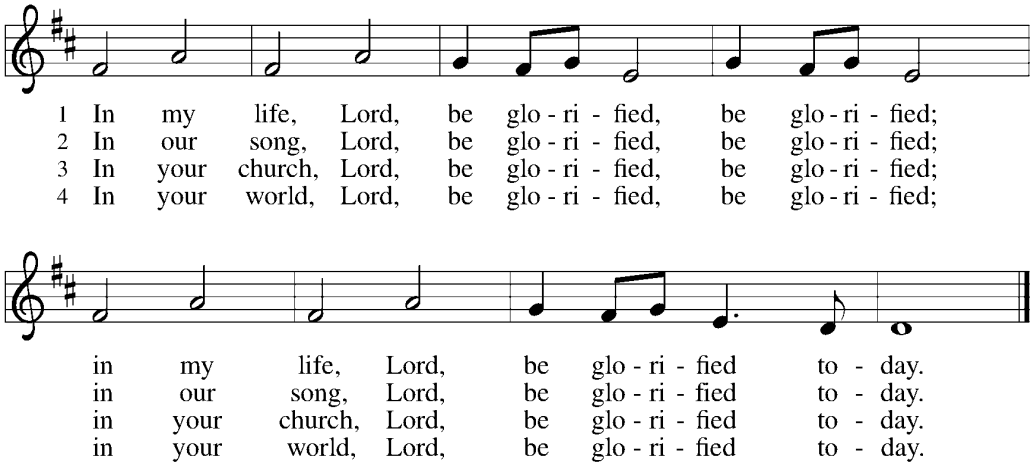
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

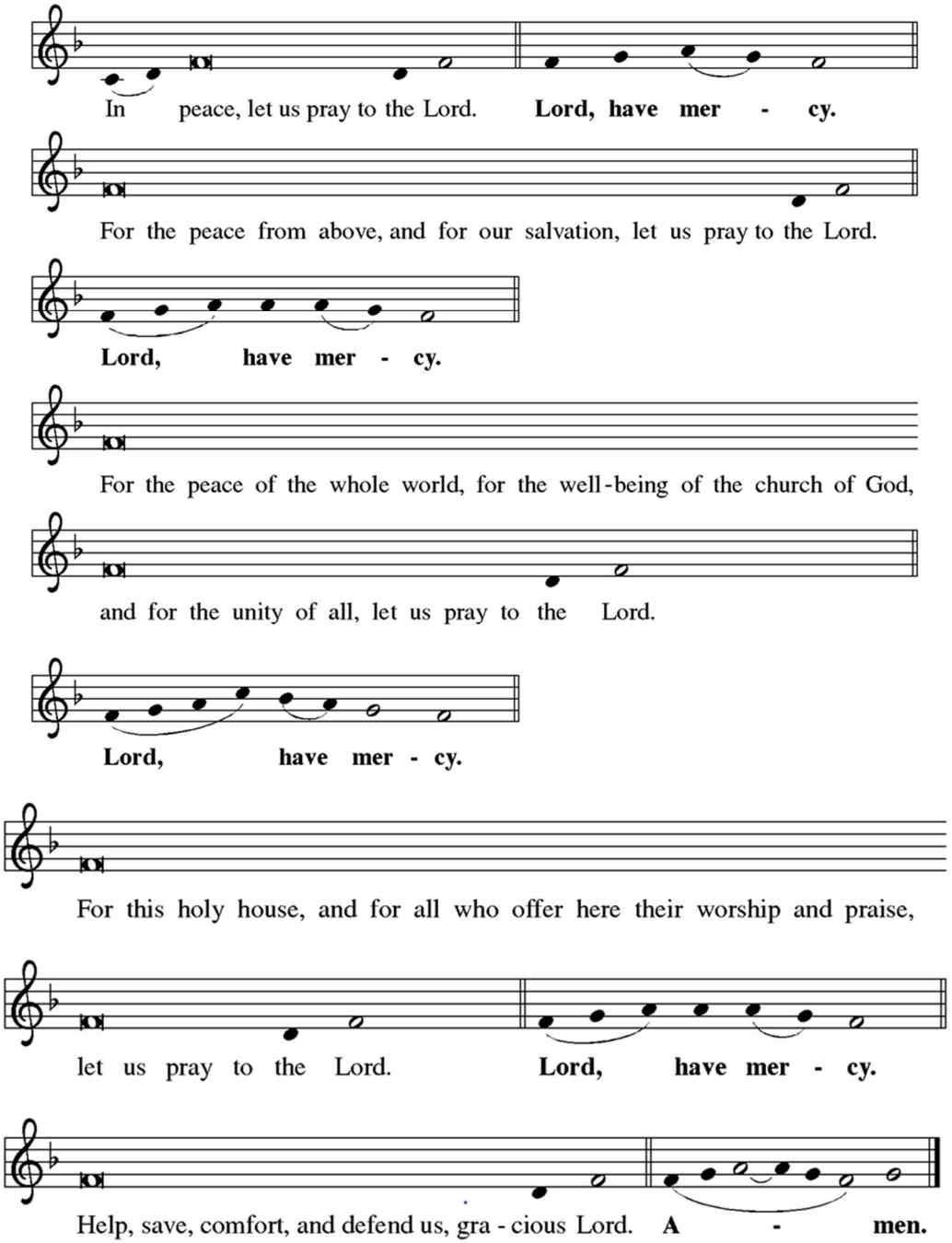
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

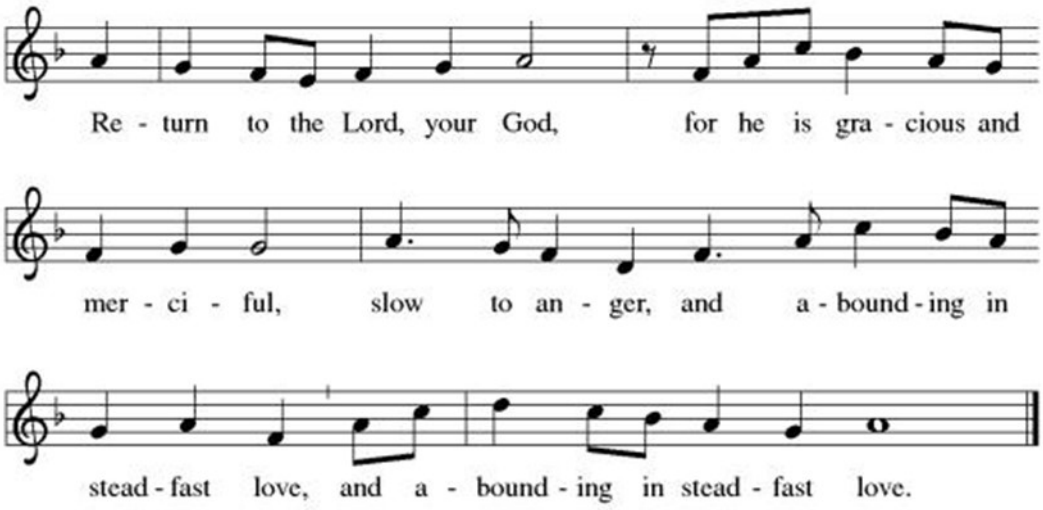
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

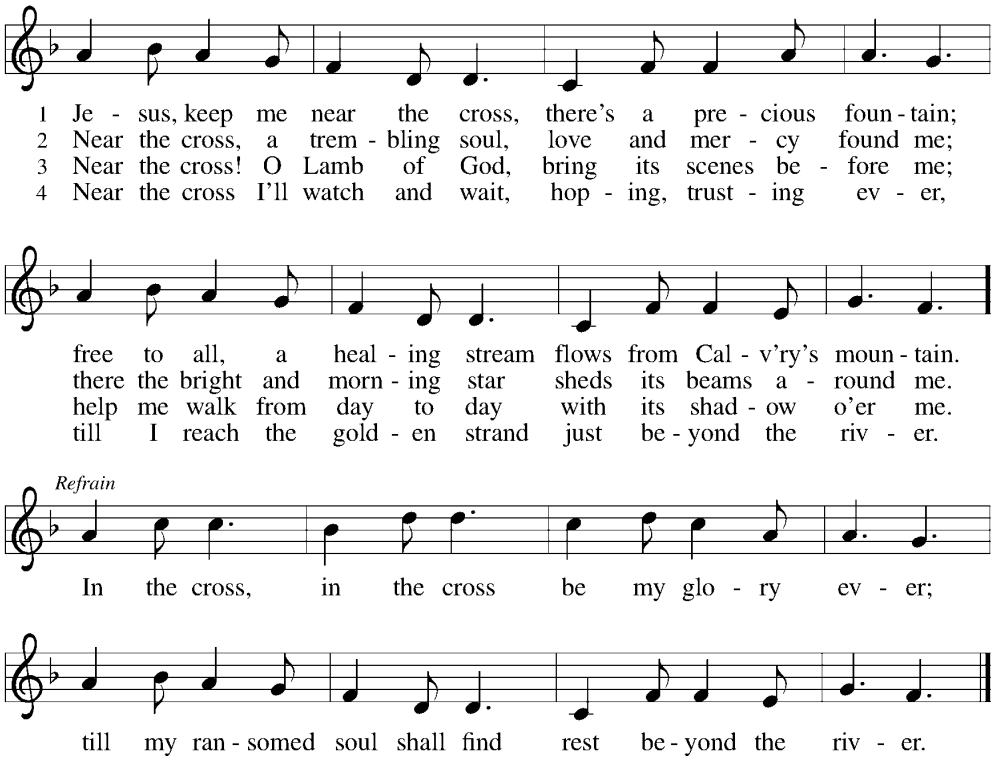
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

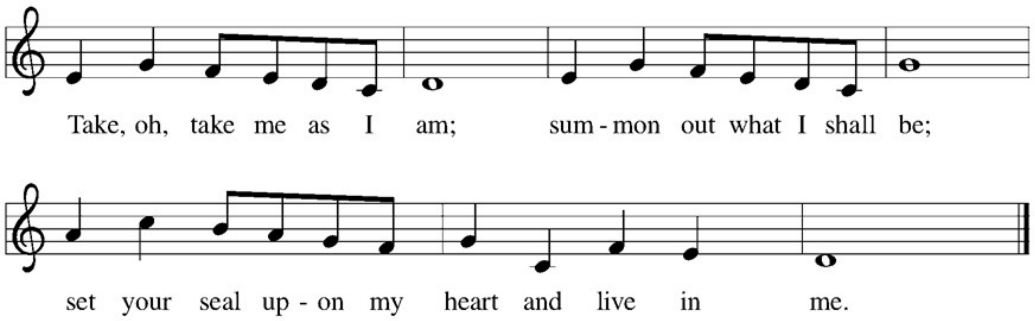
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

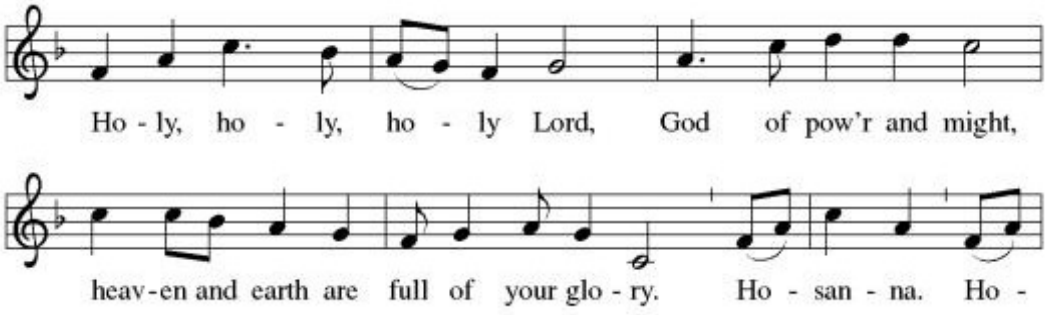
P: Lift up your hearts.

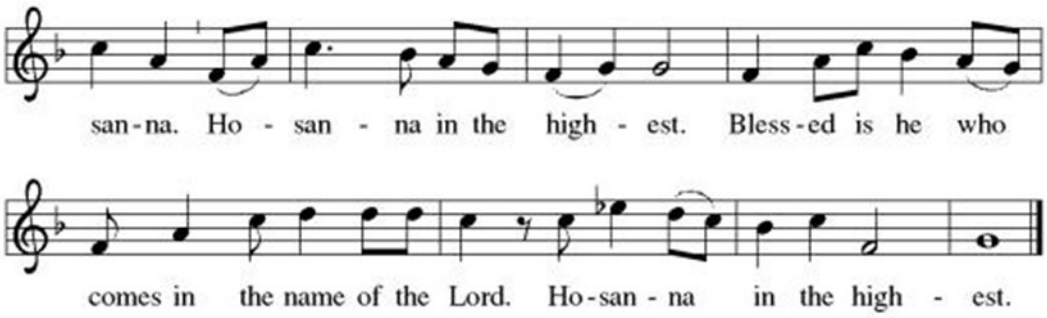
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

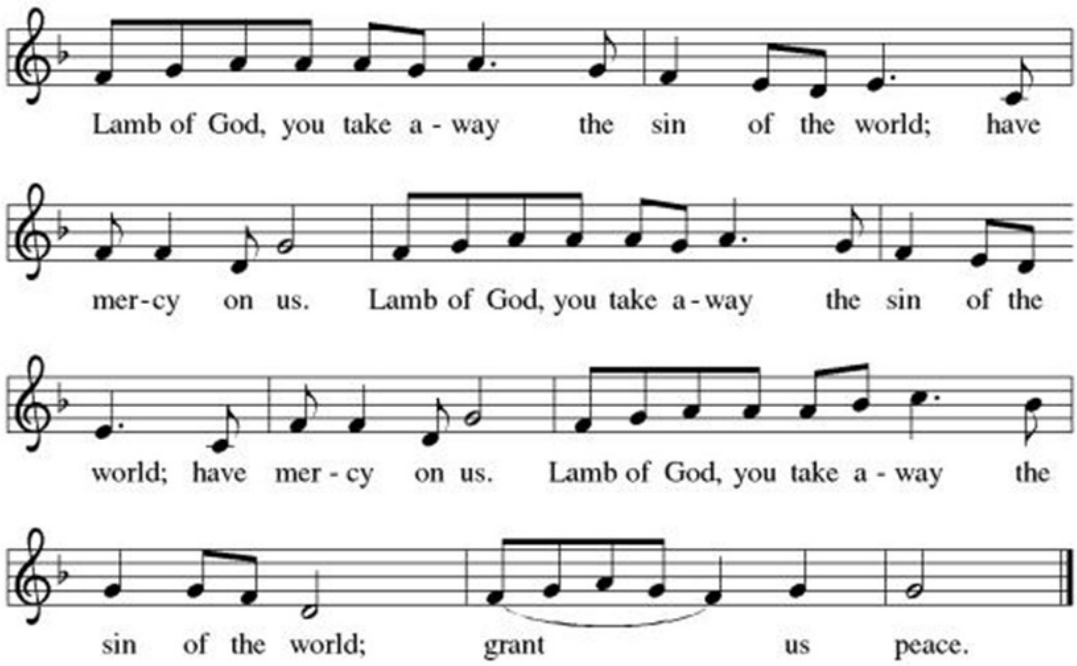
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
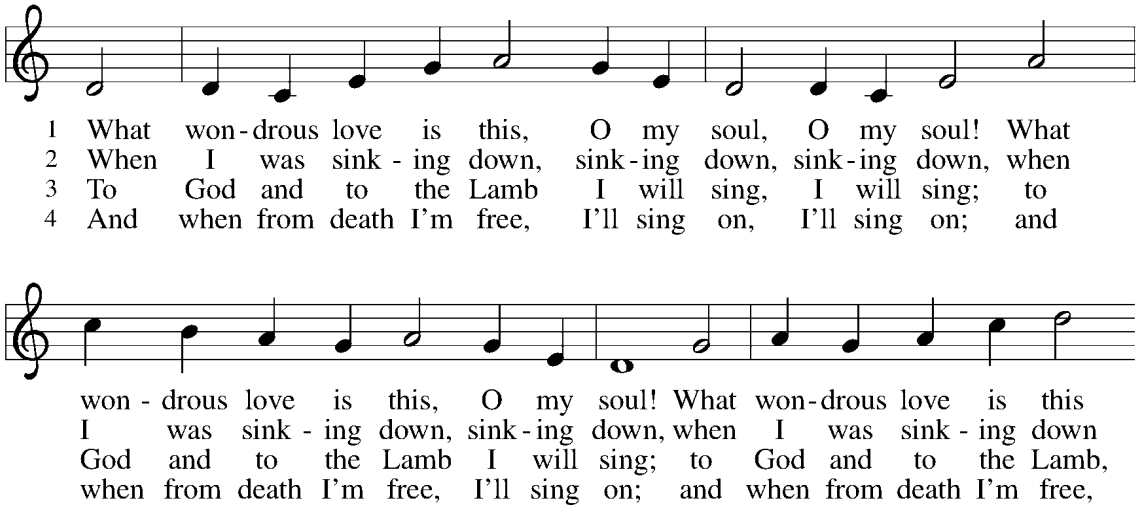
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



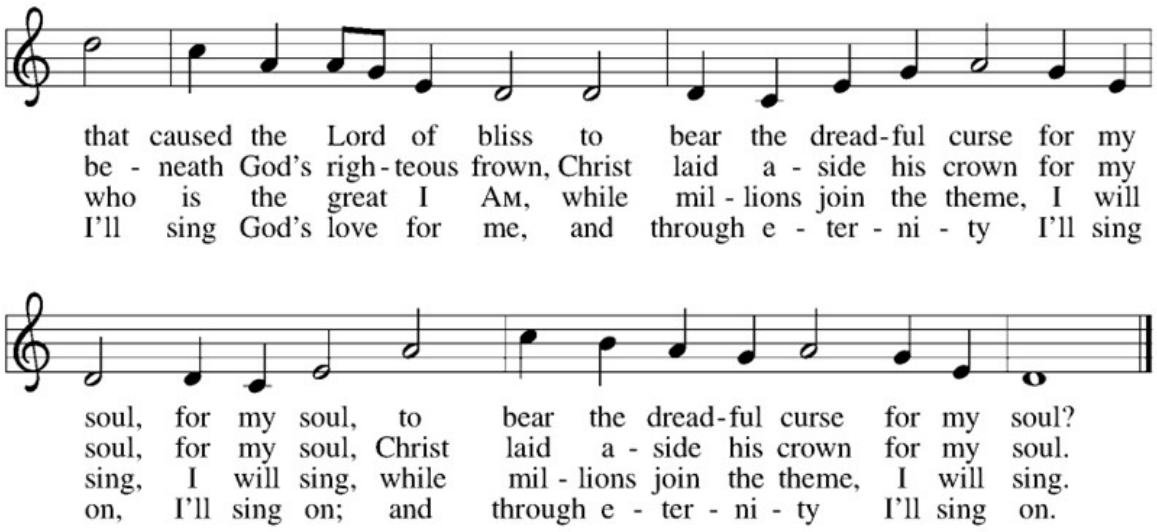
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

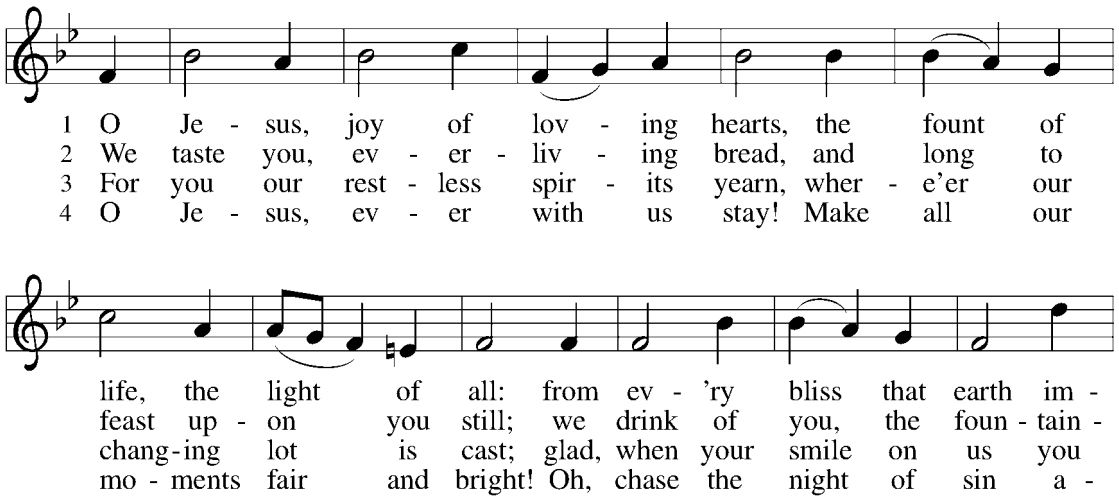
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
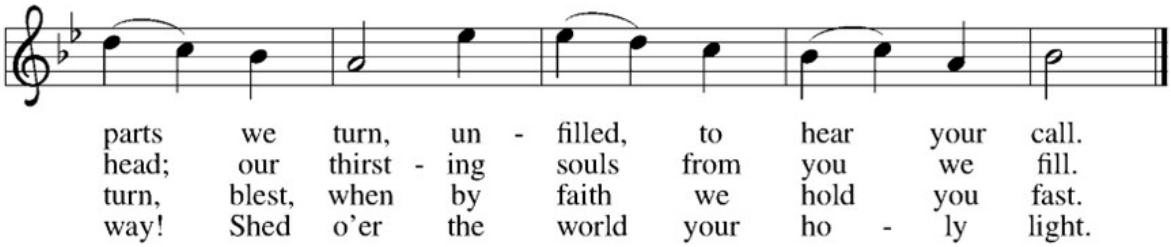
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

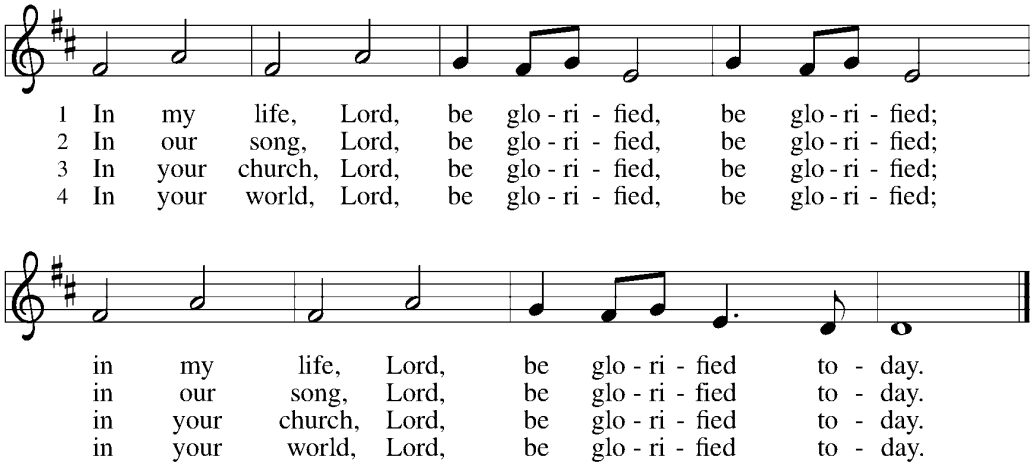
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

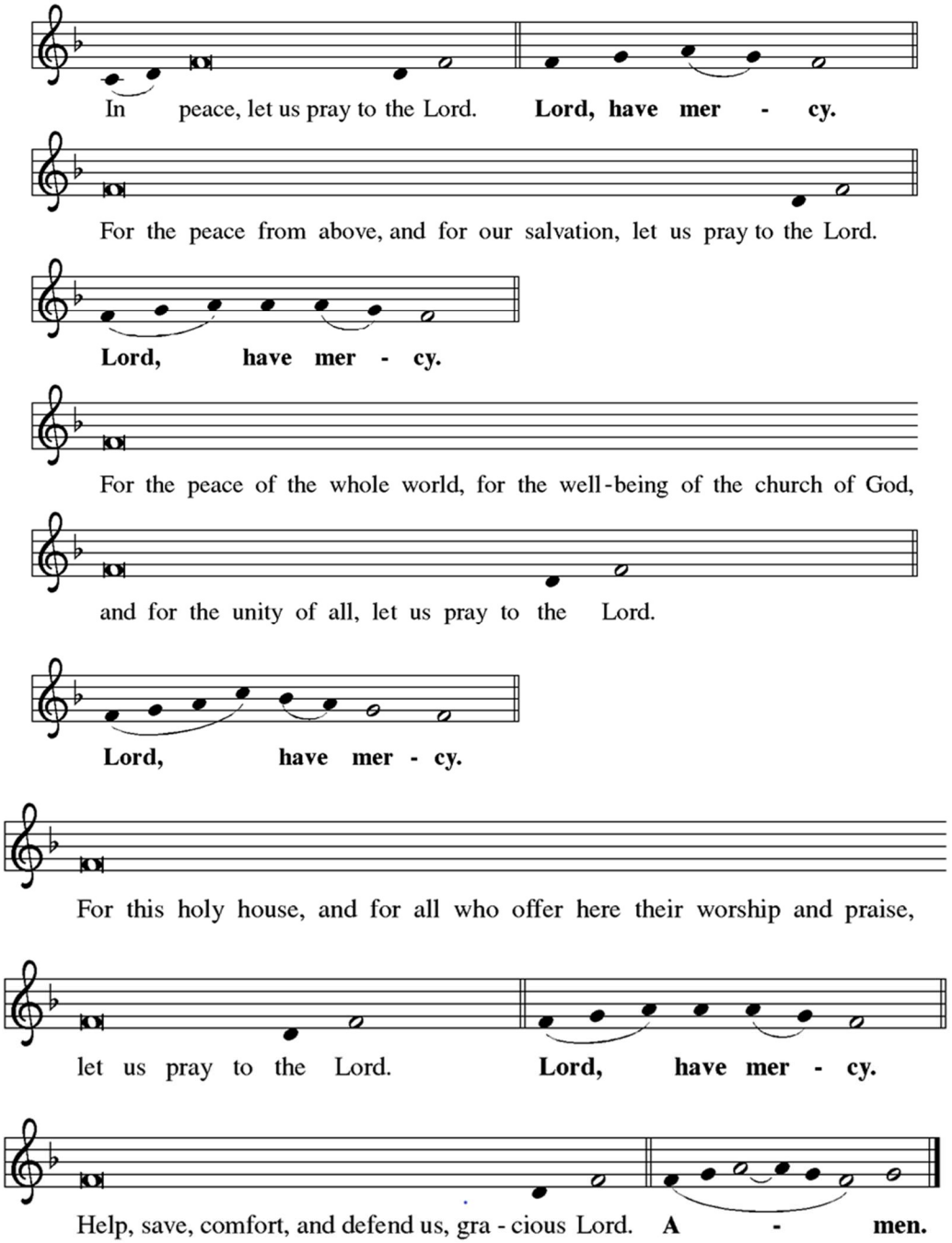
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

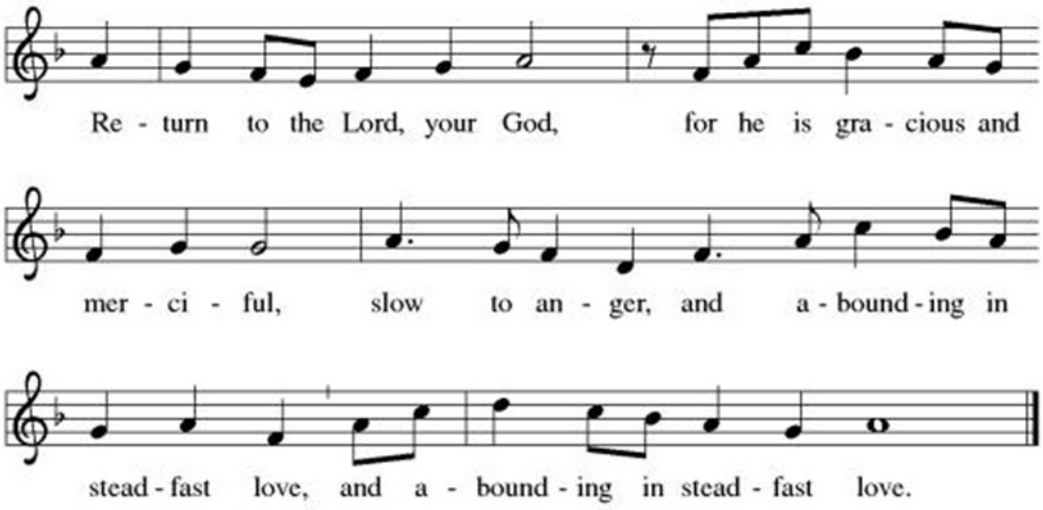
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

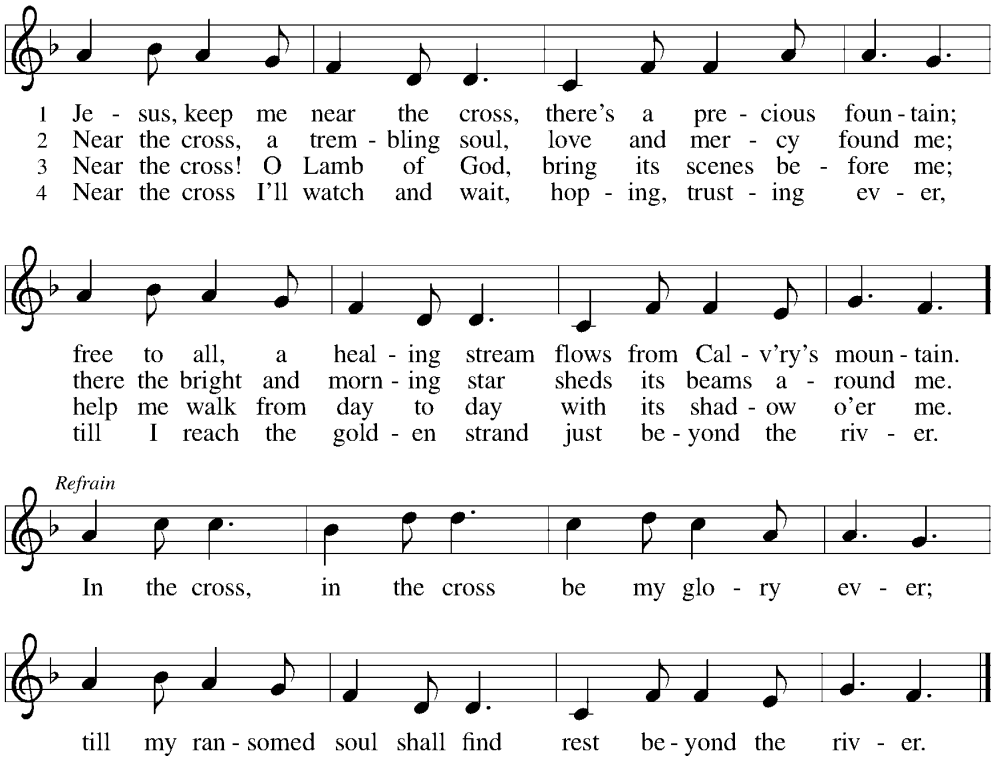
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

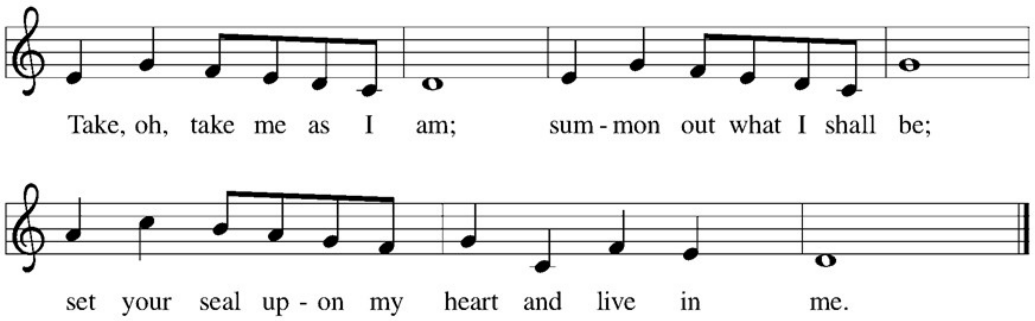
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

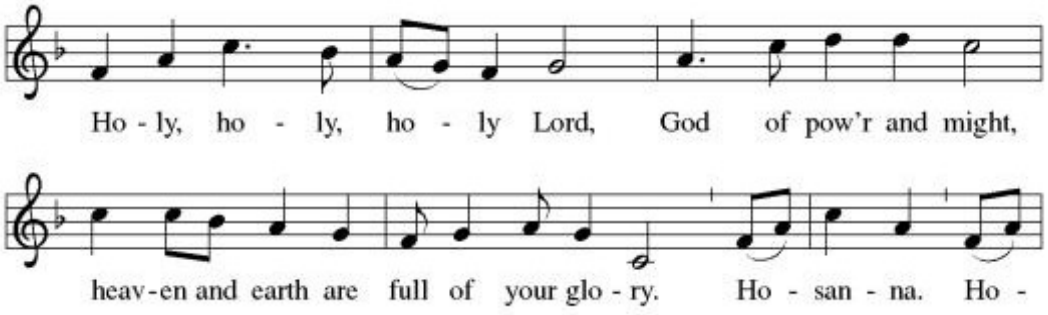
P: Lift up your hearts.

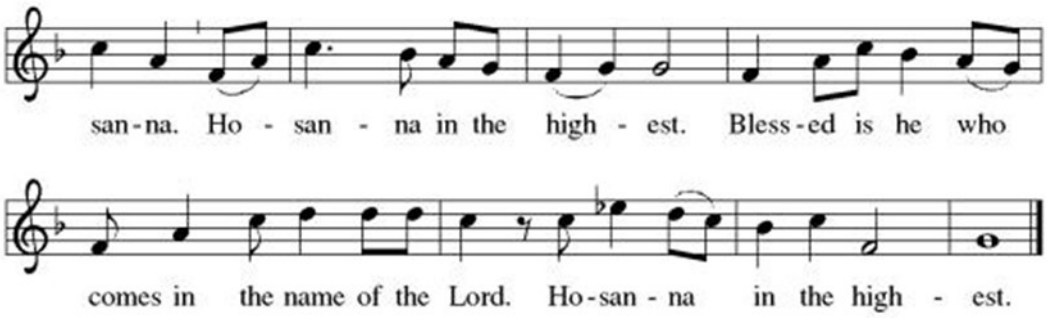
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

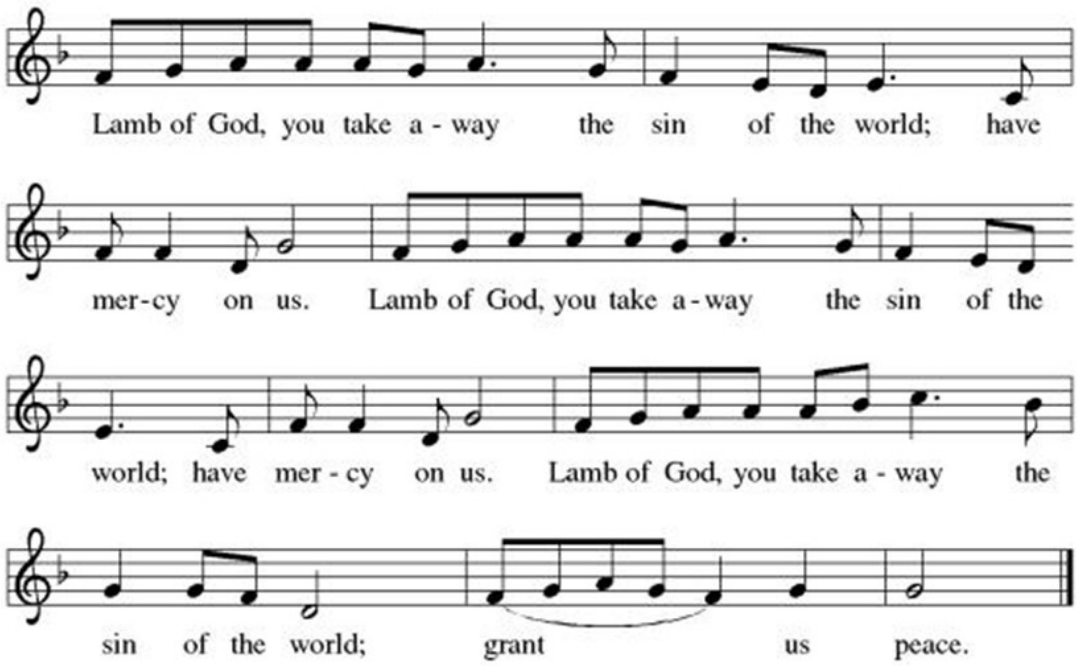
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
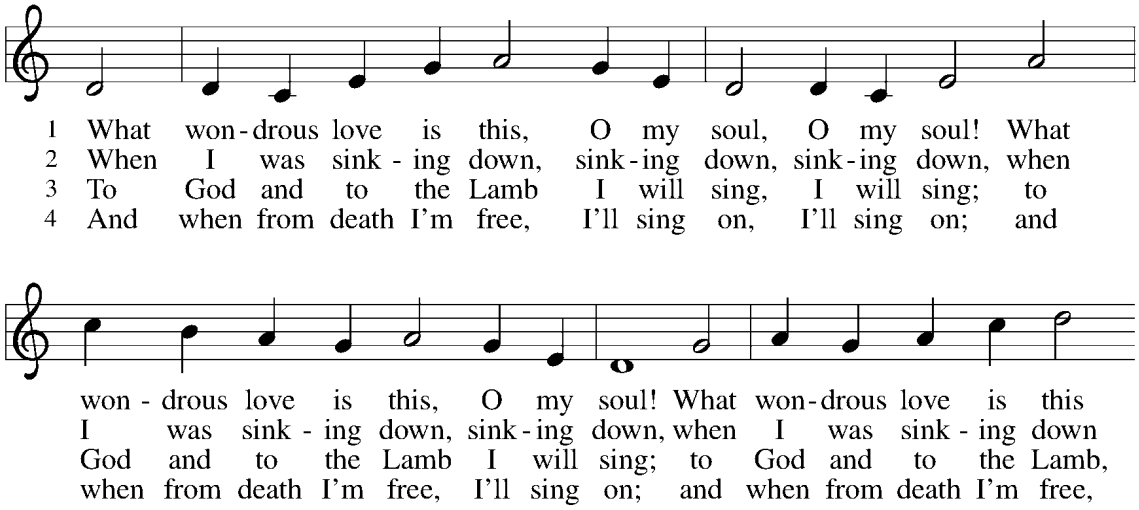
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



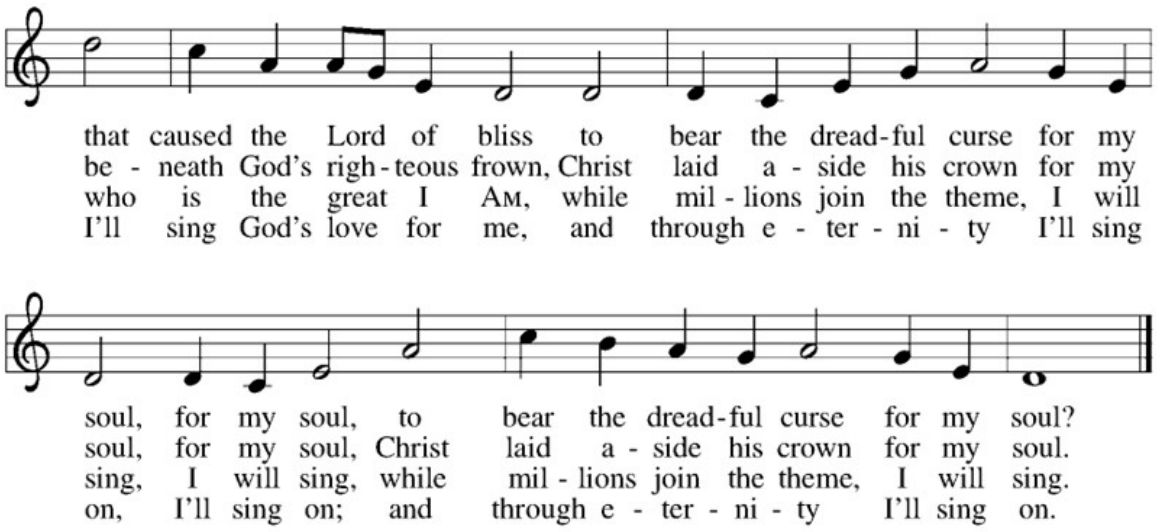
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

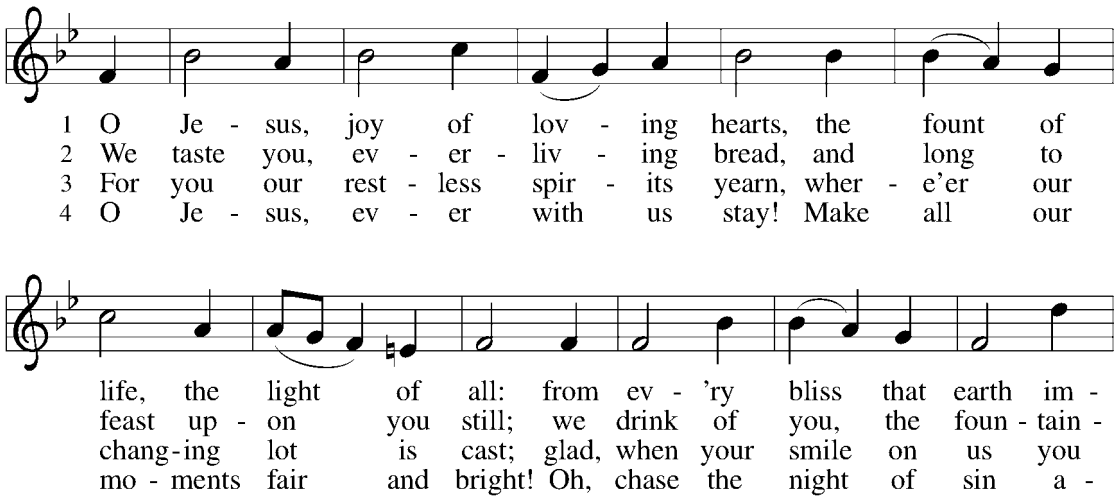
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
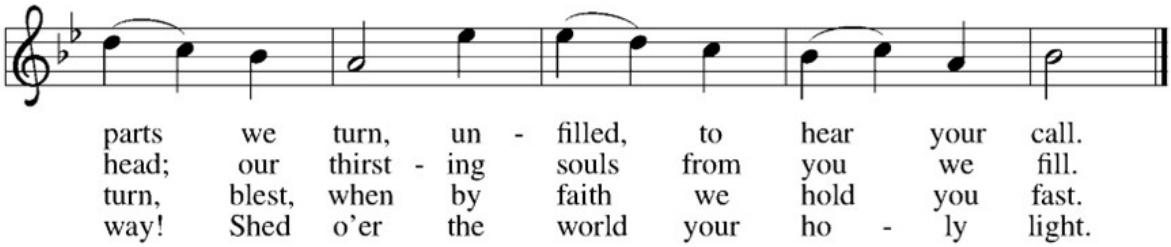
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

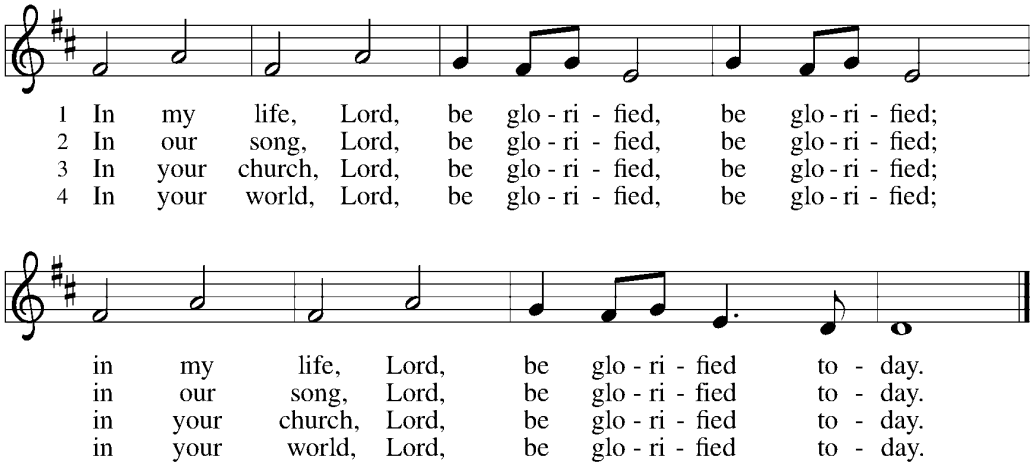
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

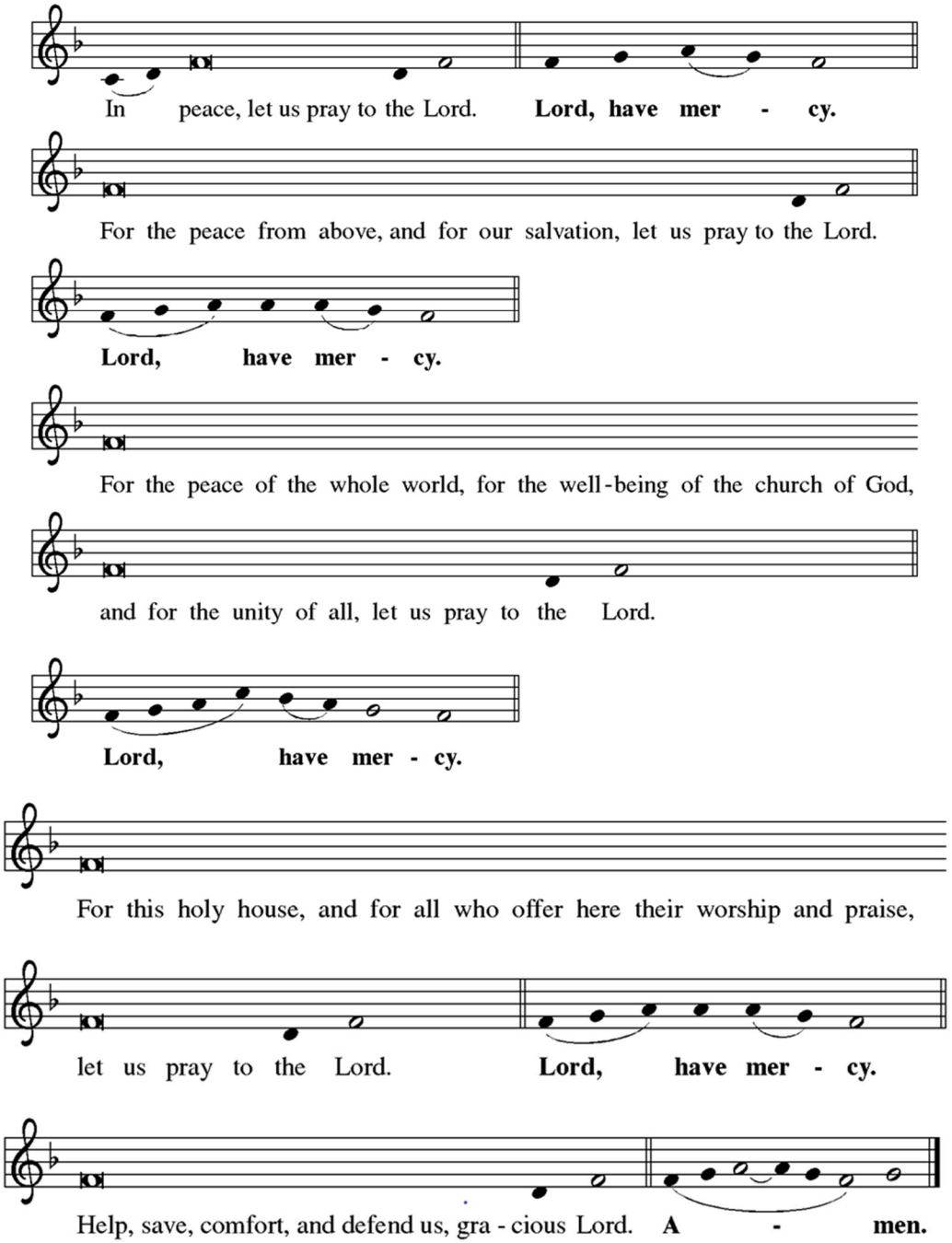
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

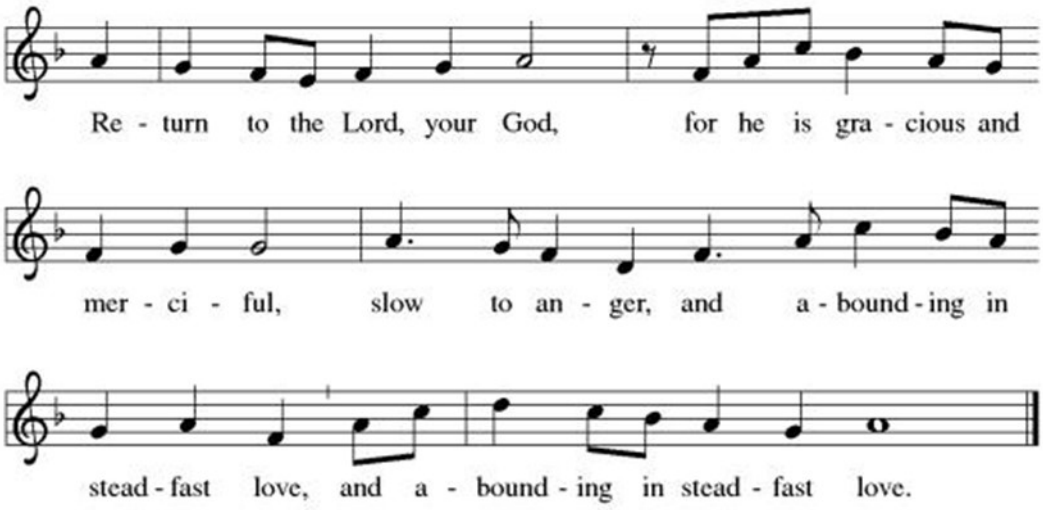
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

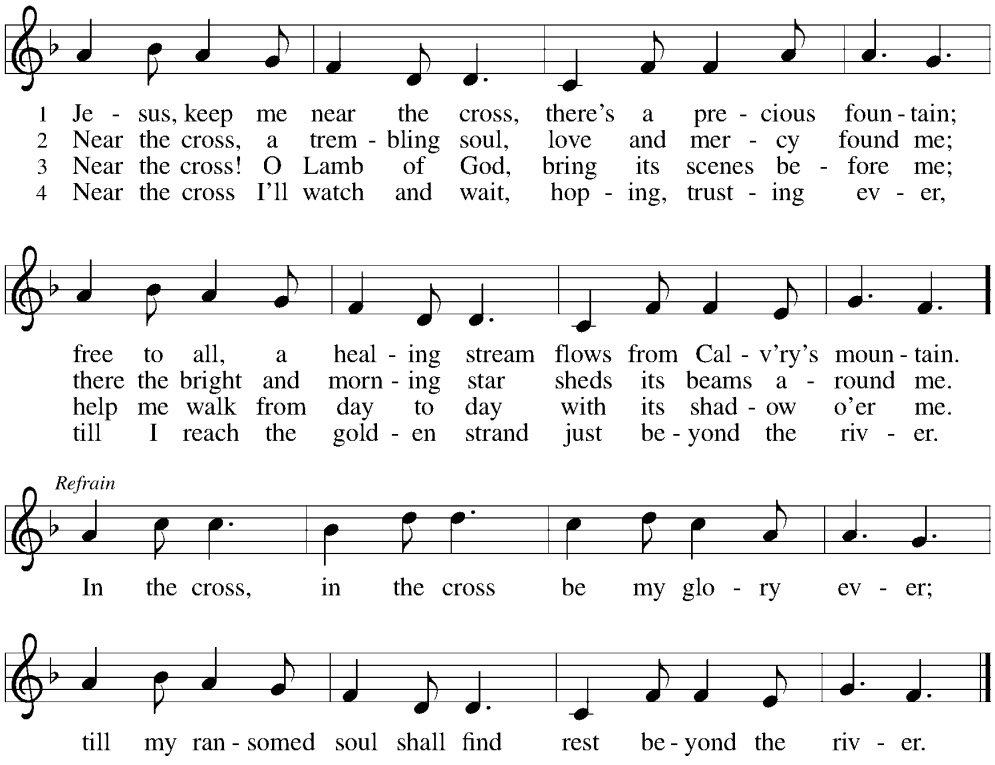
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

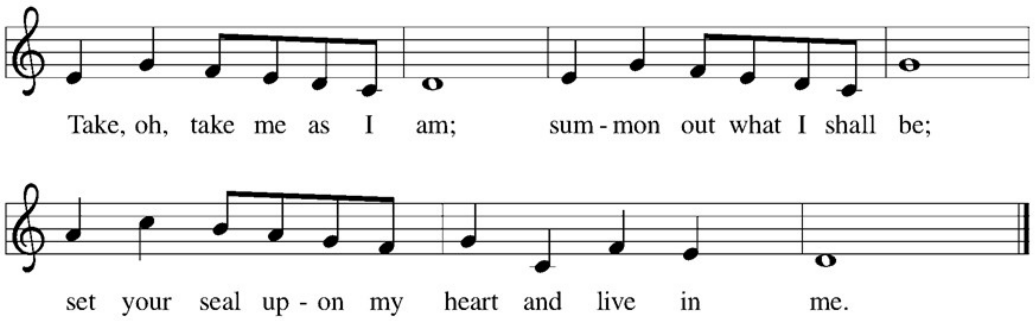
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

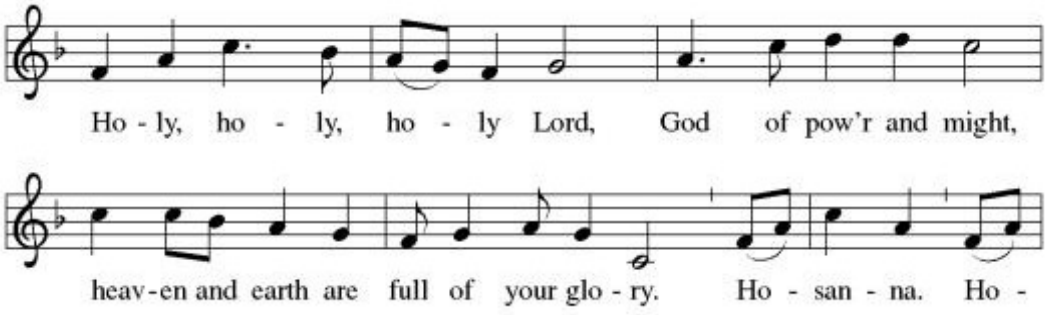
P: Lift up your hearts.

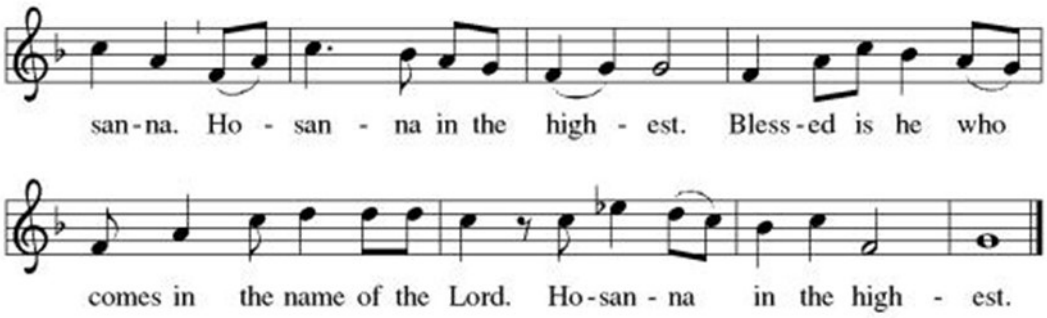
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

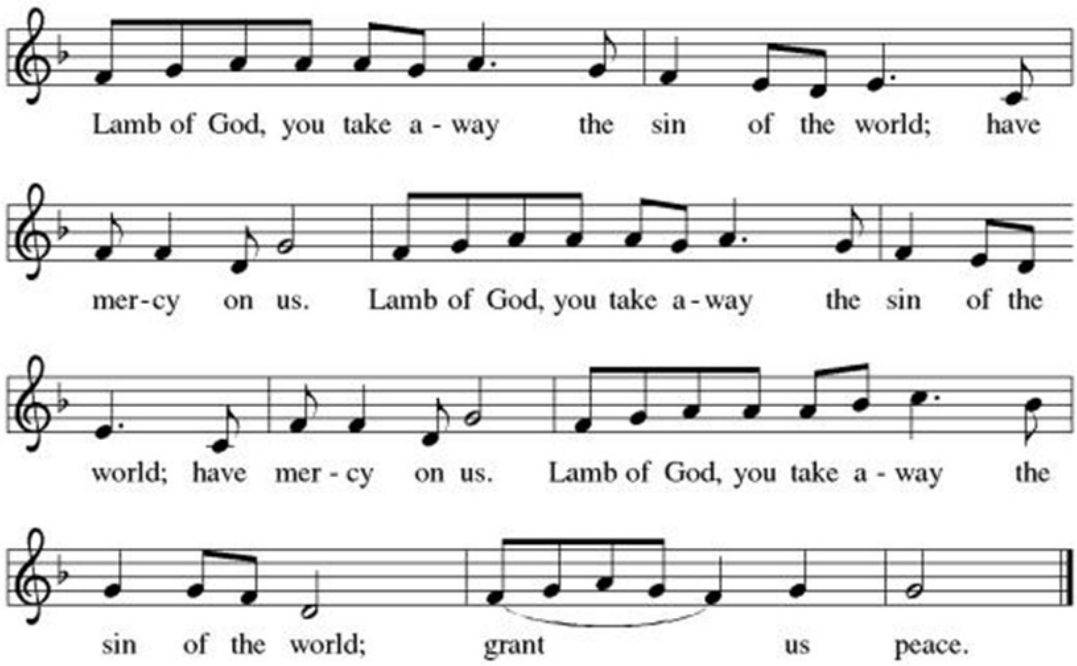
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
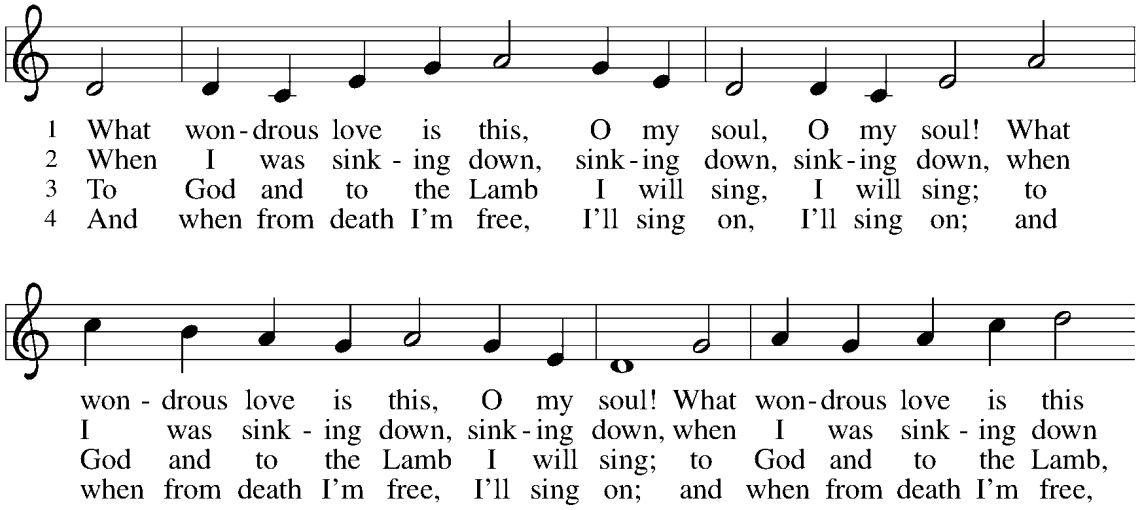
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



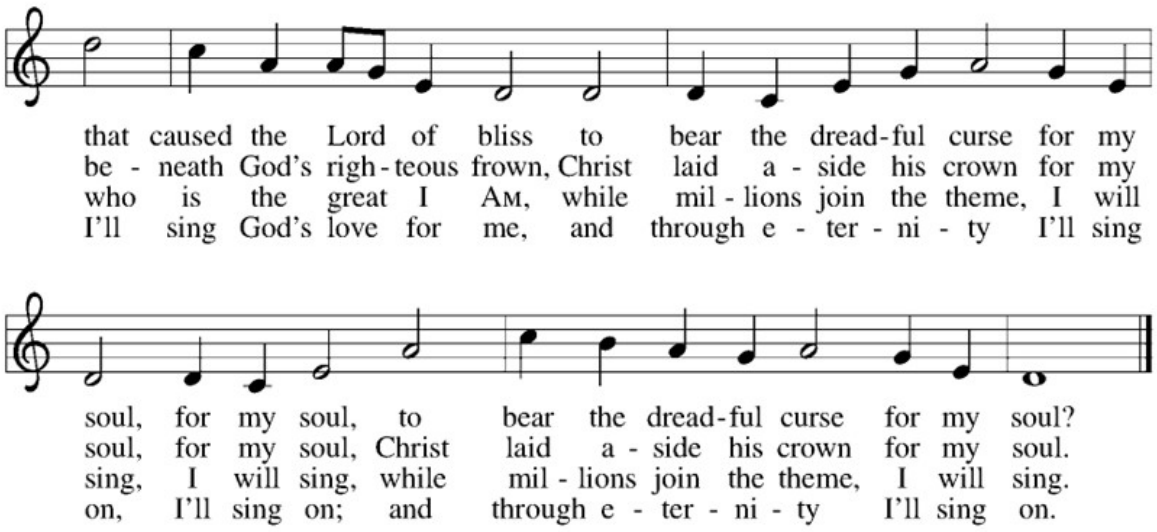
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

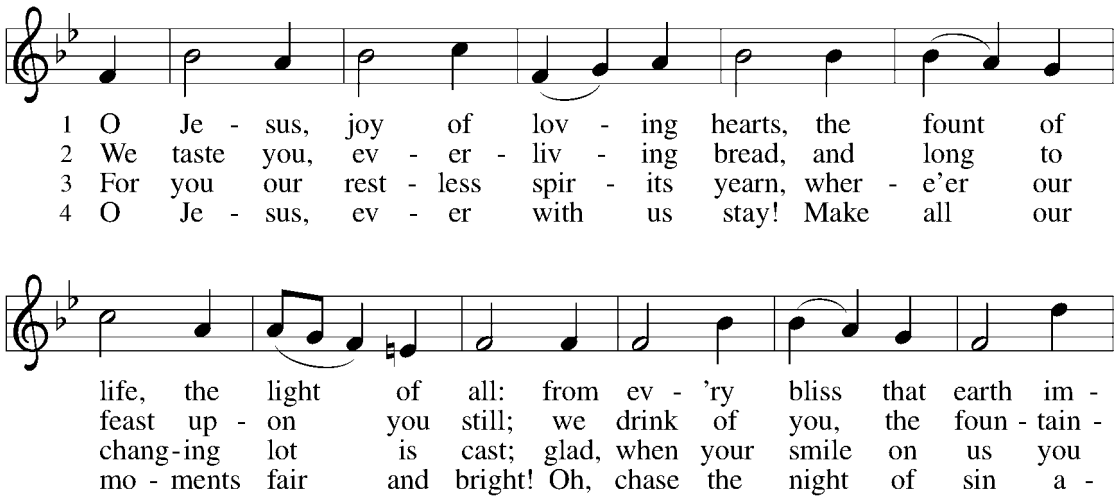
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
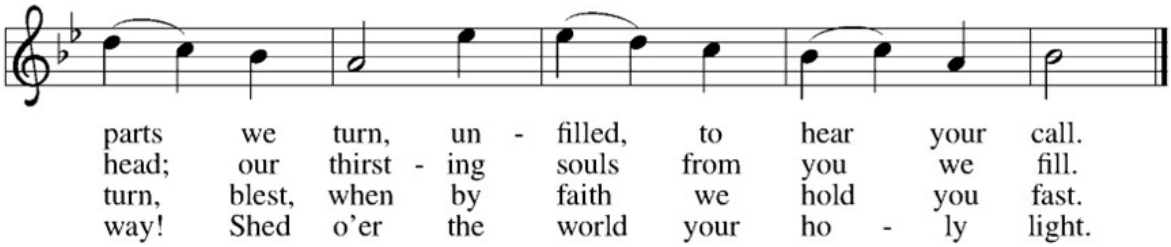
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

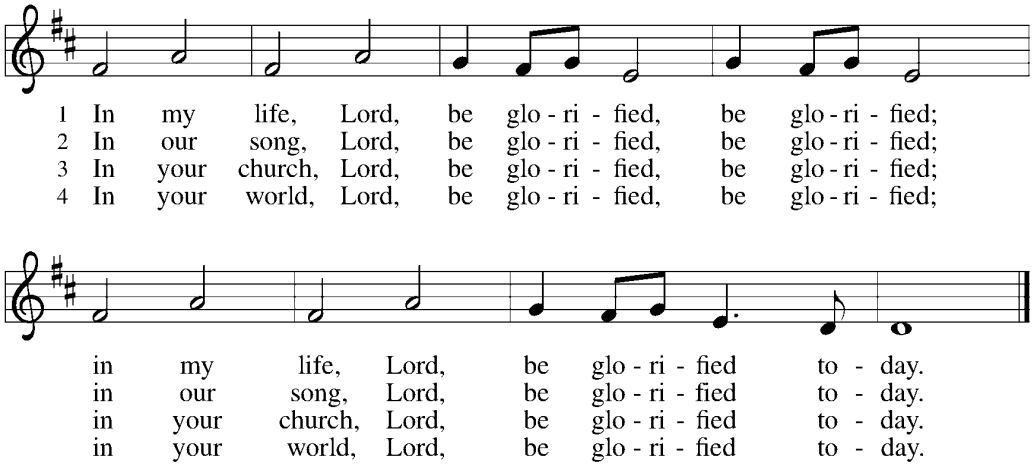
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

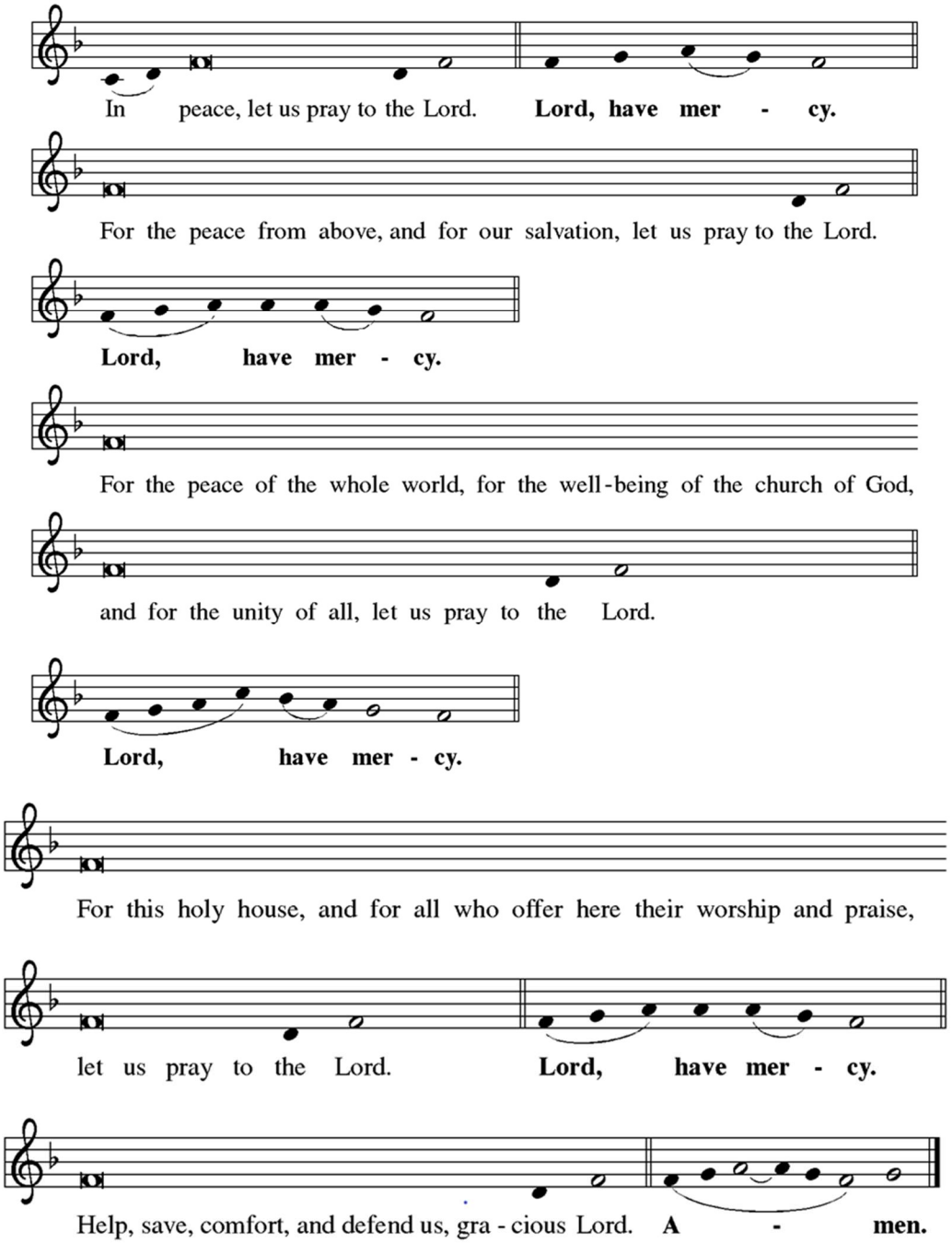
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

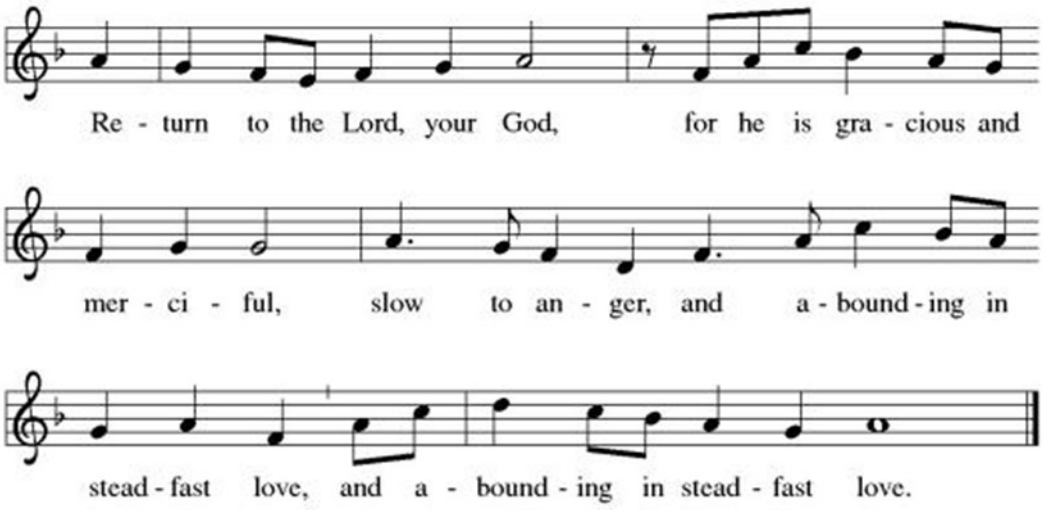
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

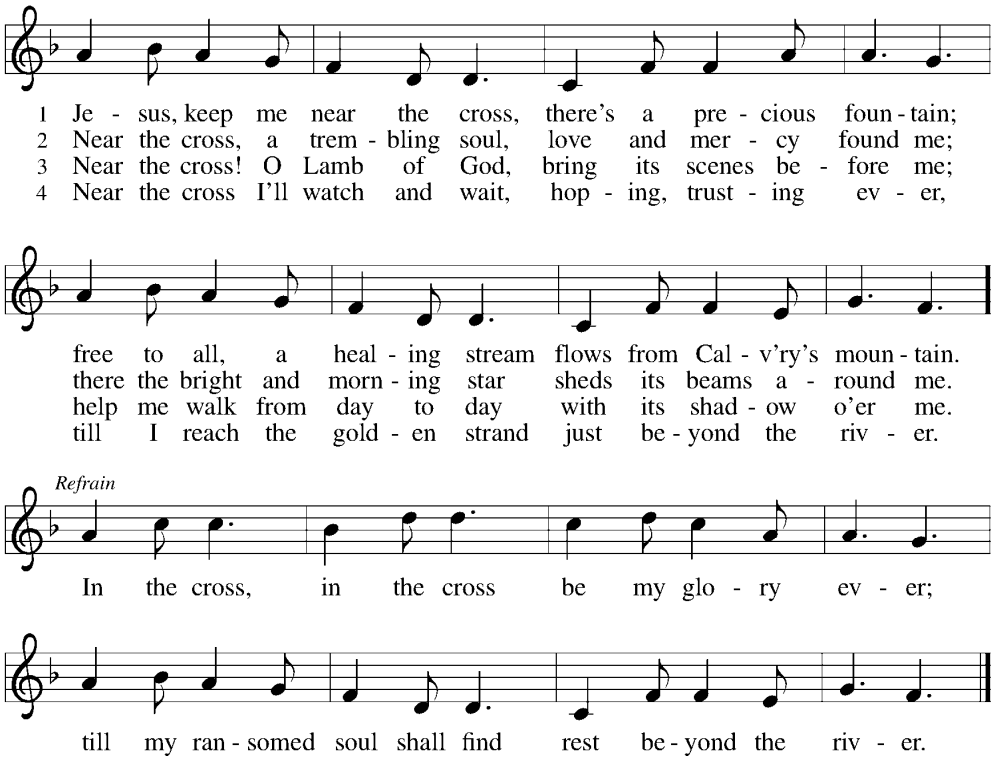
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

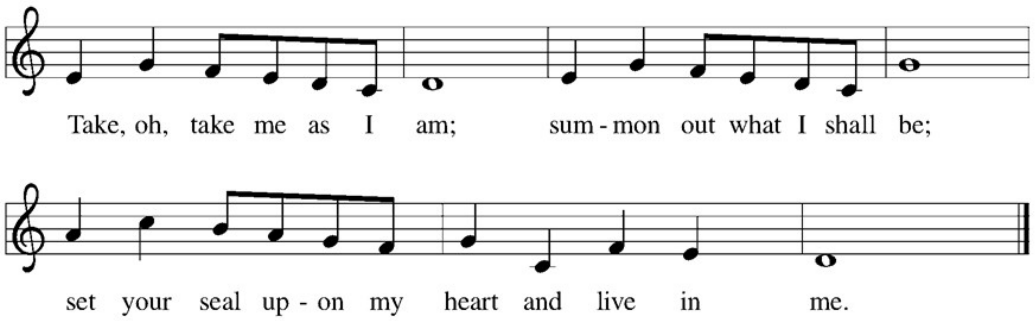
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

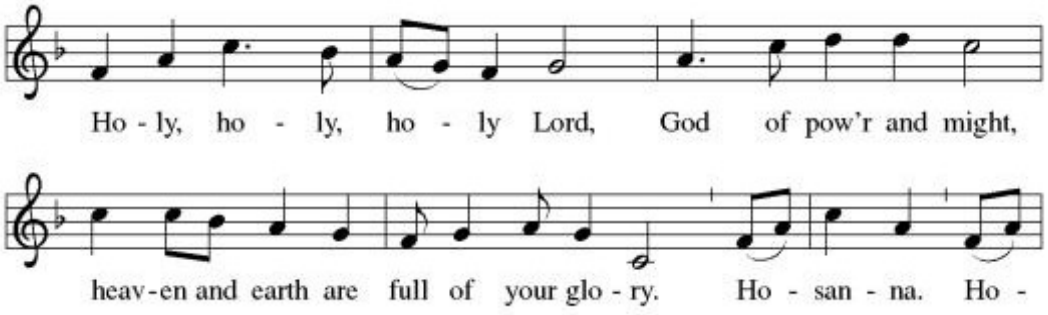
P: Lift up your hearts.

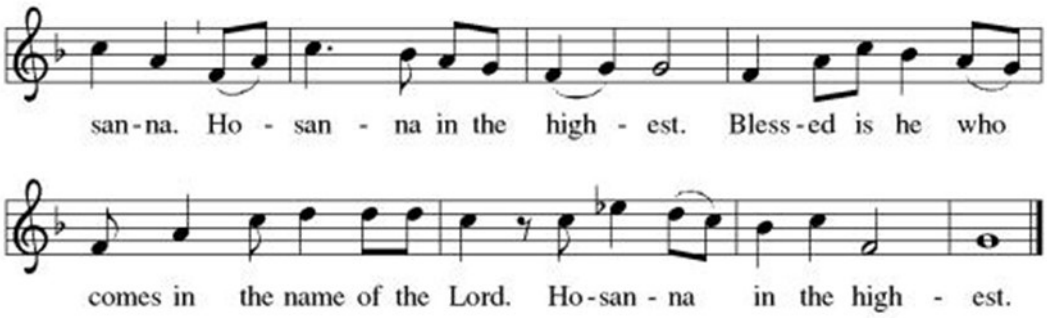
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

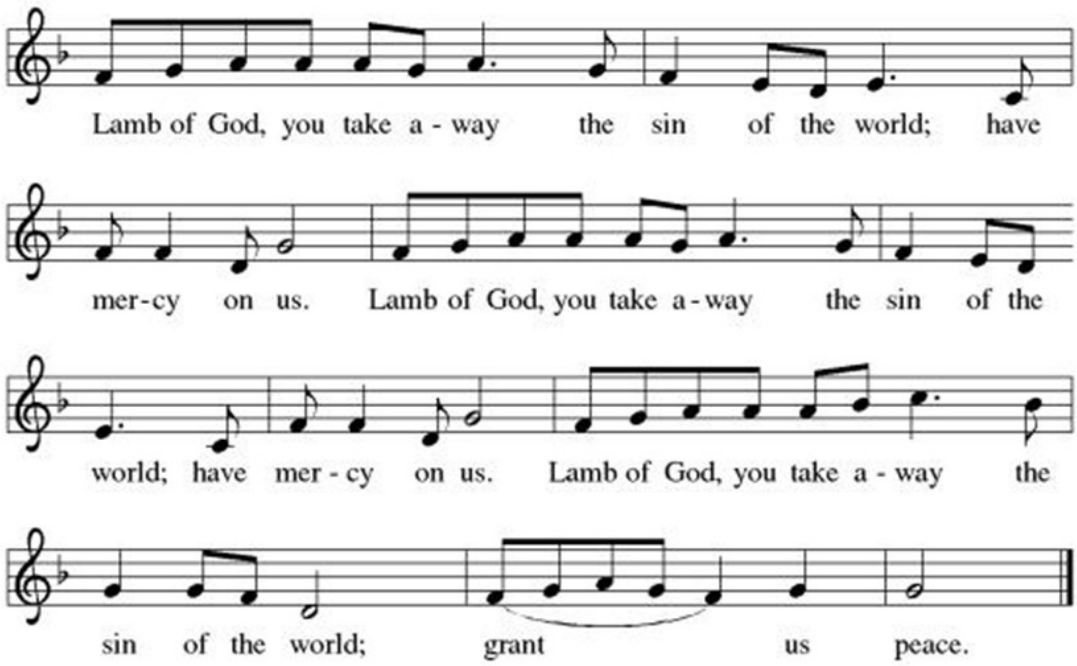
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
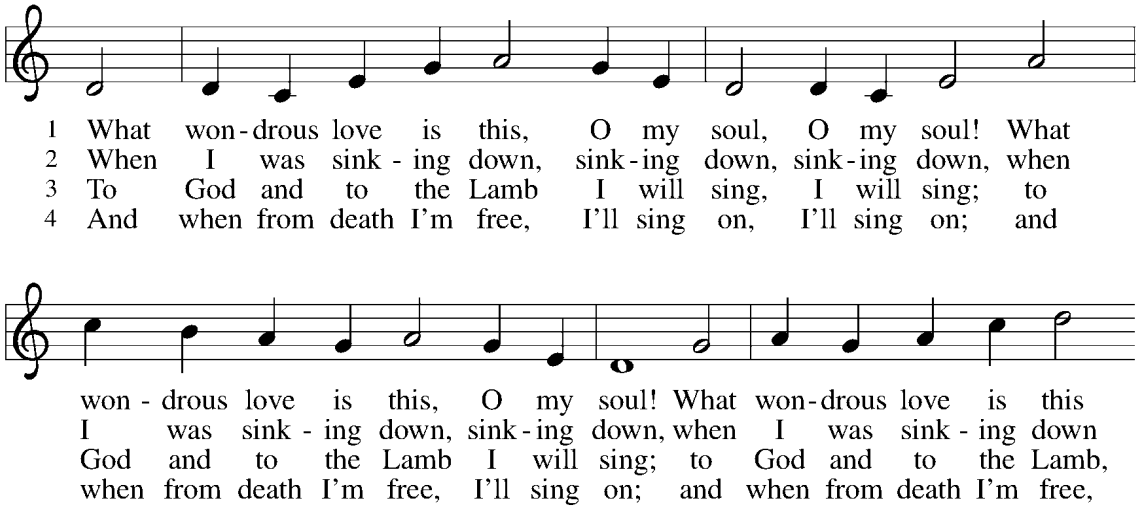
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



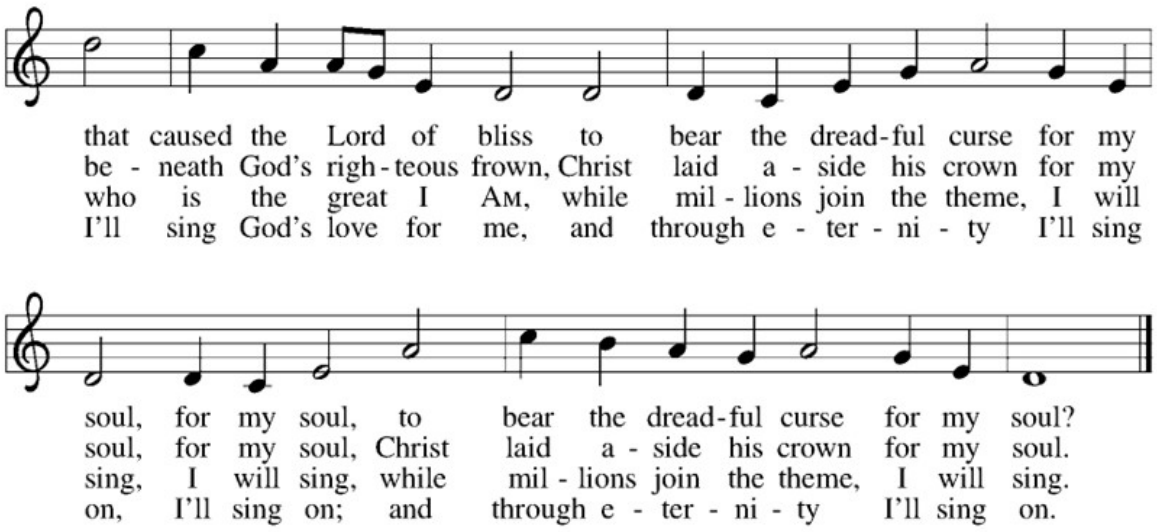
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

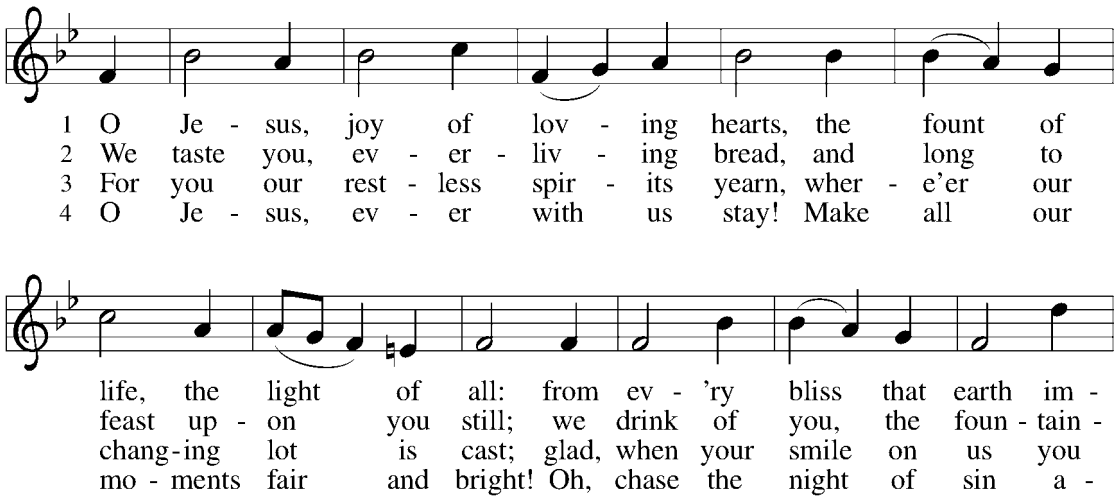
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
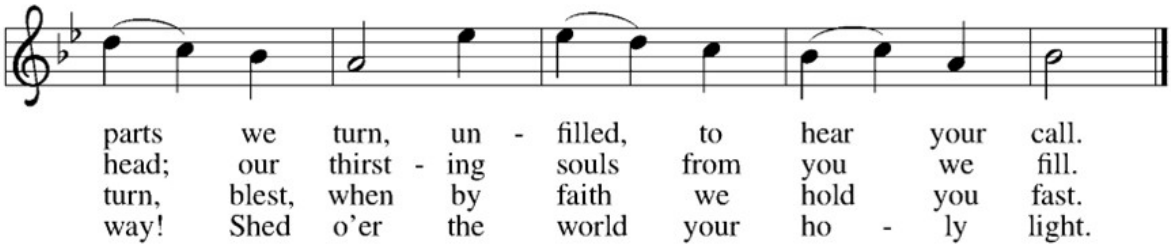
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

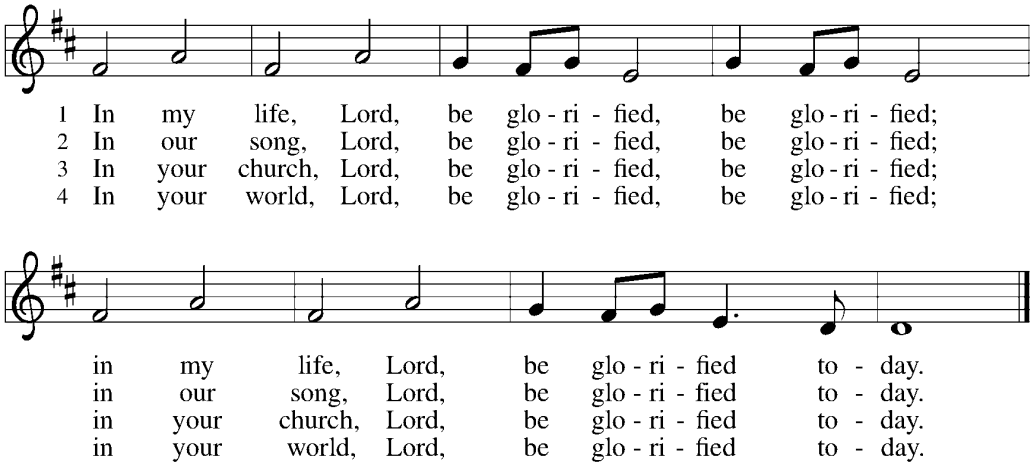
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

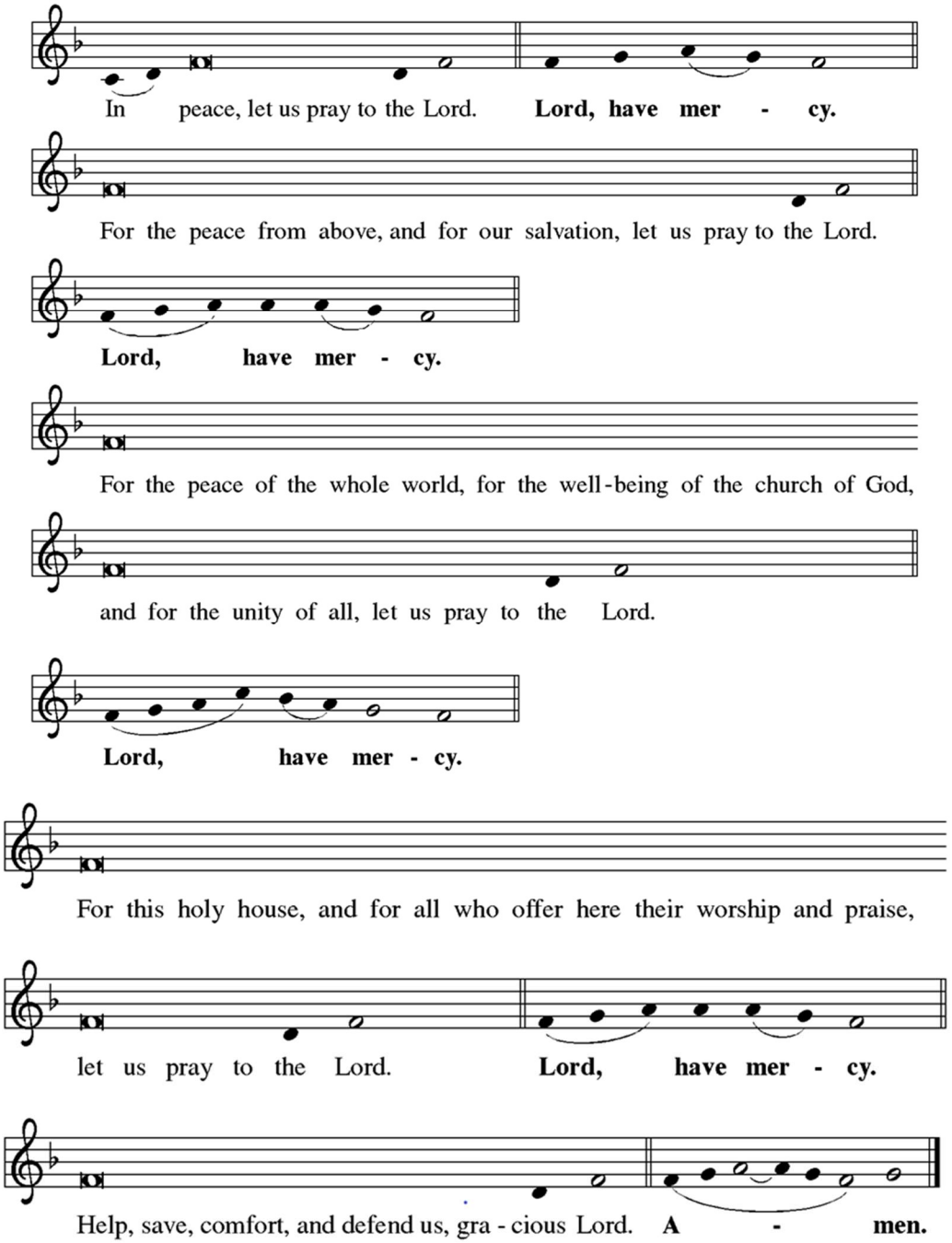
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

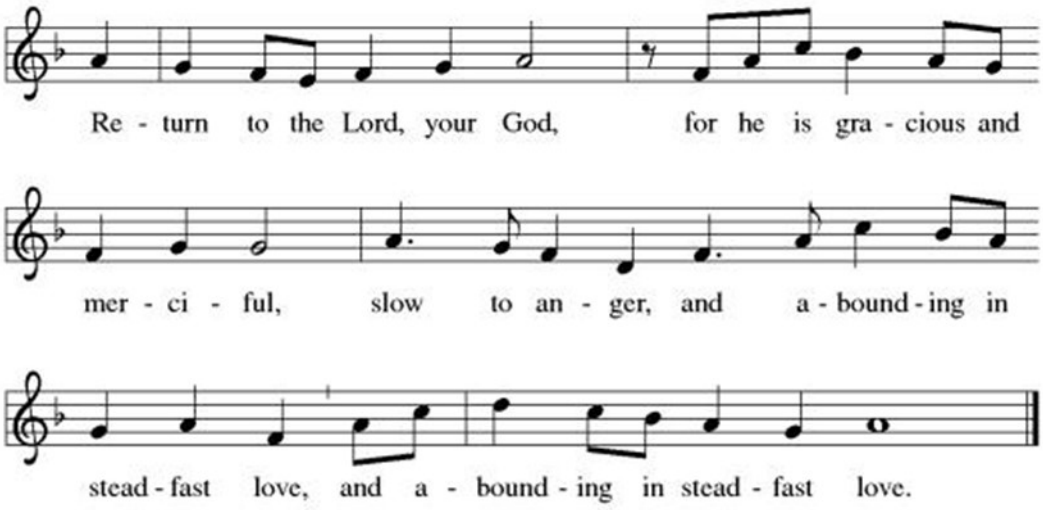
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

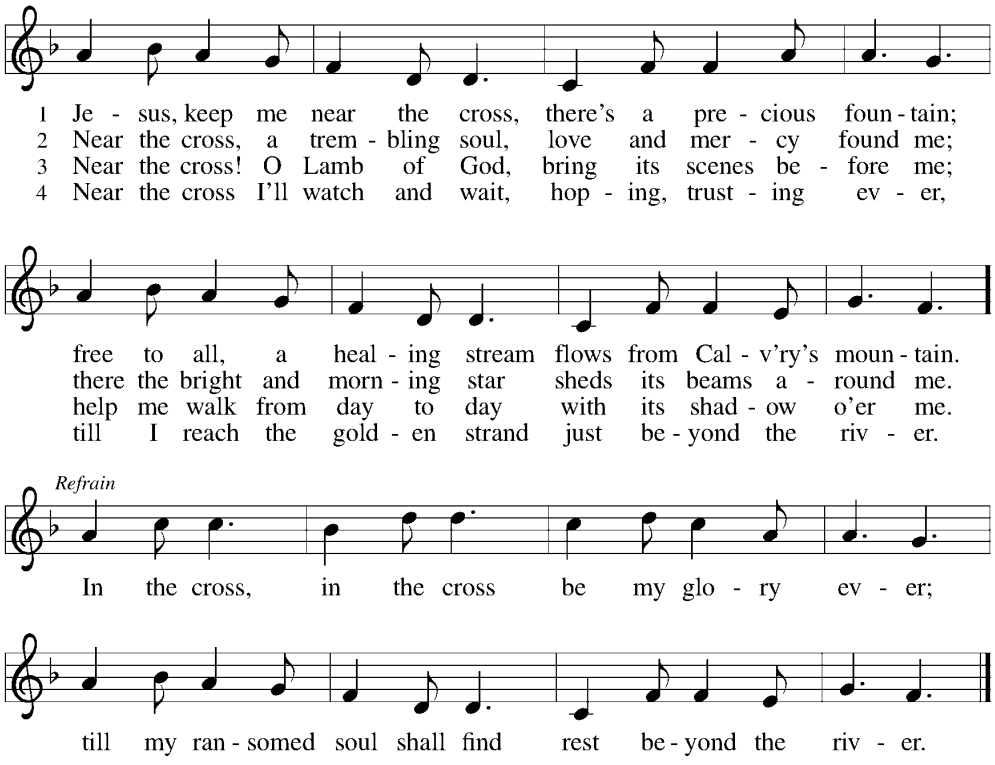
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

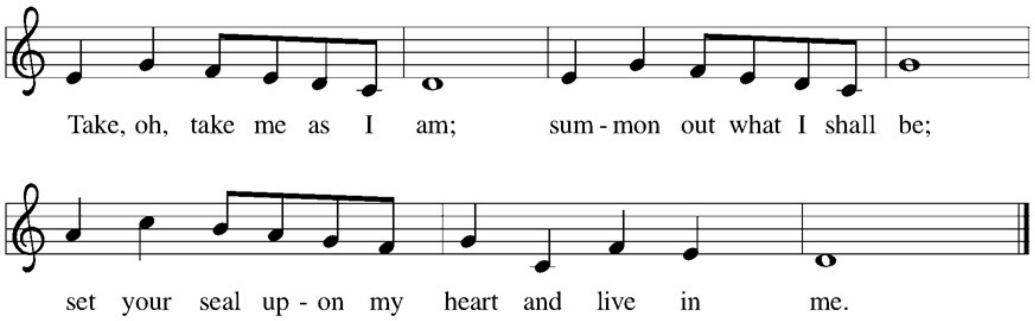
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

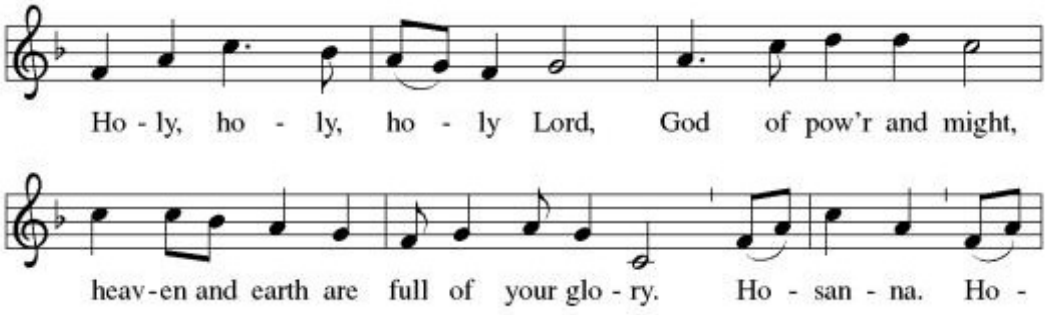
P: Lift up your hearts.

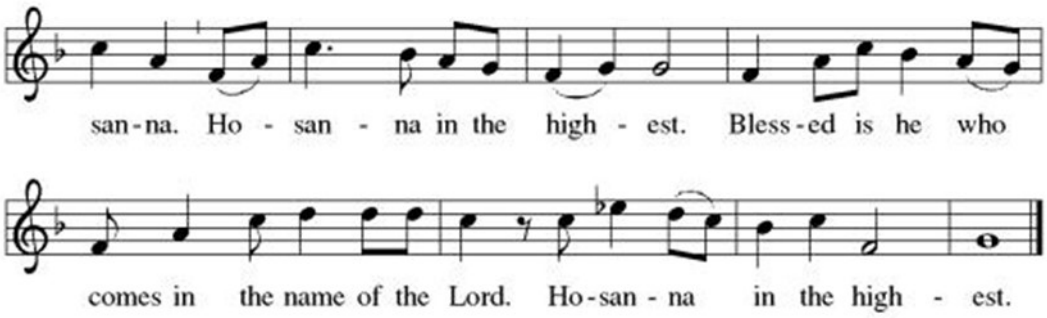
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

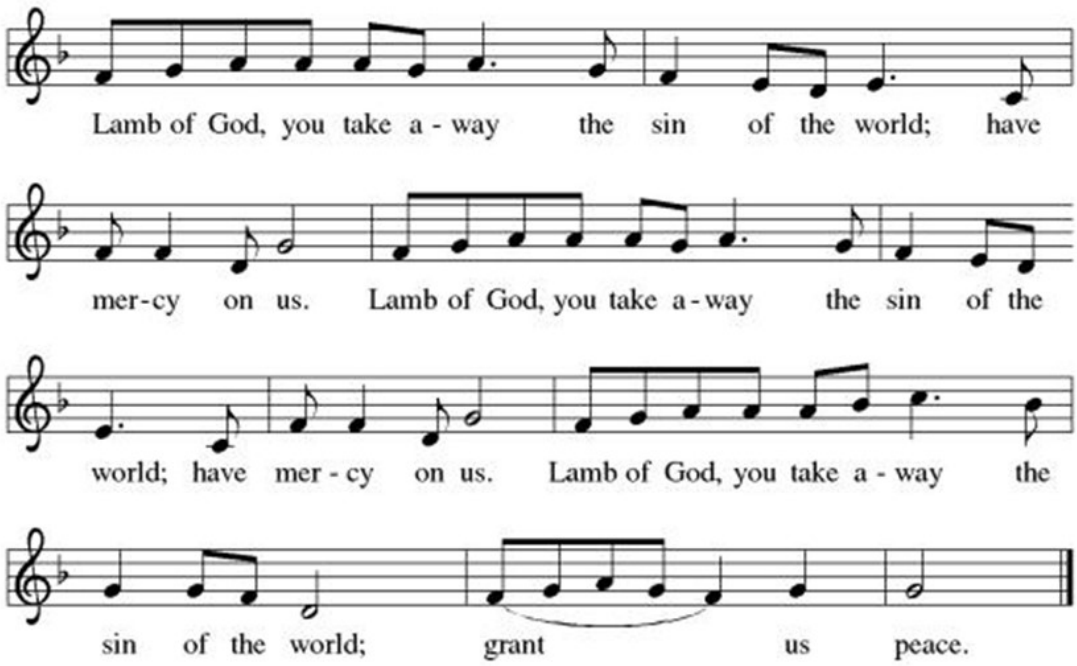
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
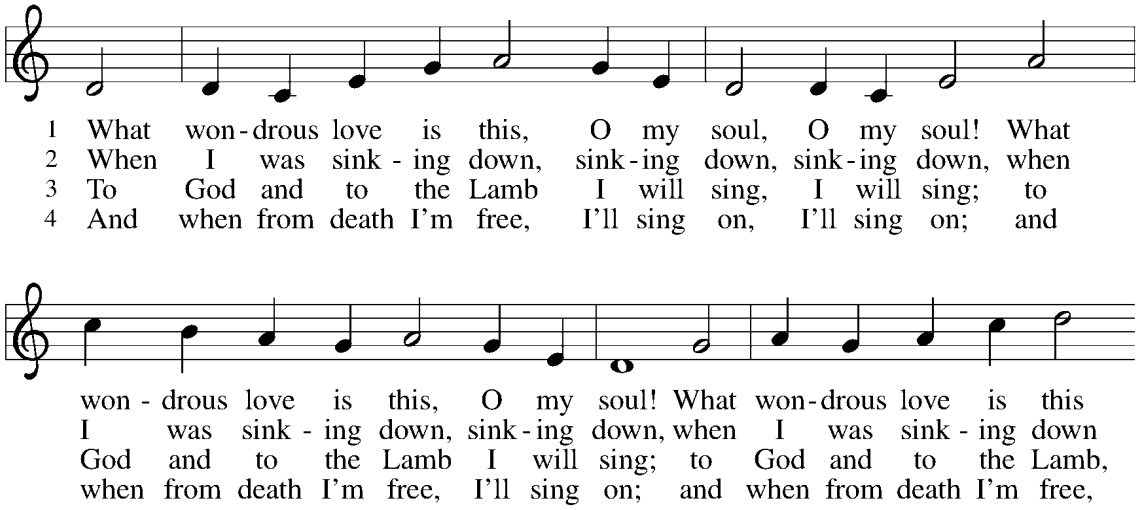
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



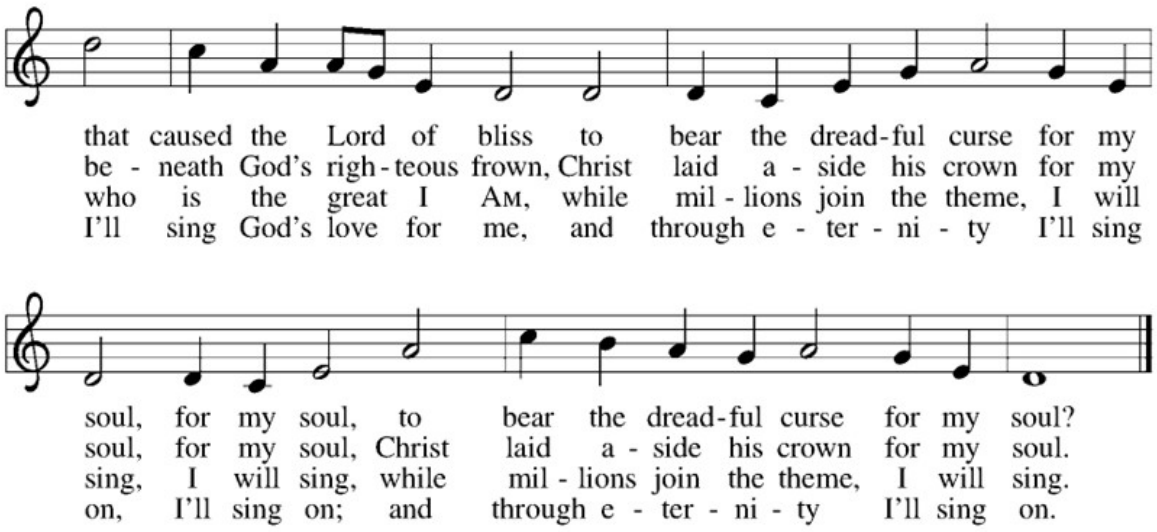
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

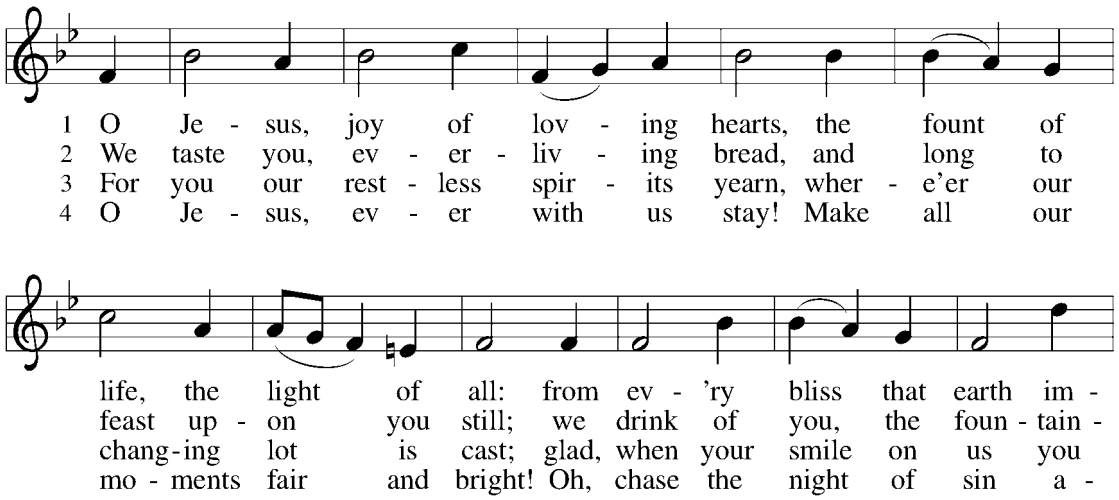
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
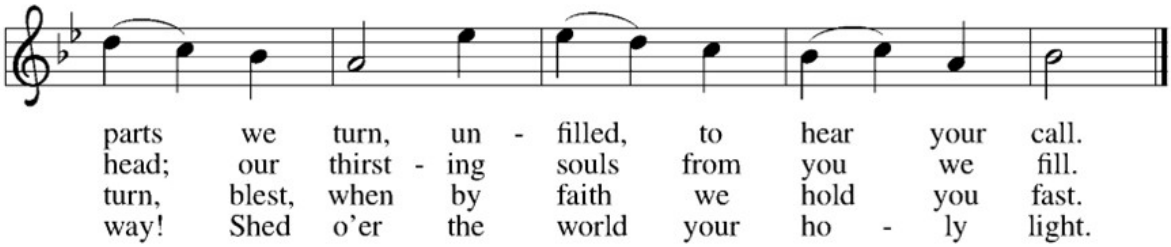
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

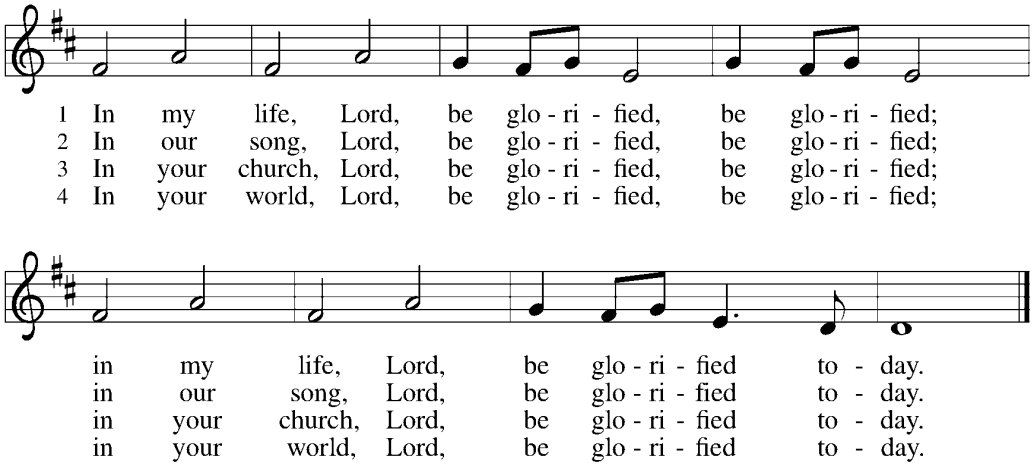
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

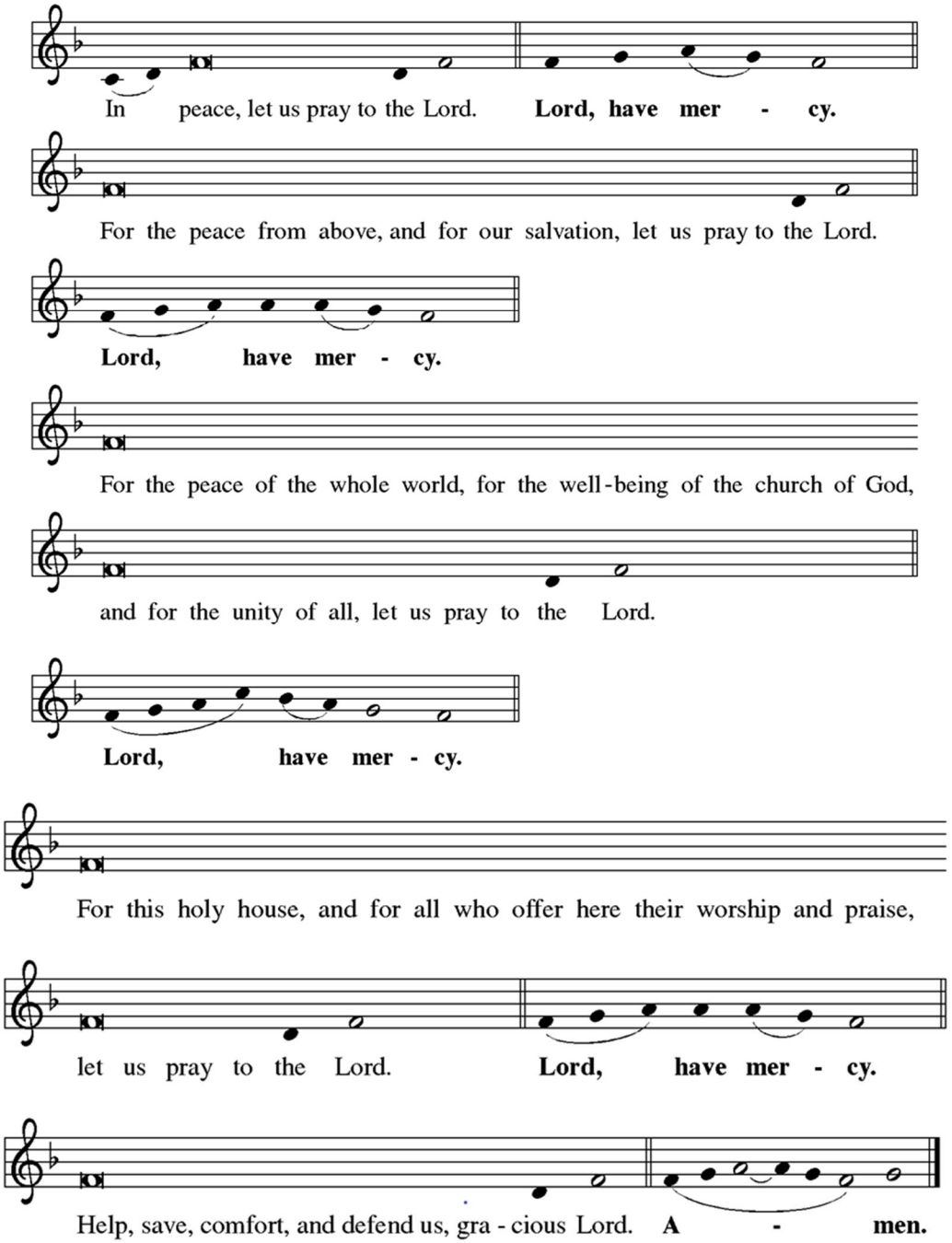
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

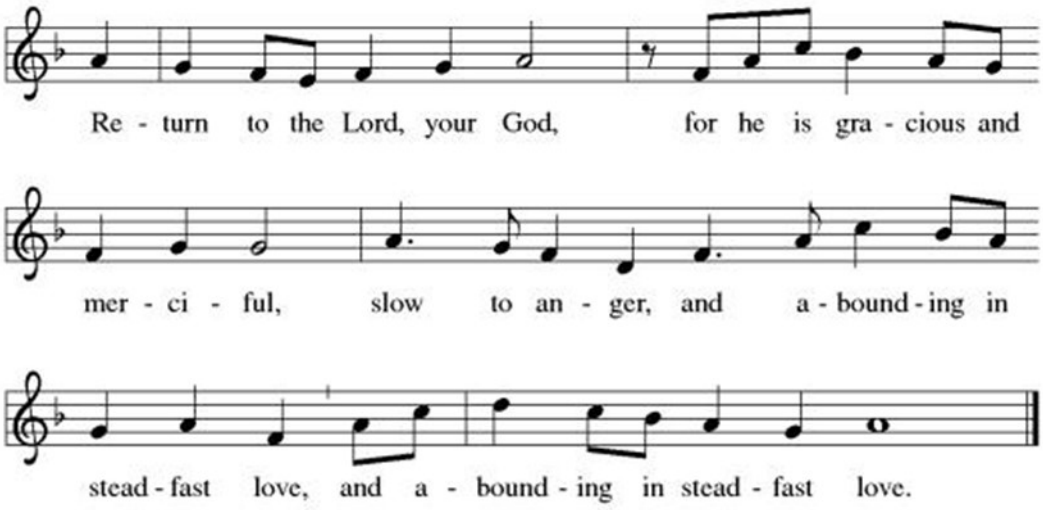
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

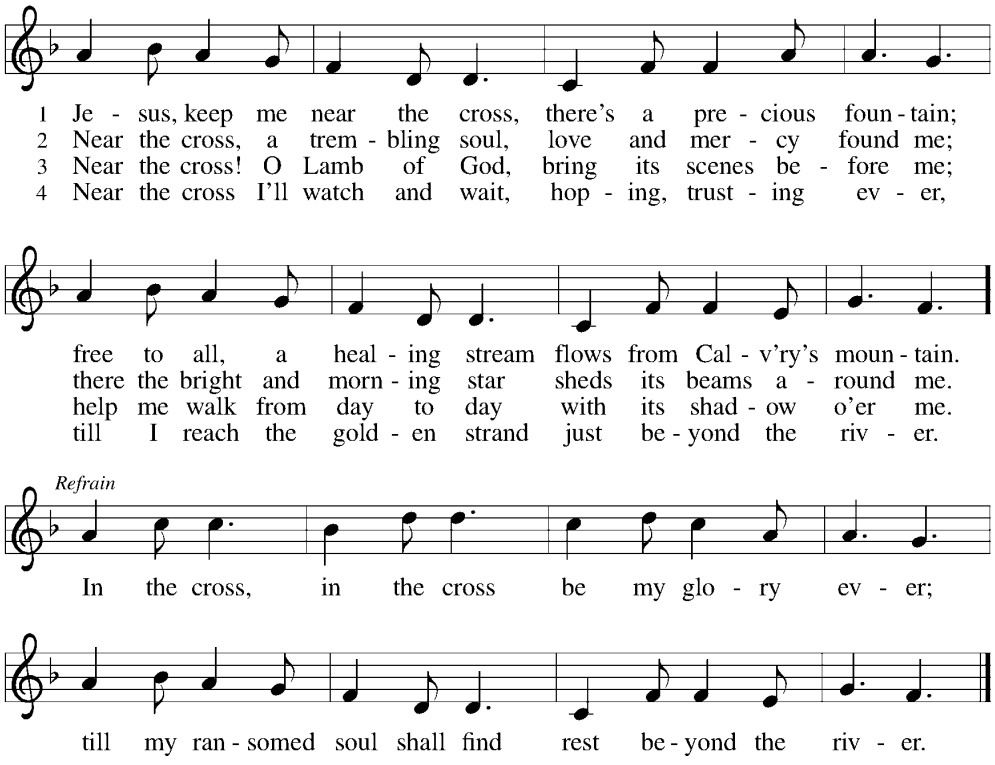
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

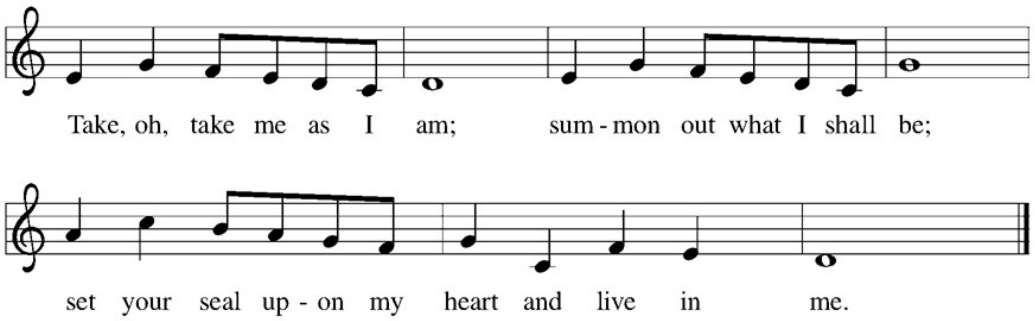
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

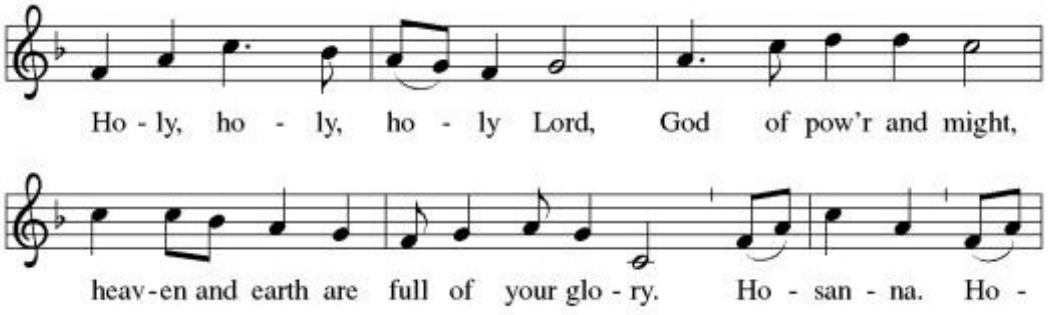
P: Lift up your hearts.

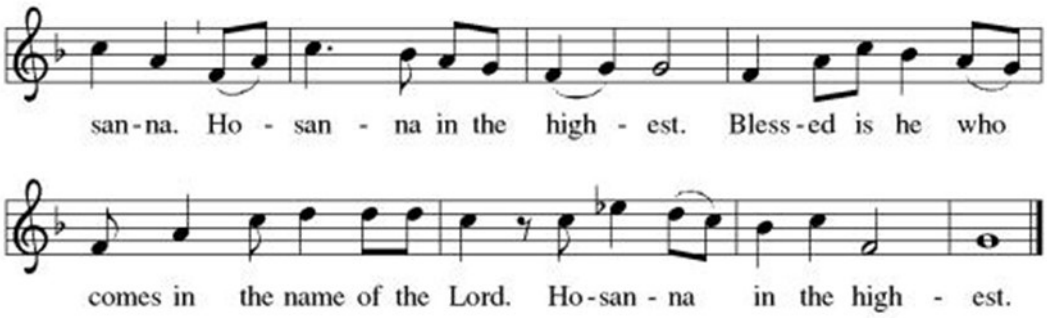
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

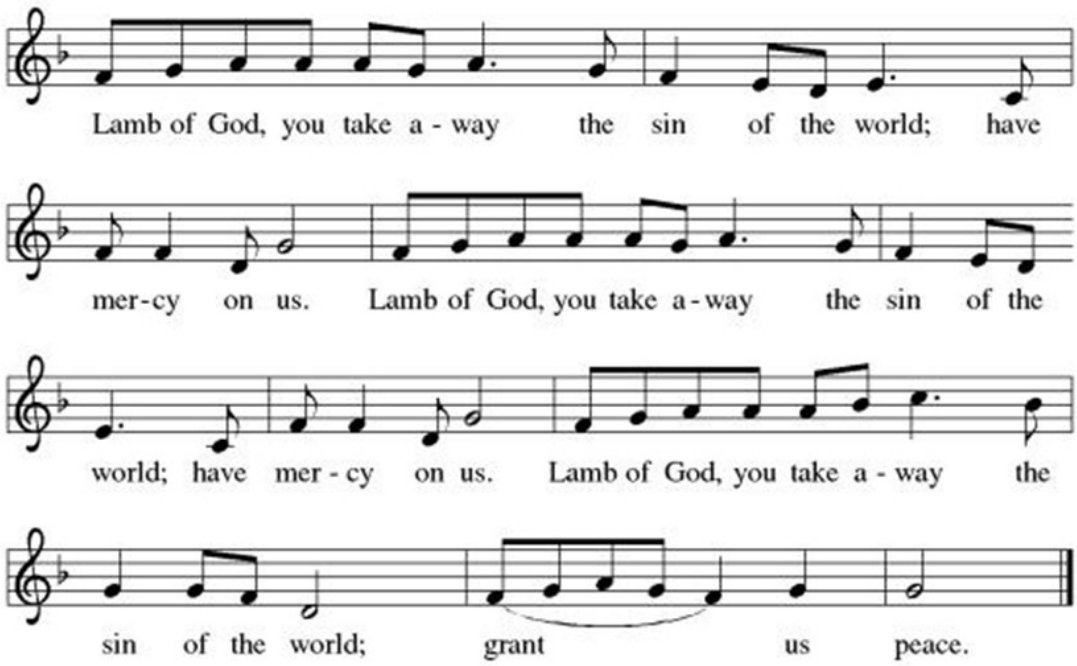
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
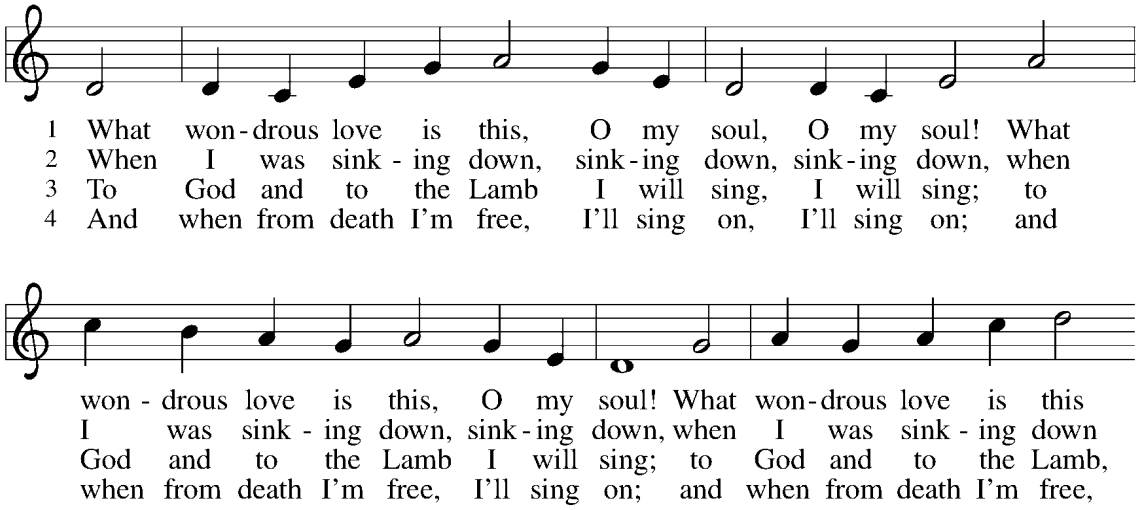
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



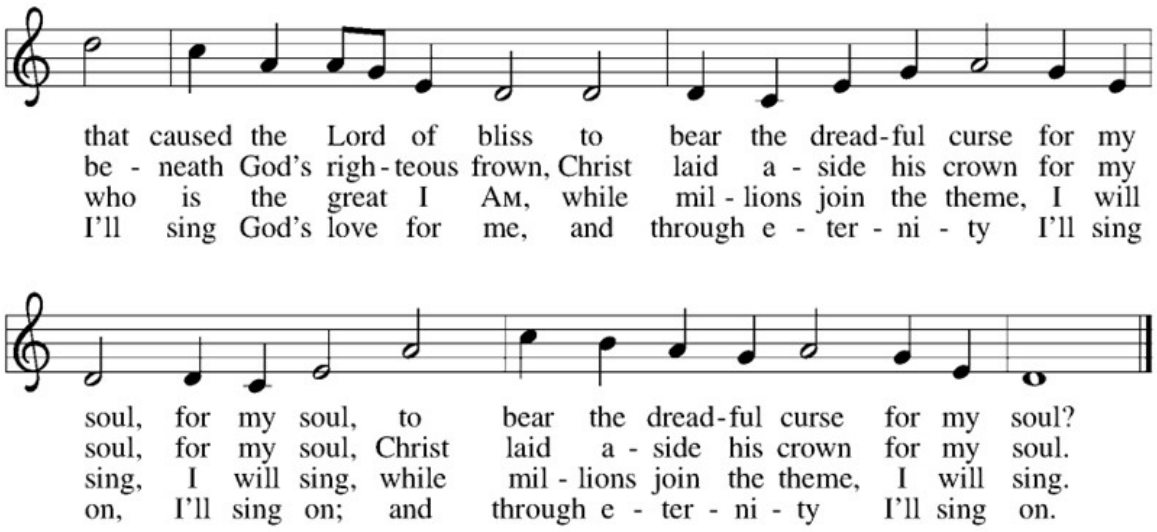
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

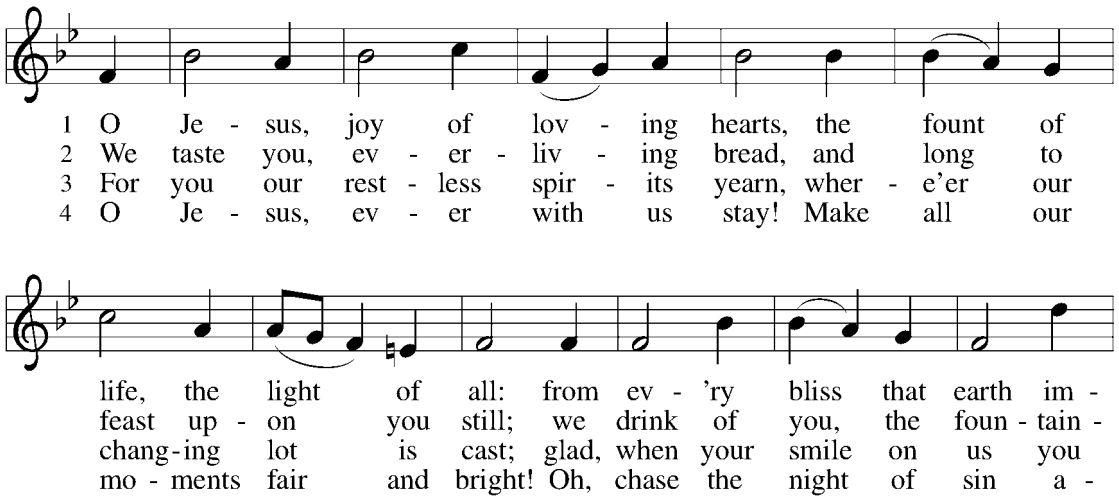
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
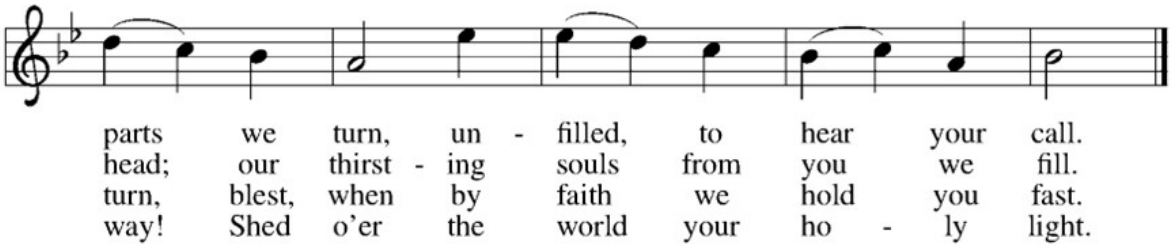
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

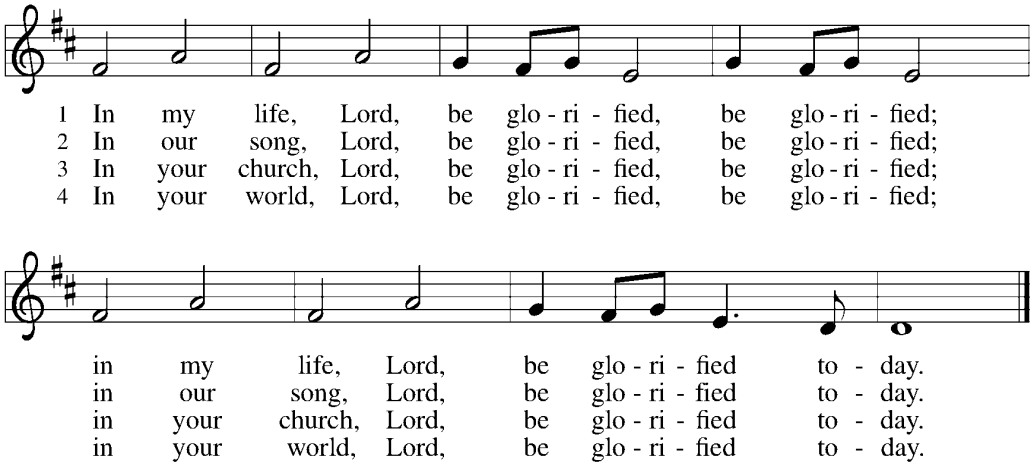
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

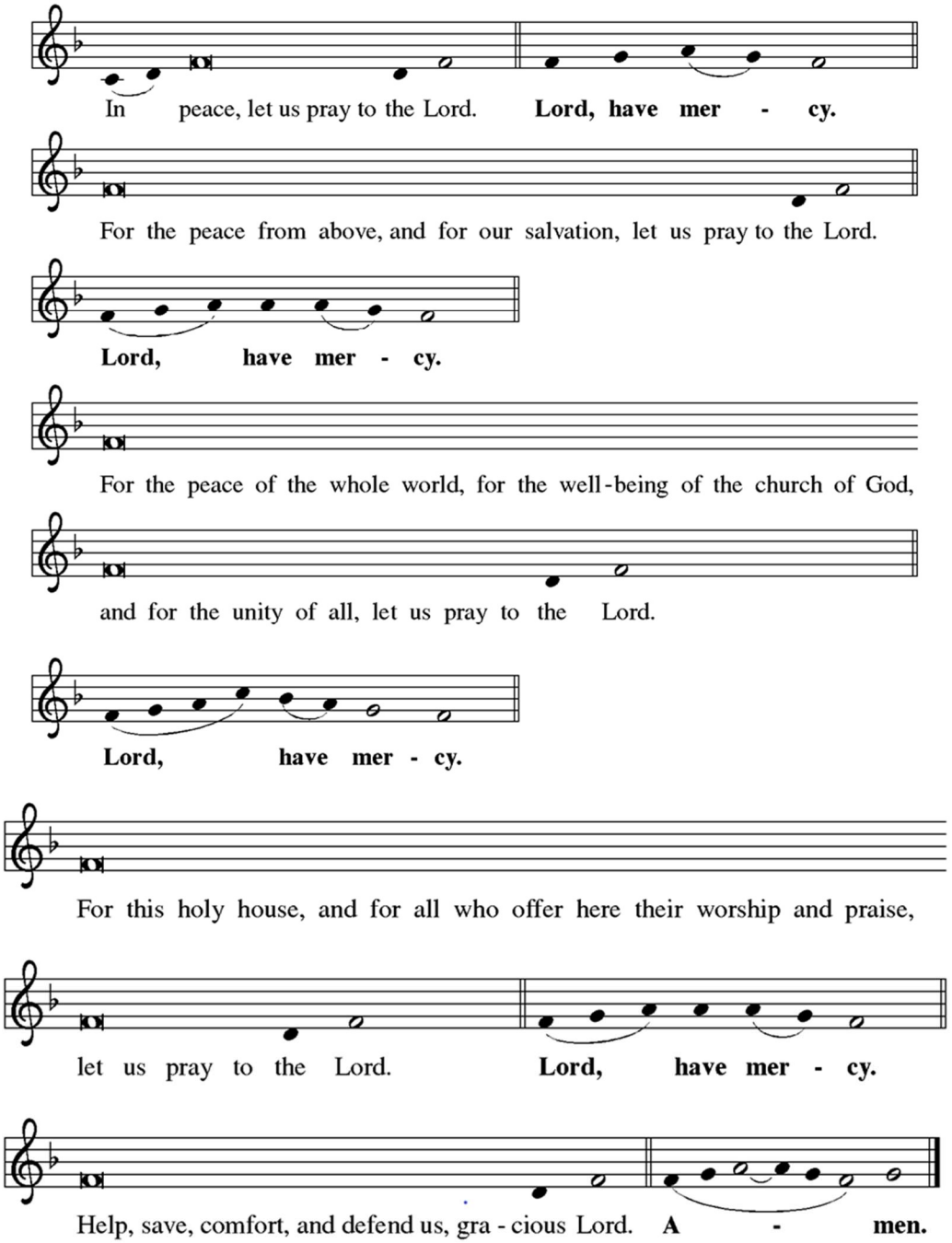
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

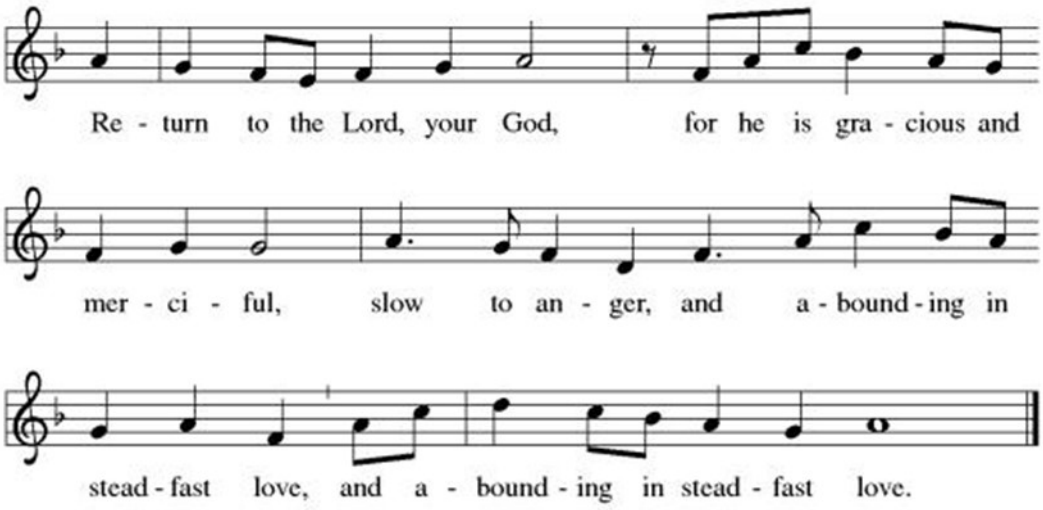
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

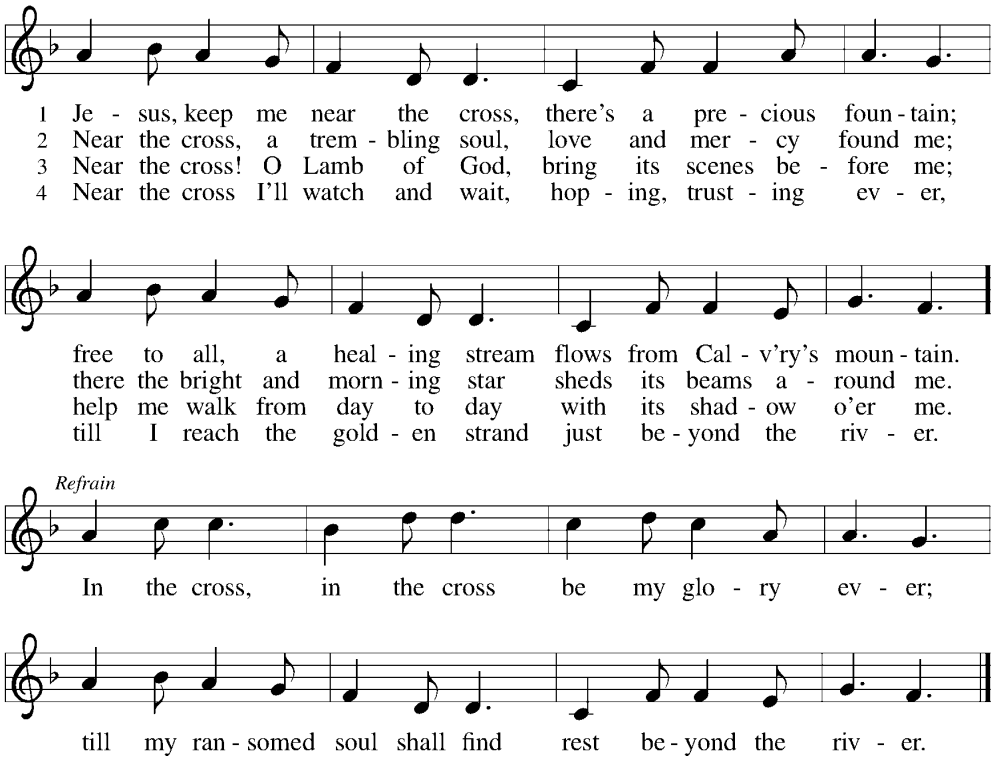
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

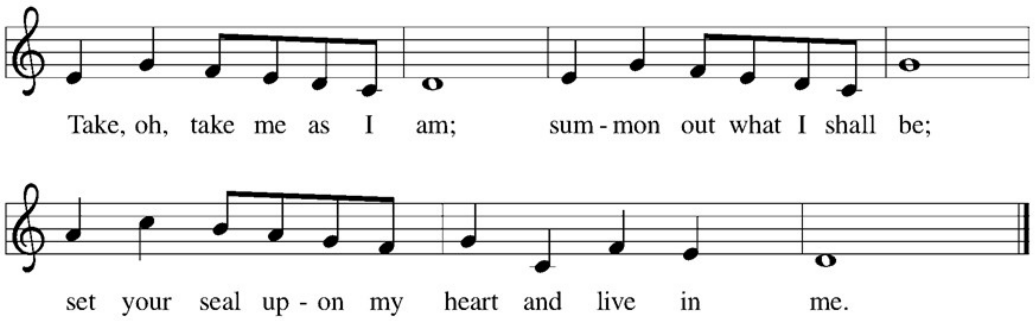
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

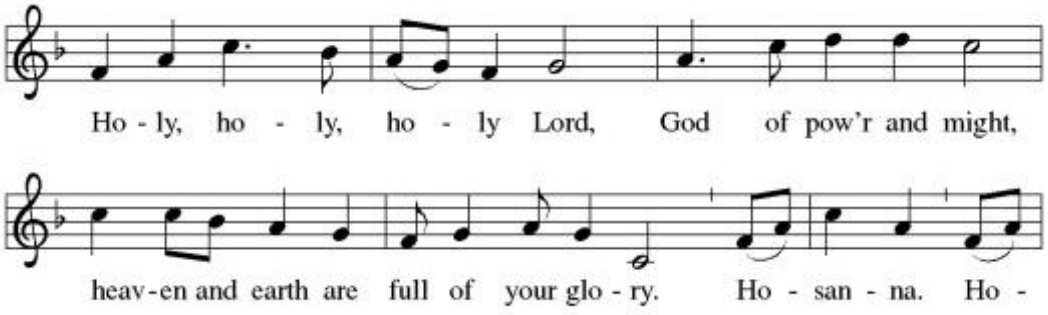
P: Lift up your hearts.

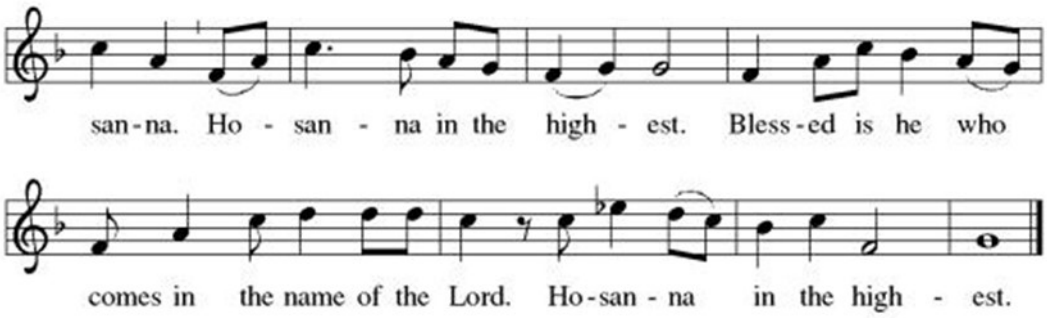
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

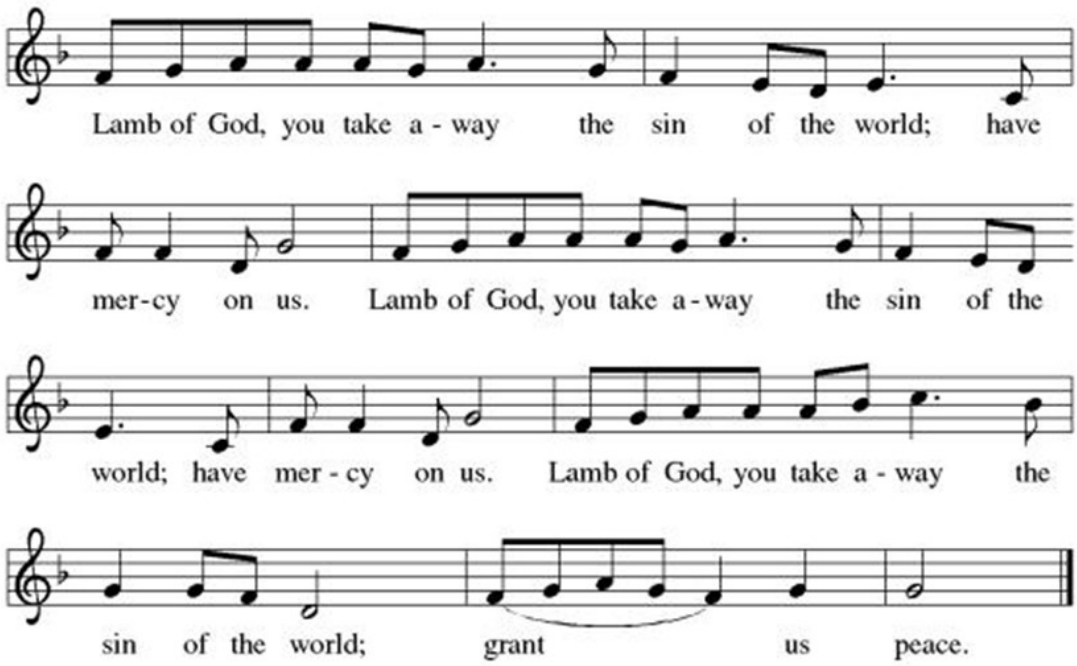
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
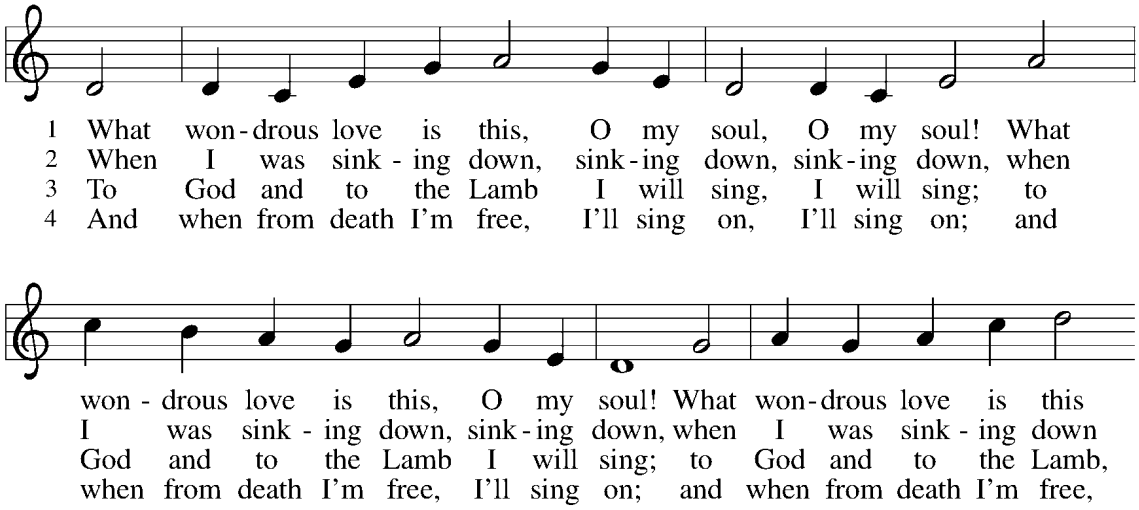
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



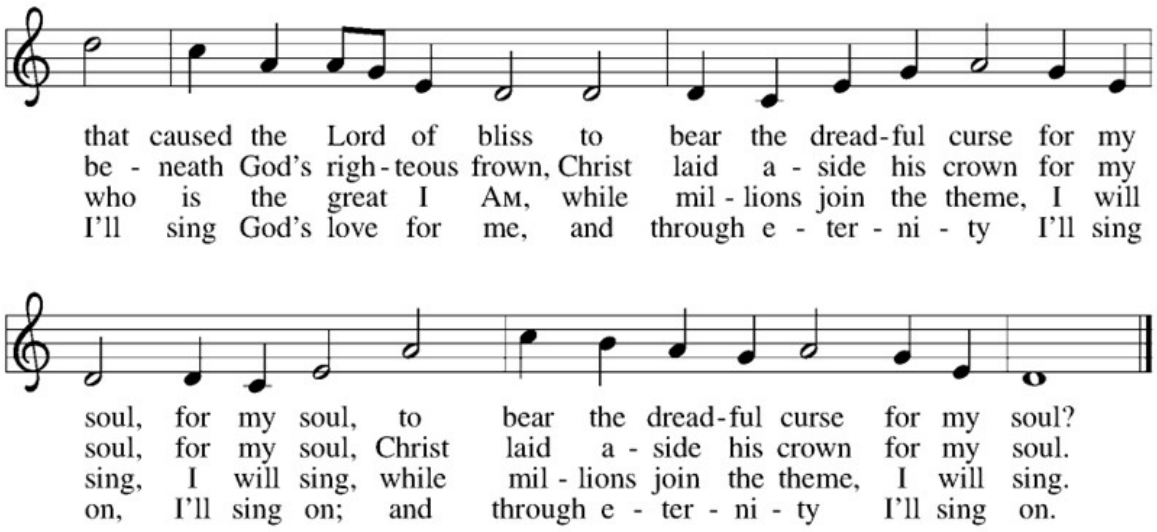
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

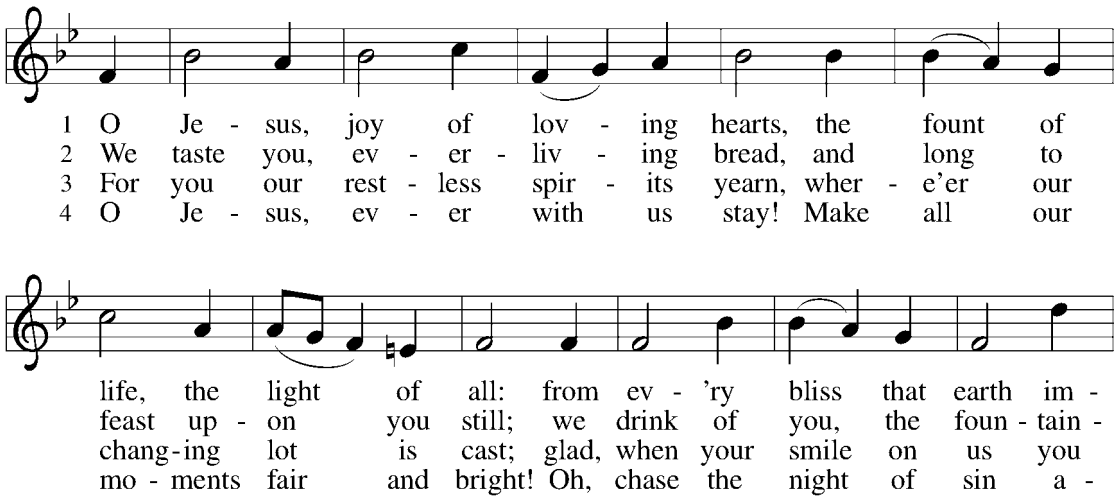
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
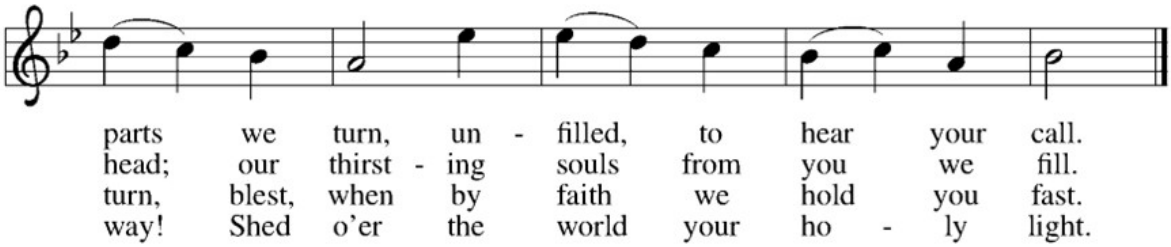
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

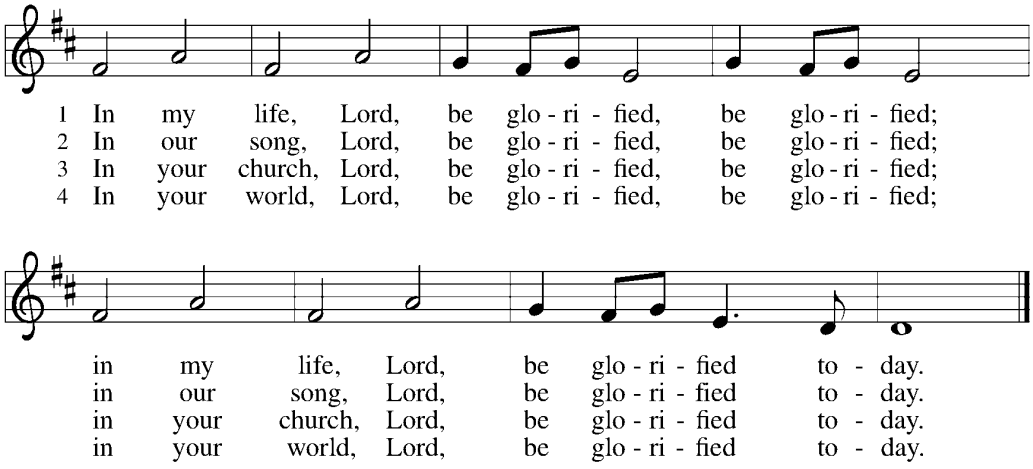
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

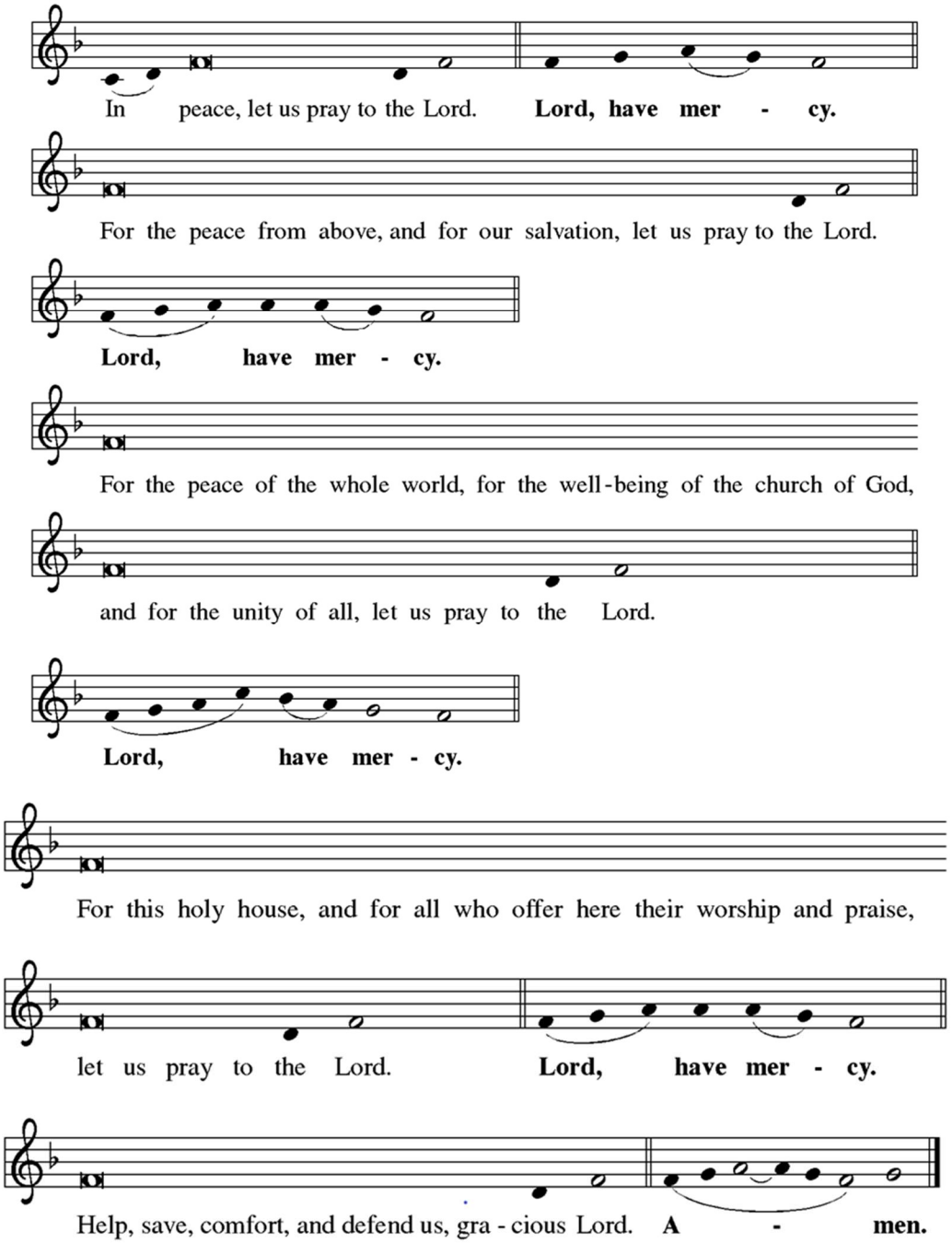
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

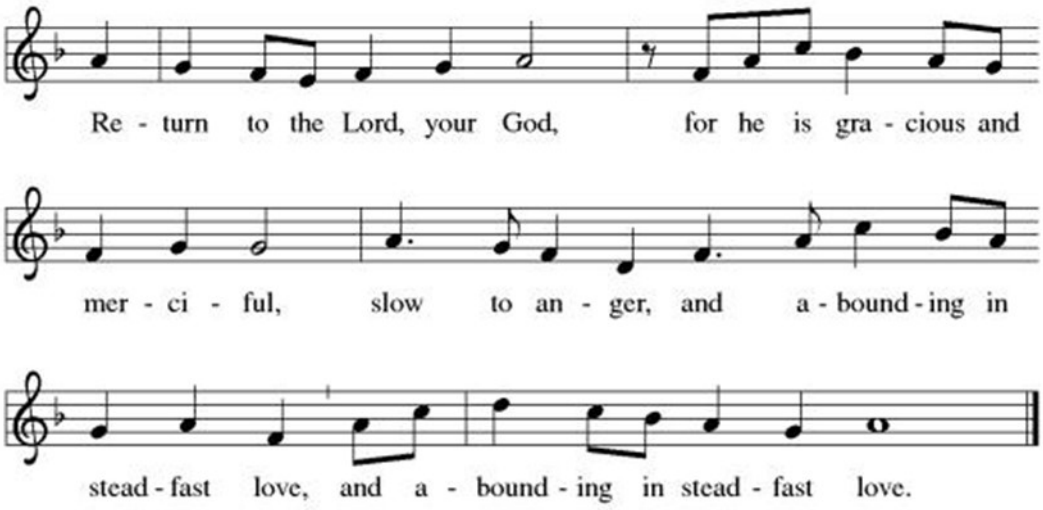
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

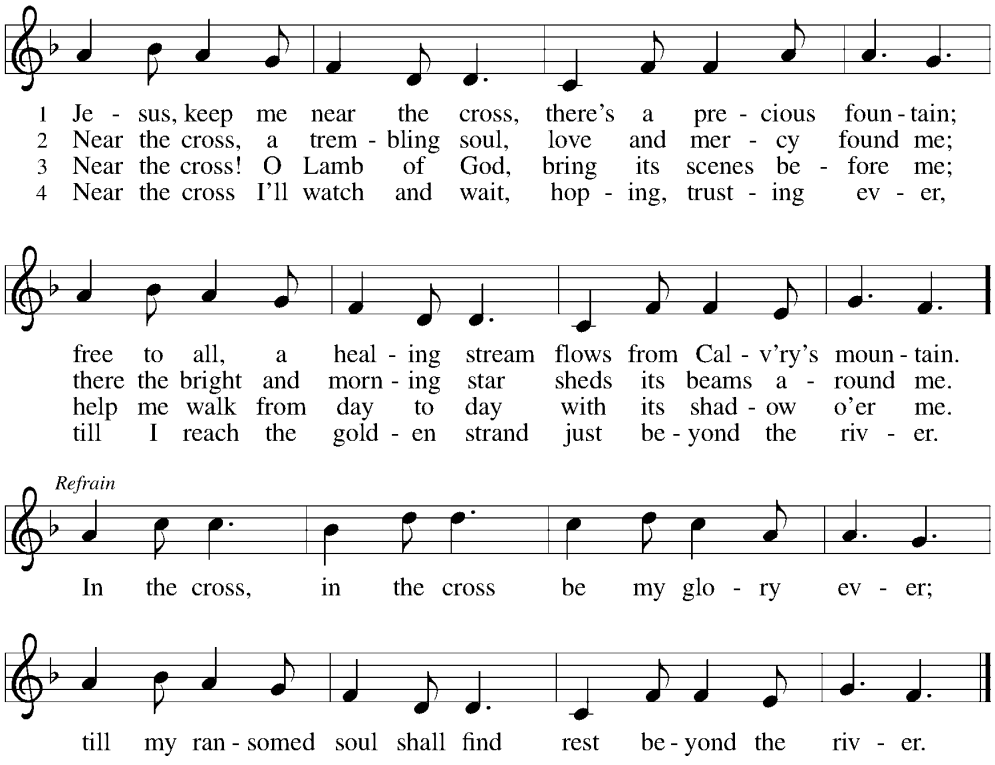
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

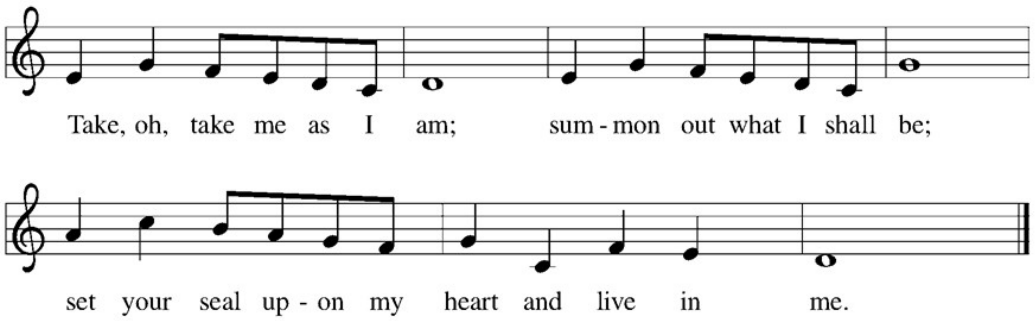
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

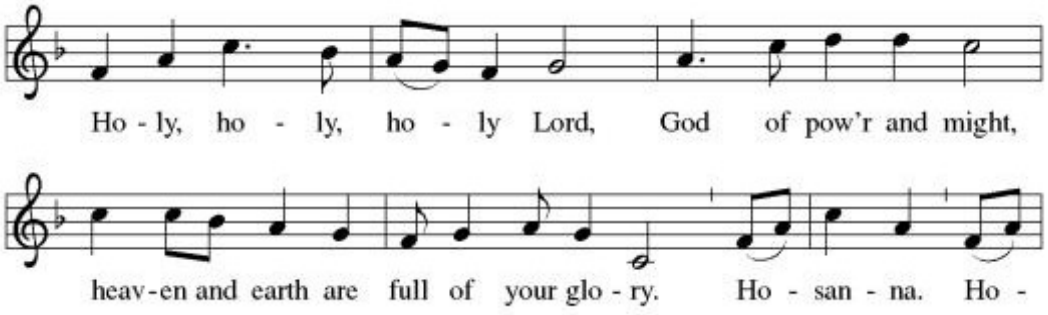
P: Lift up your hearts.

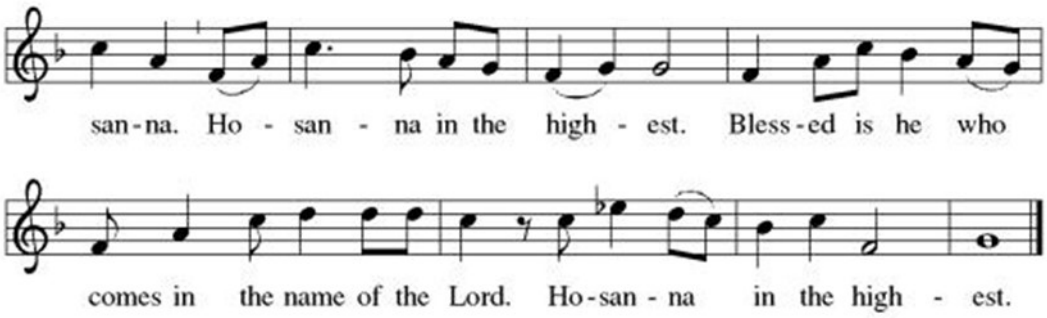
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

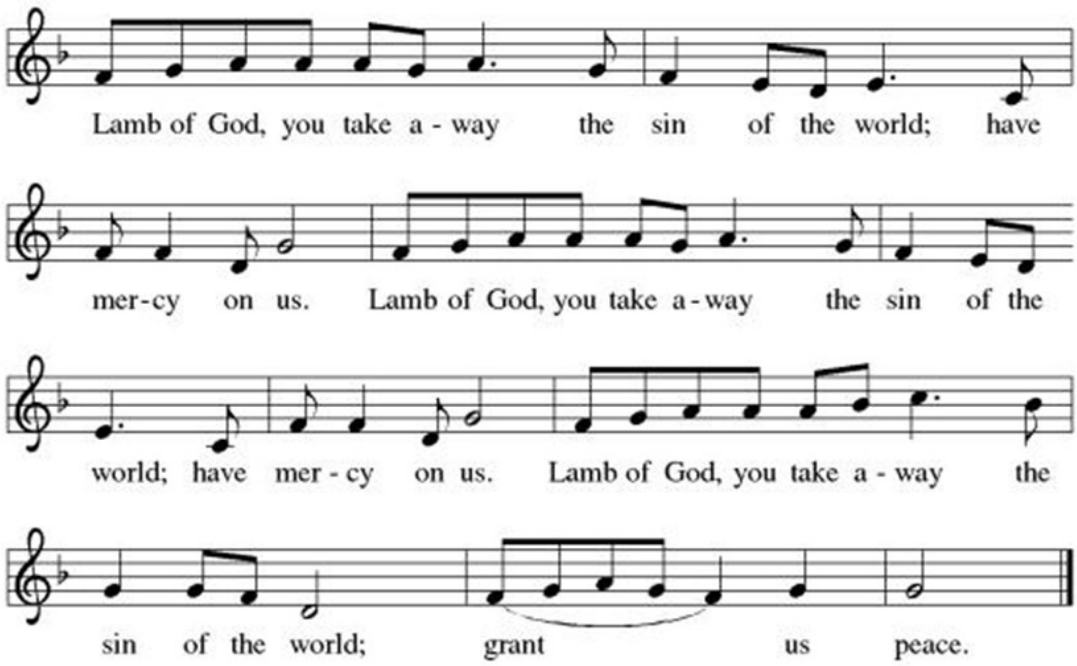
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
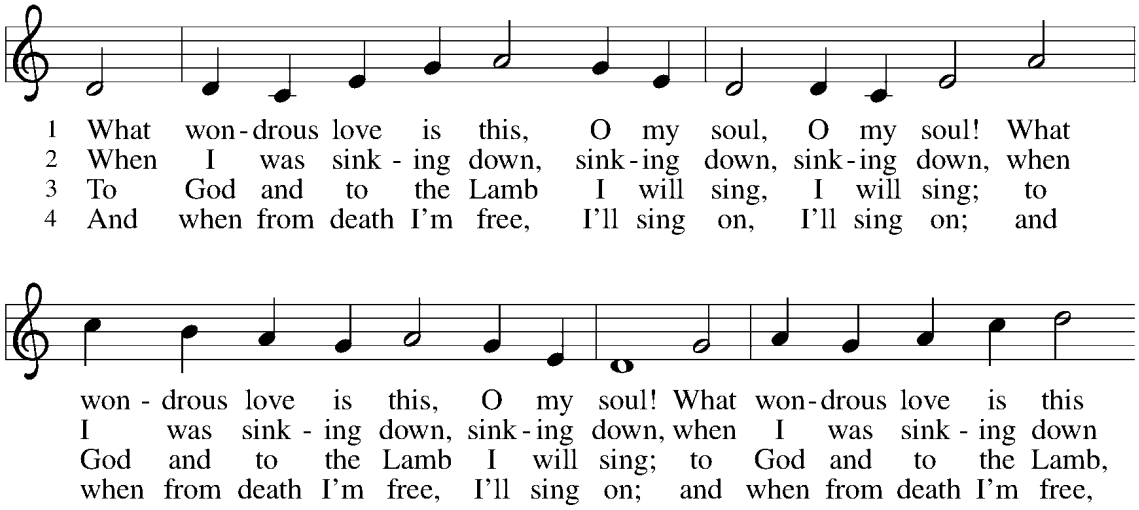
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



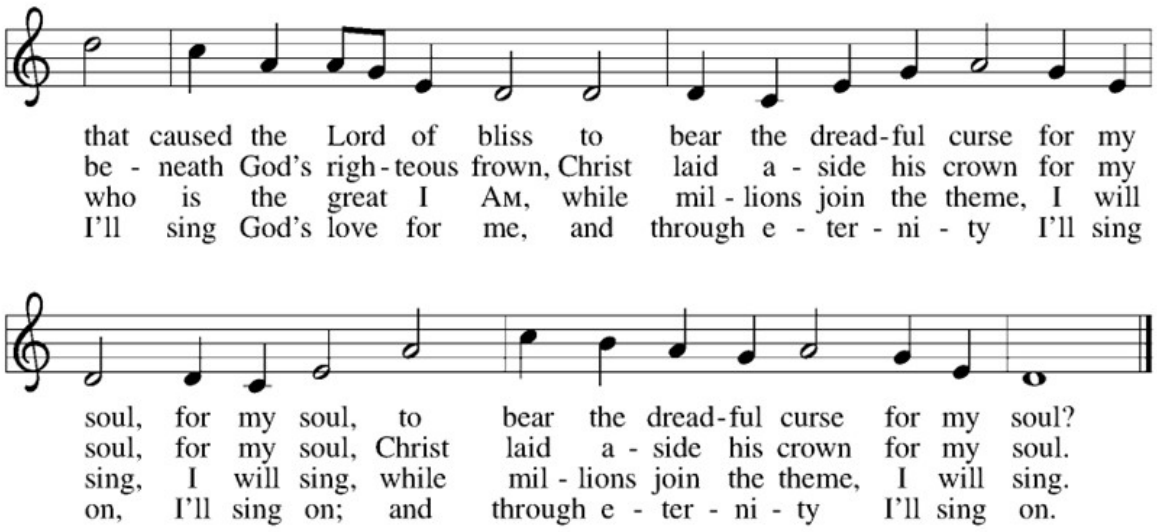
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

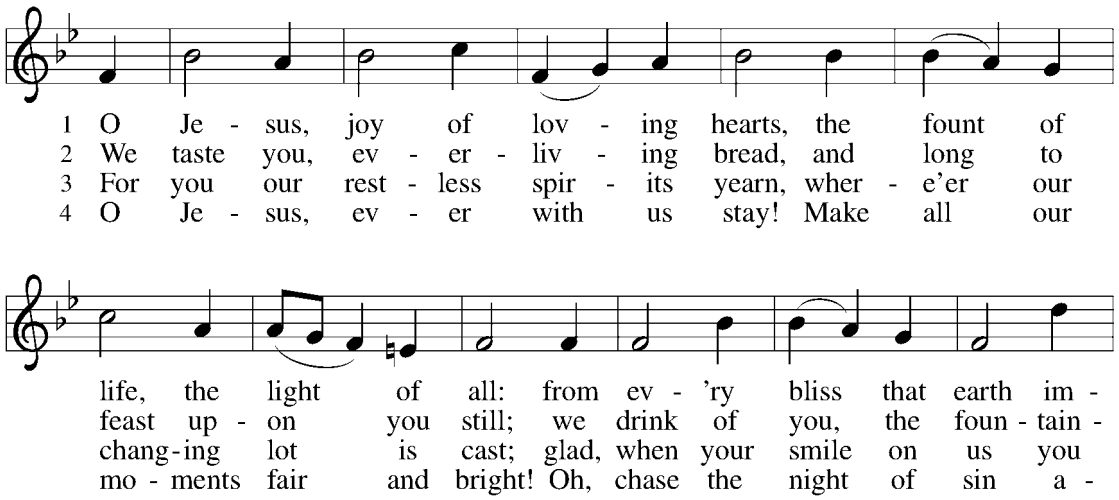
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
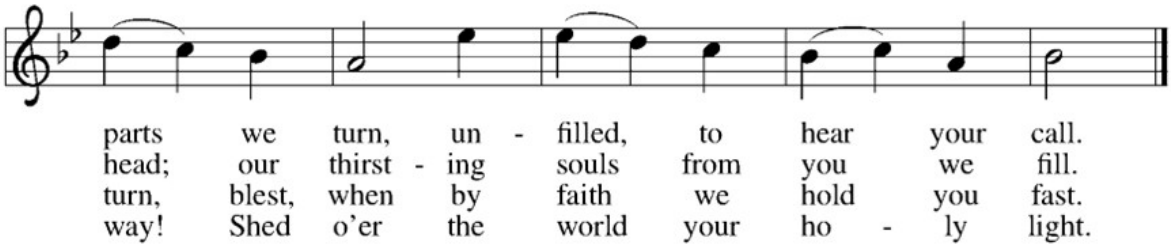
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

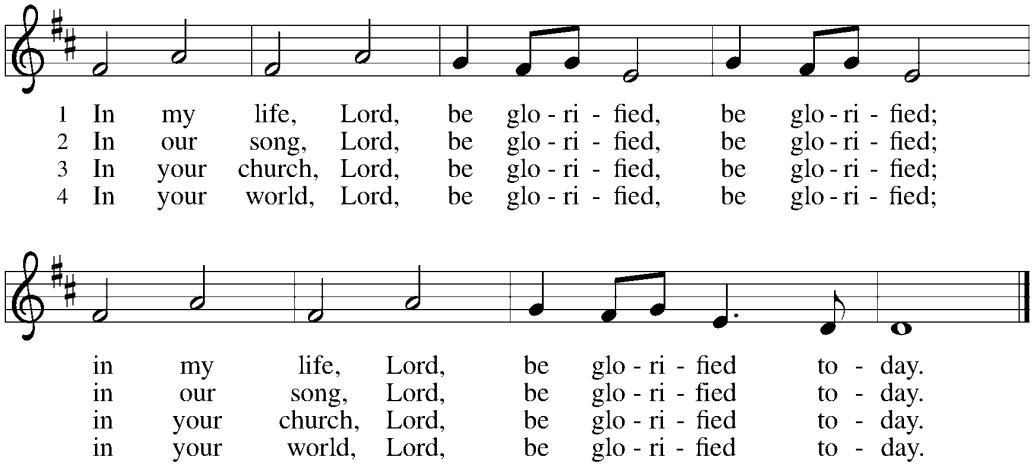
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

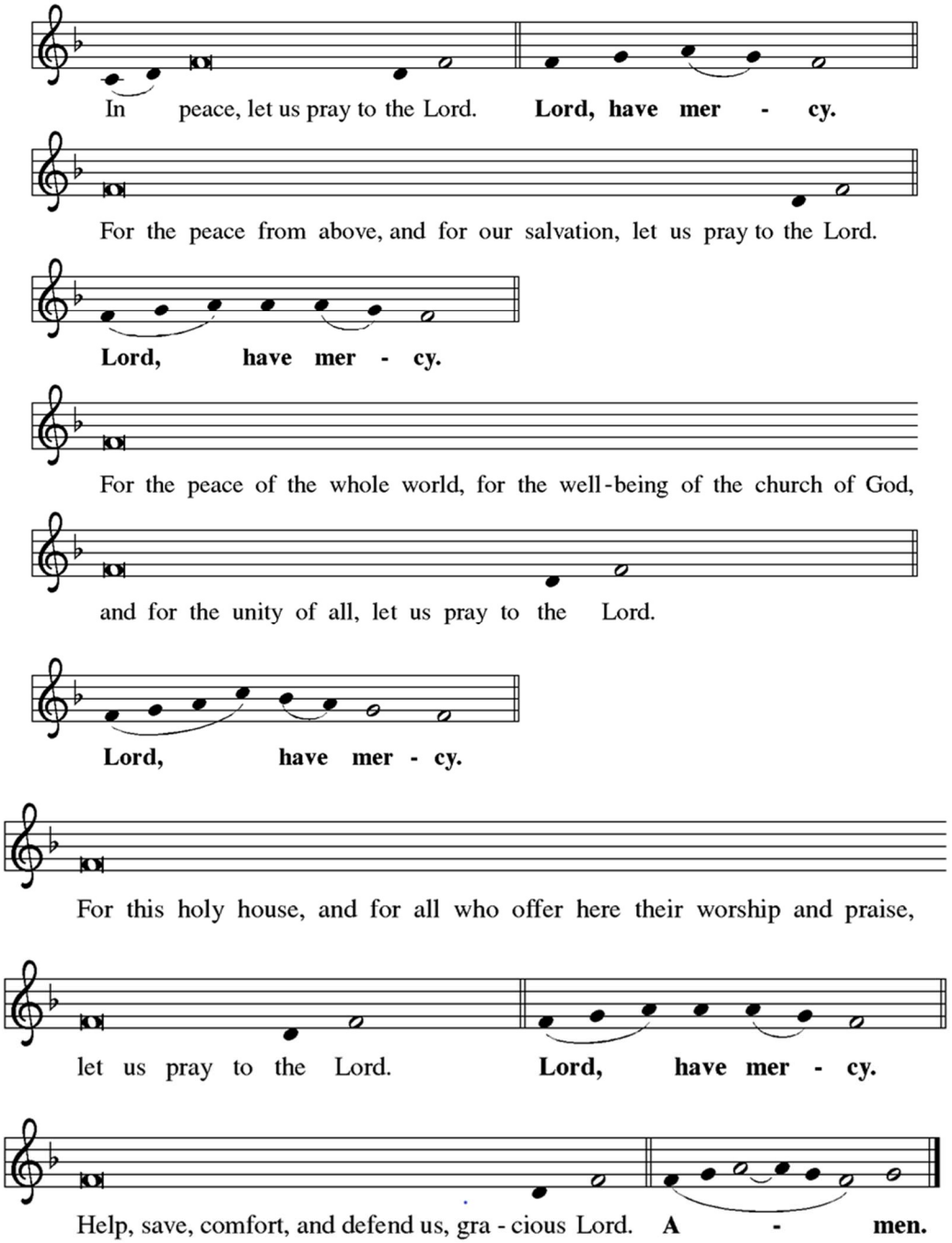
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

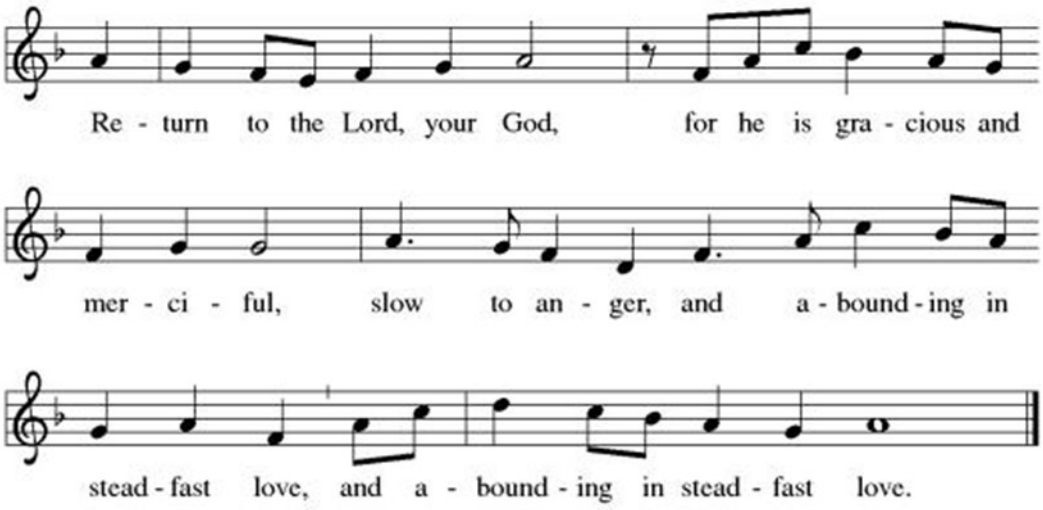
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

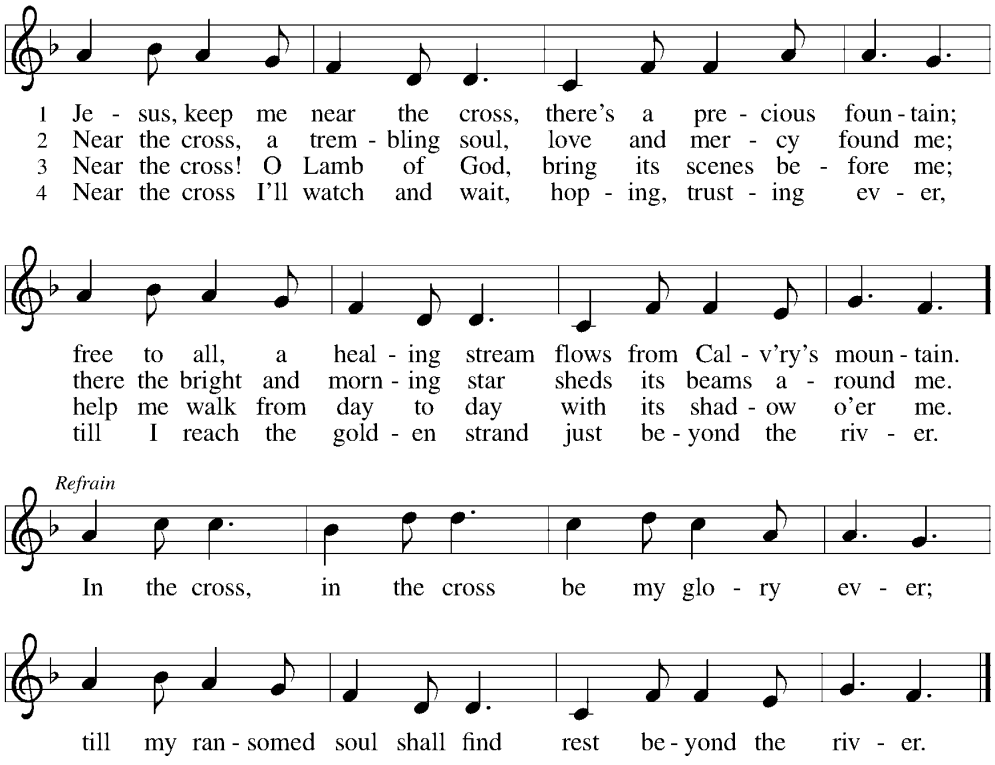
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

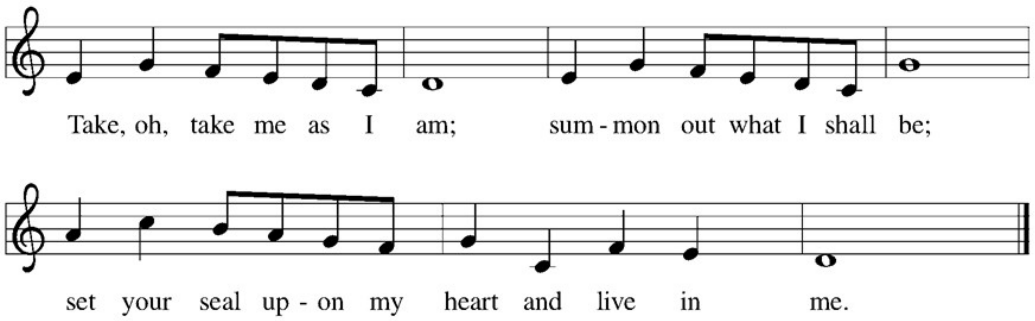
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

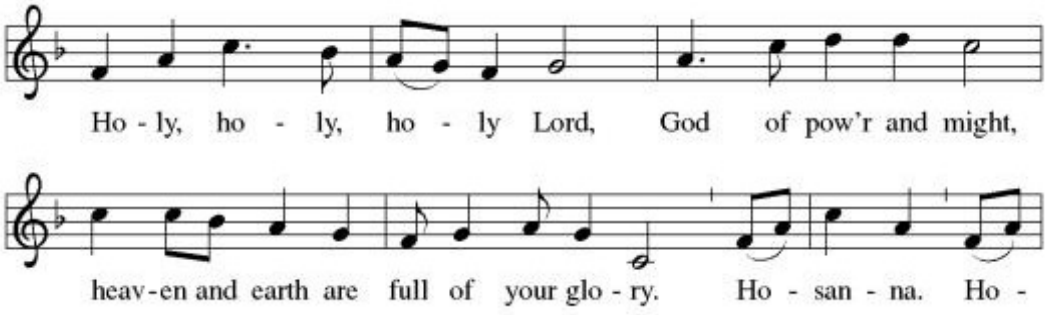
P: Lift up your hearts.

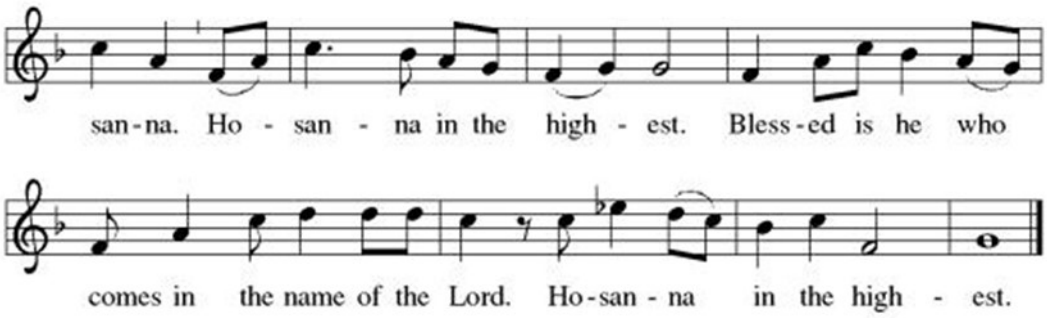
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

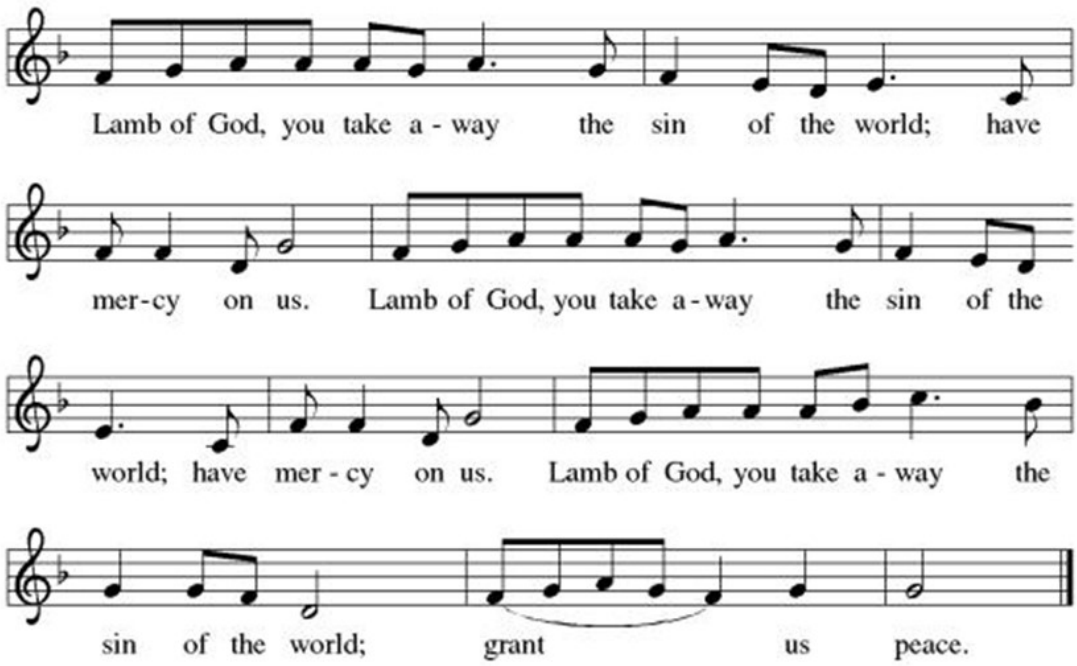
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
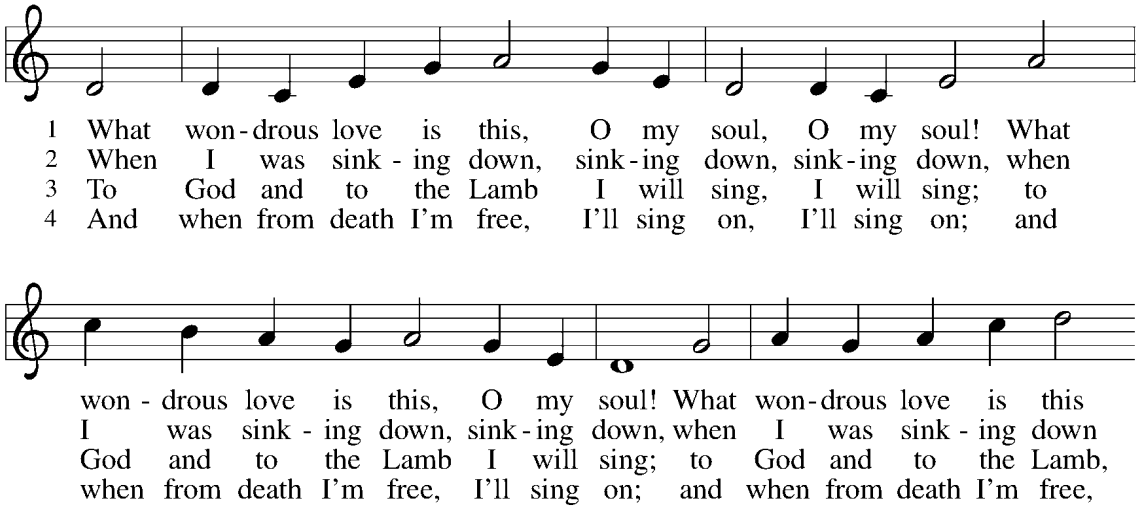
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



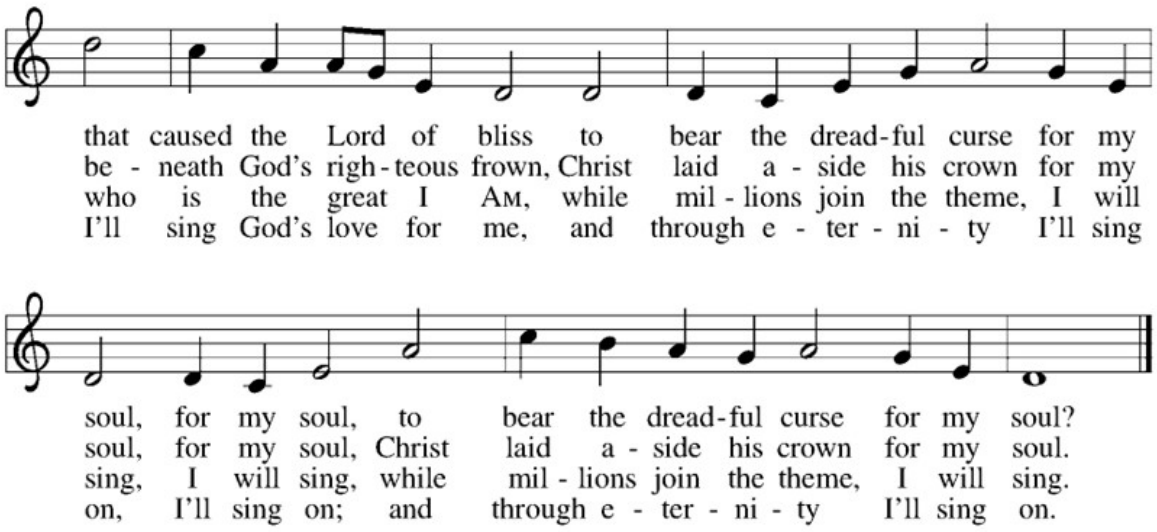
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

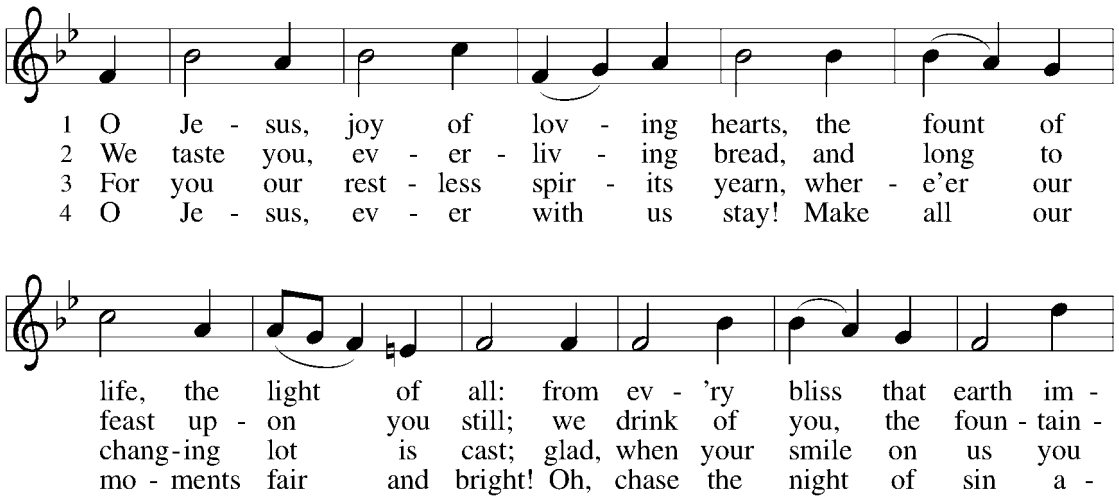
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
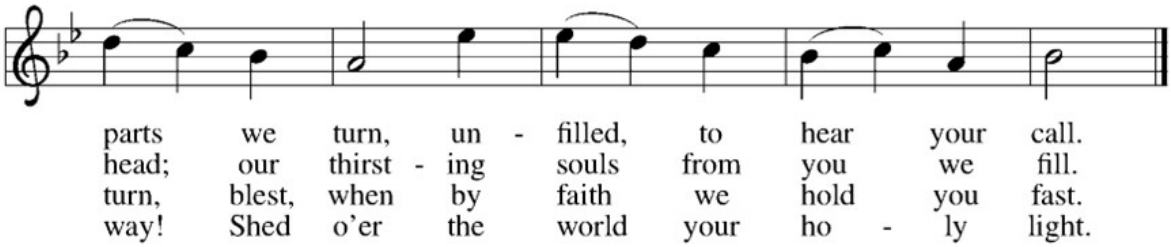
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

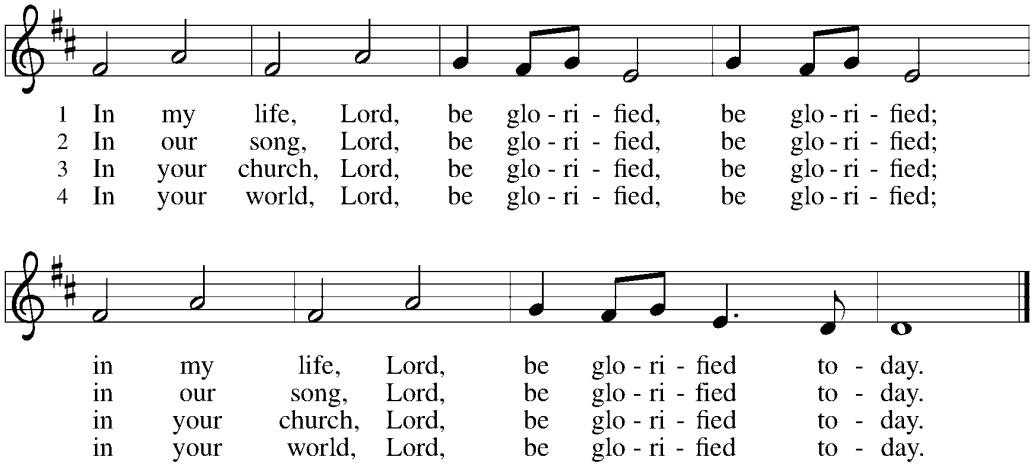
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

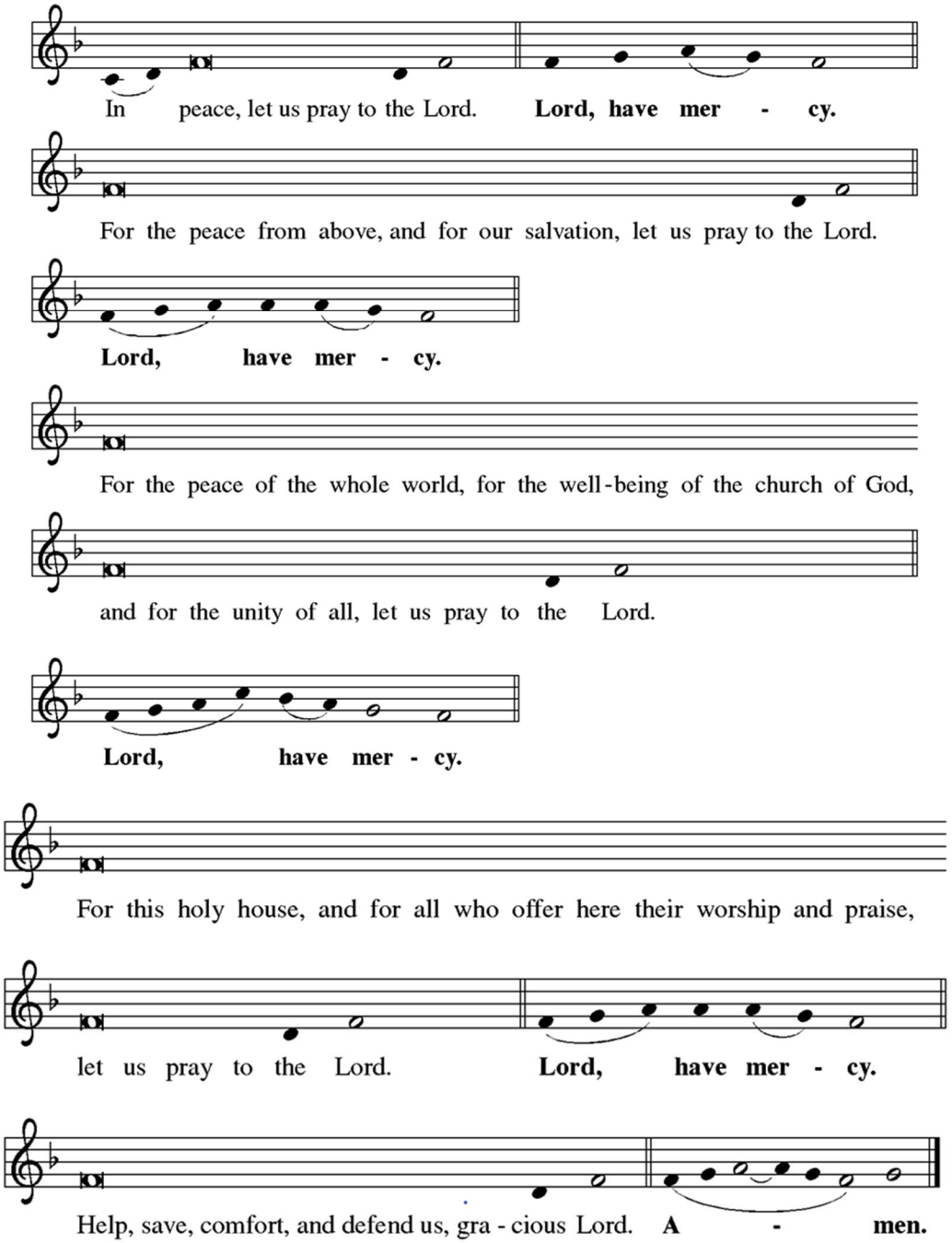
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

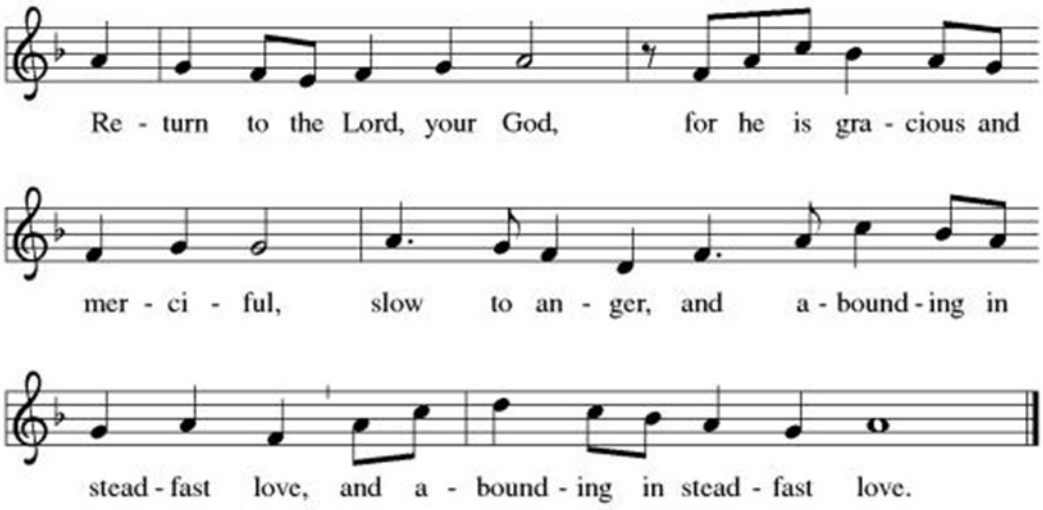
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

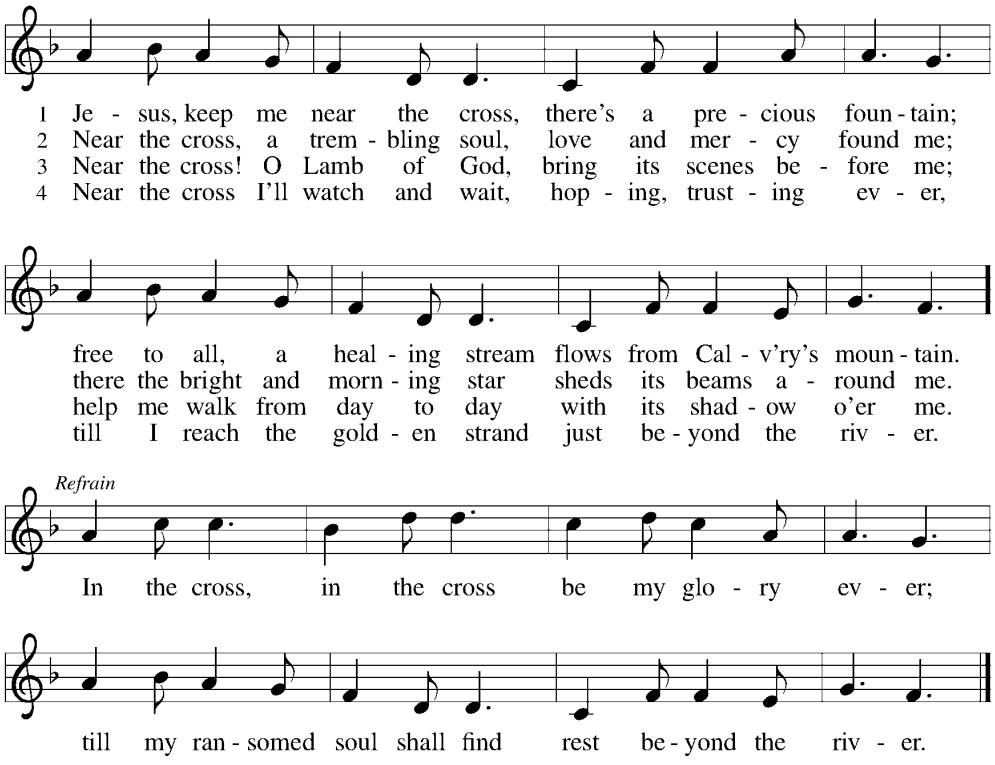
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

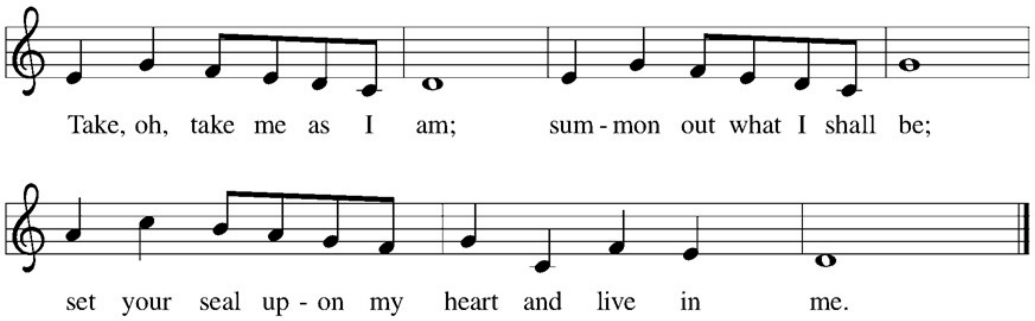
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

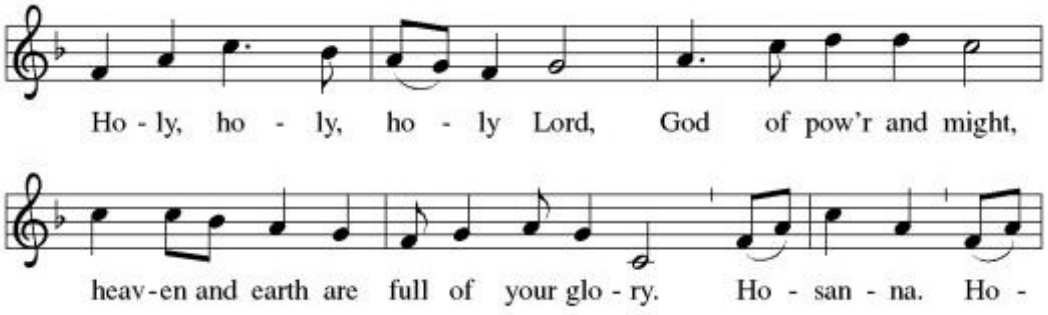
P: Lift up your hearts.

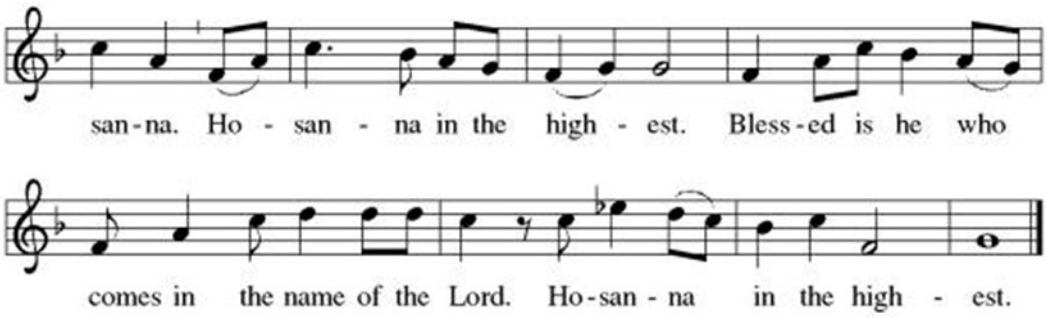
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

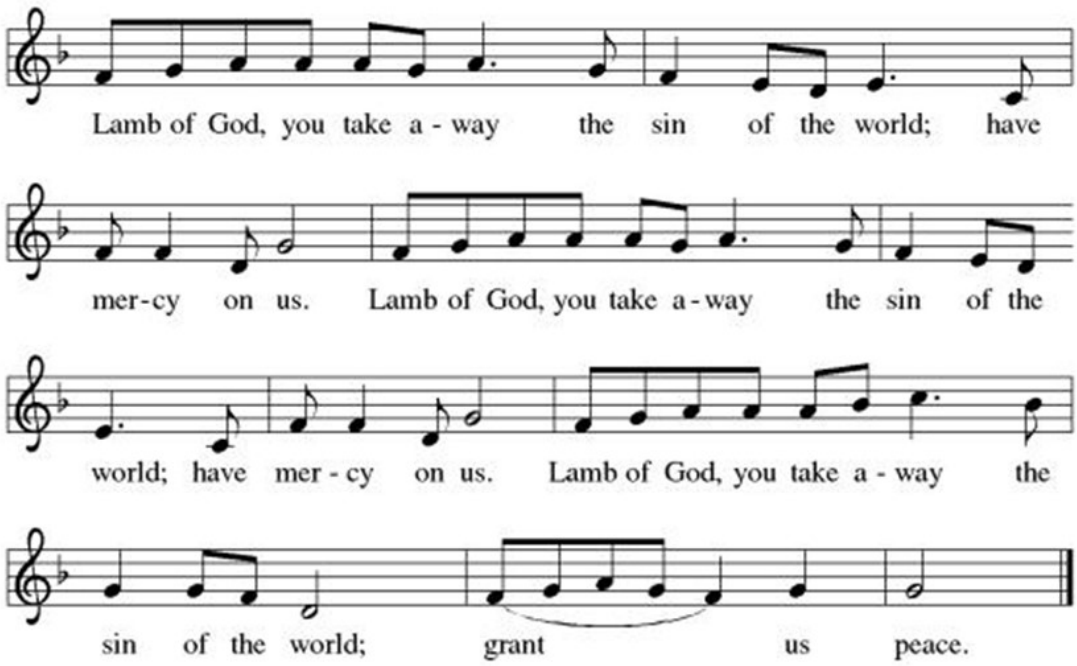
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
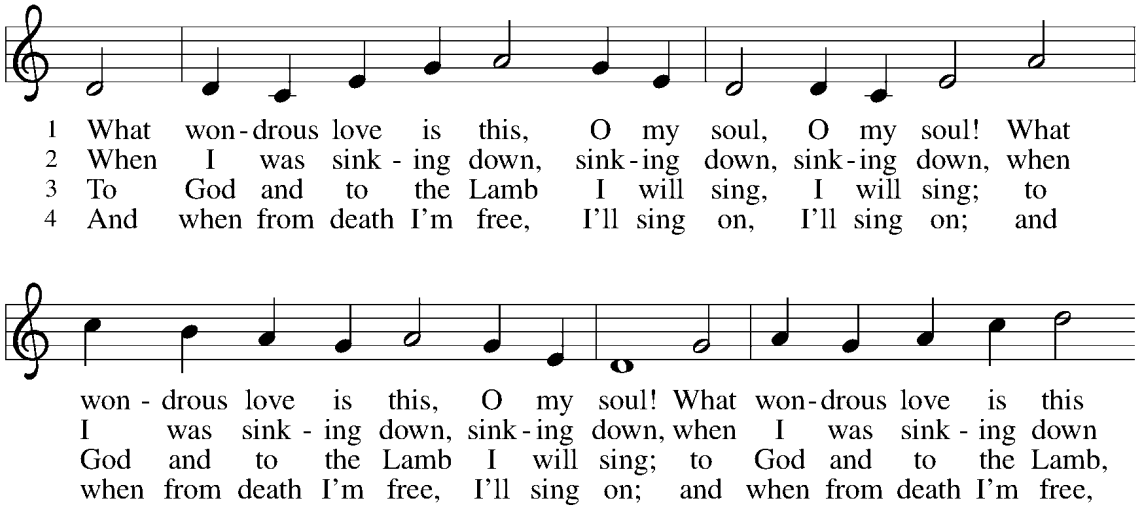
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



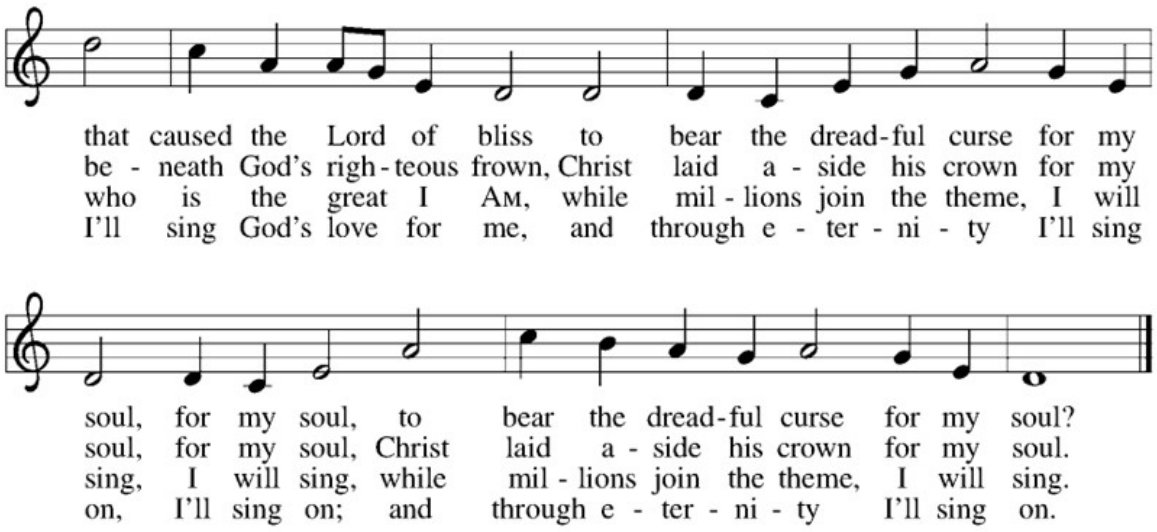
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

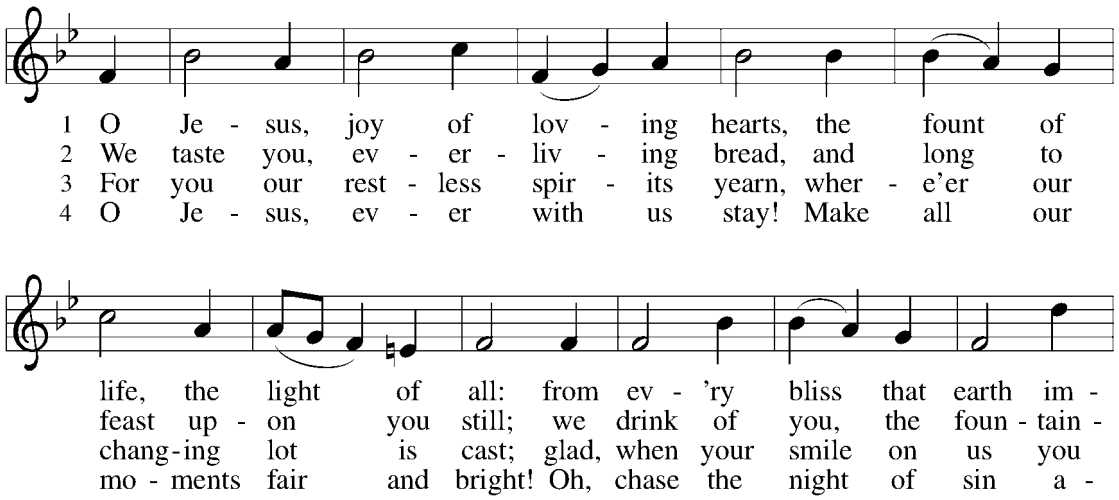
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
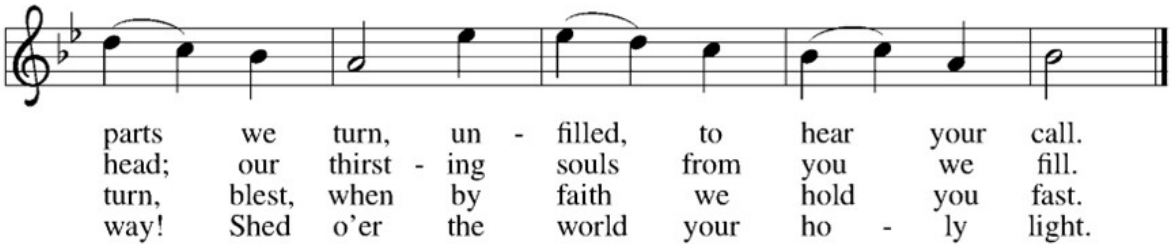
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

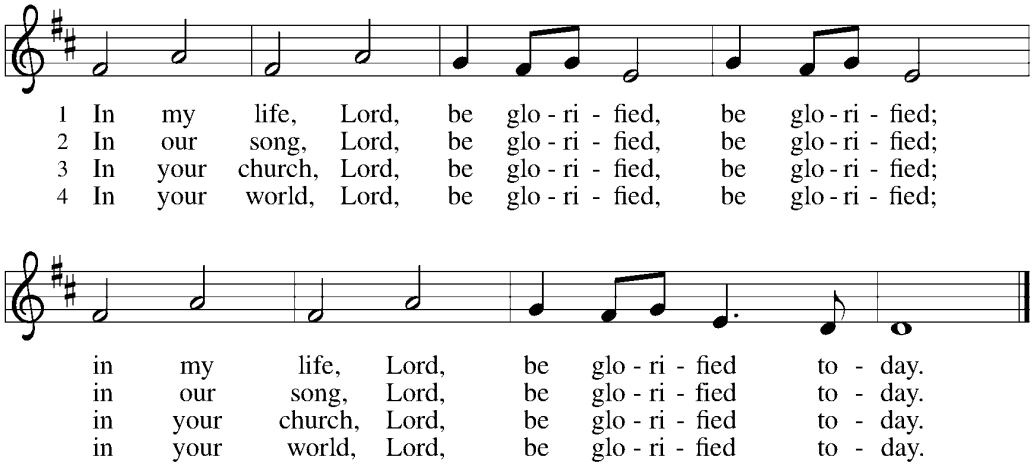
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

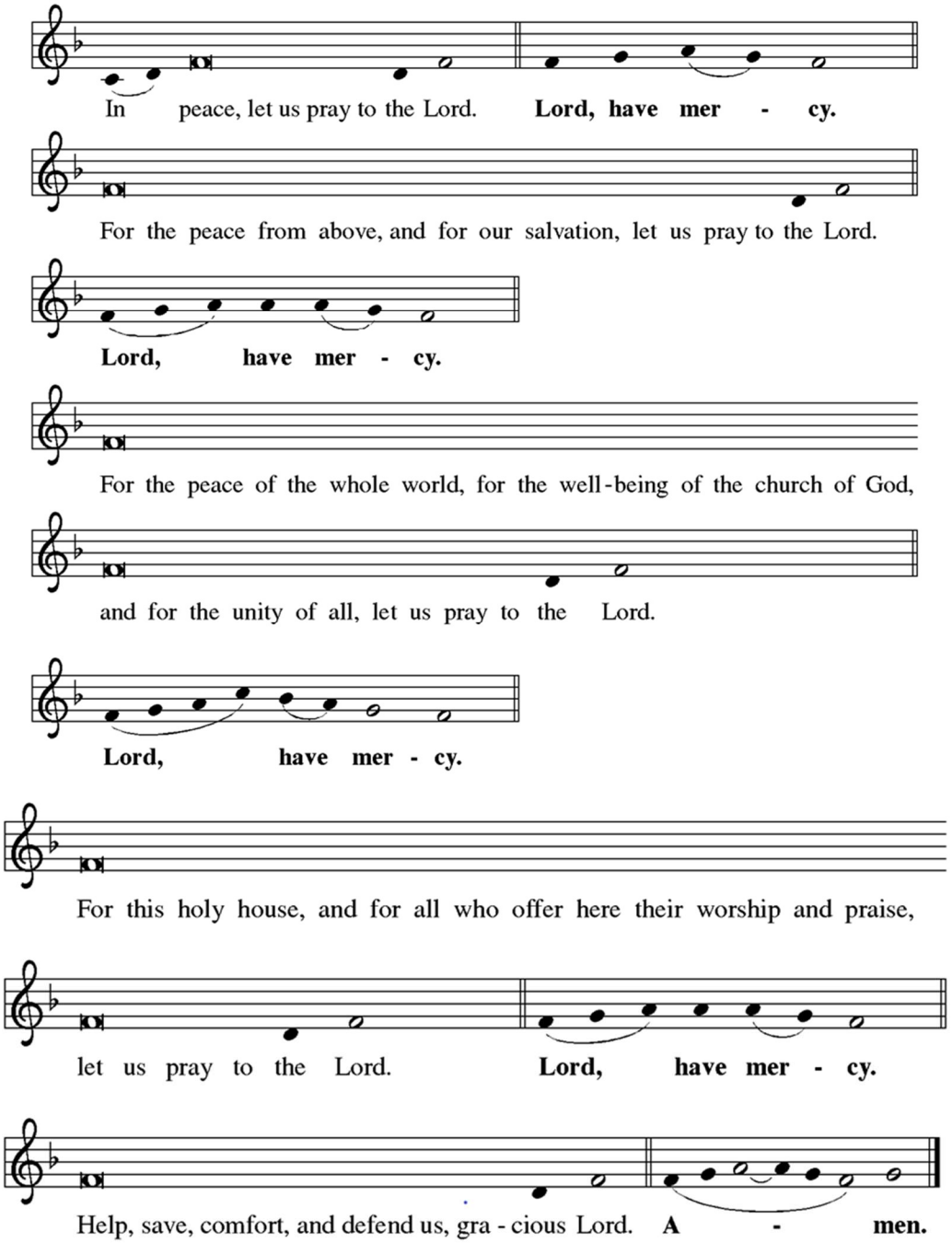
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

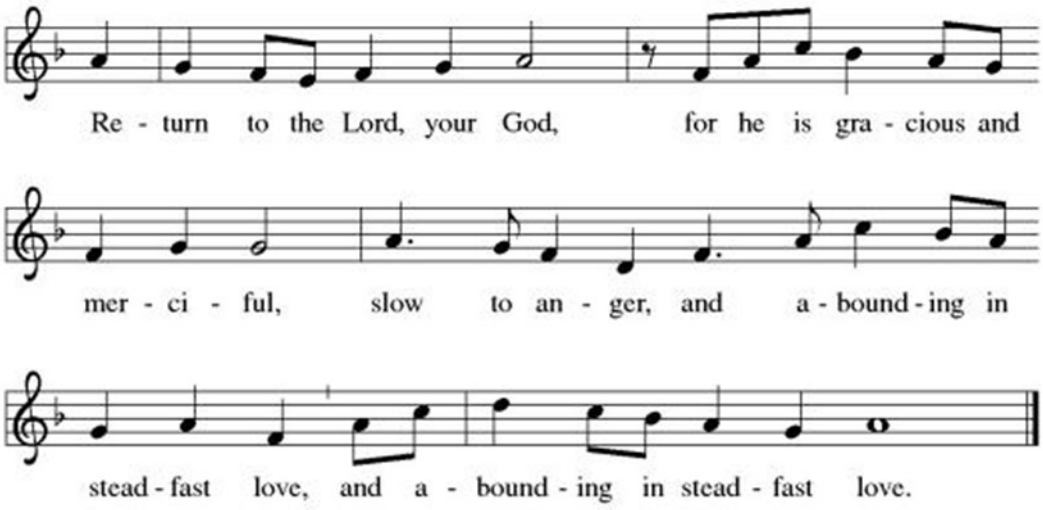
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

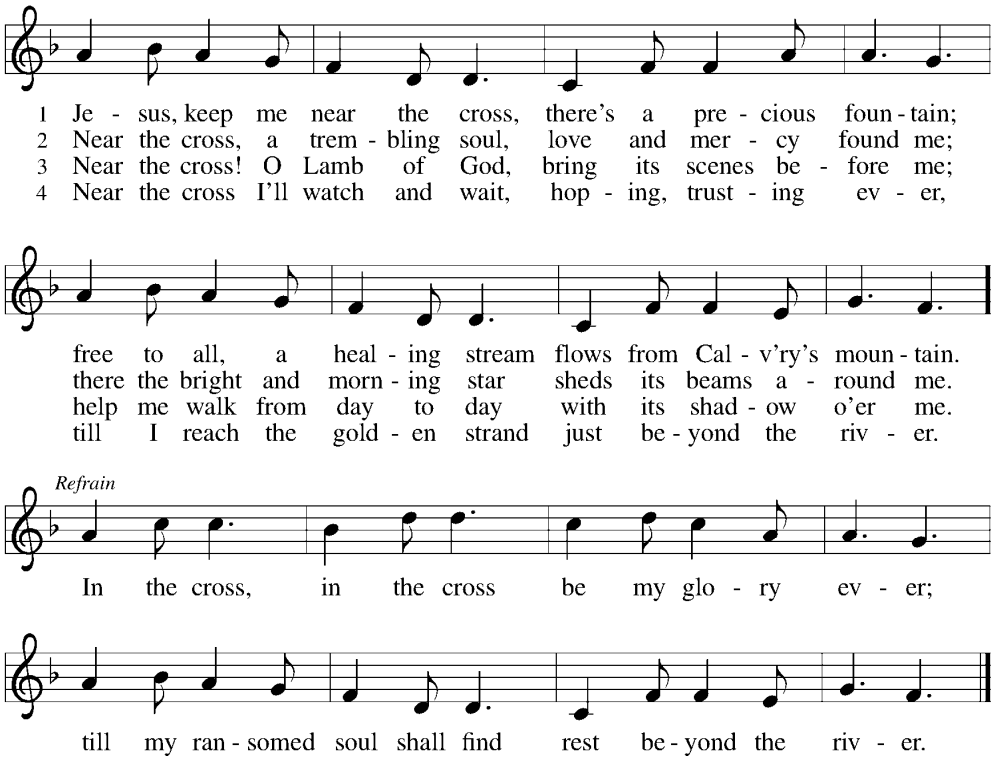
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

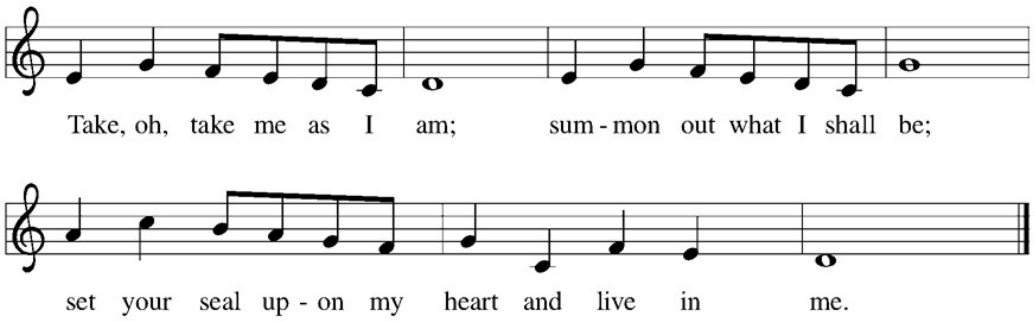
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

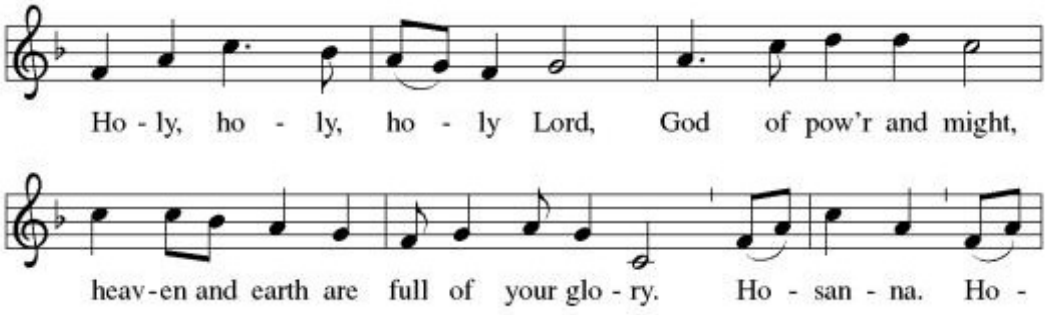
P: Lift up your hearts.

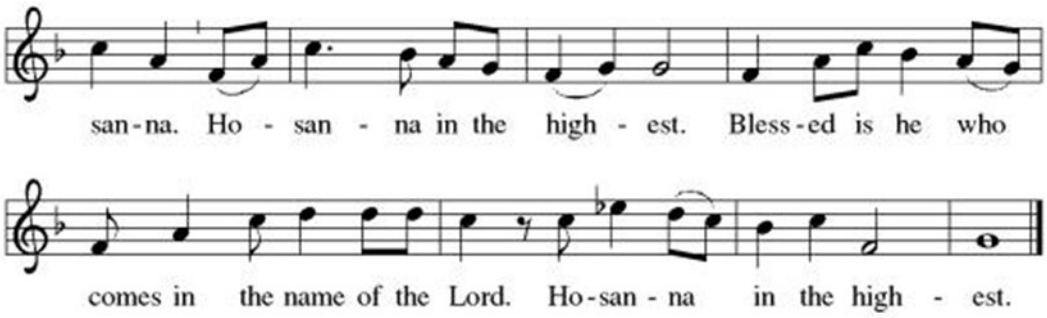
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

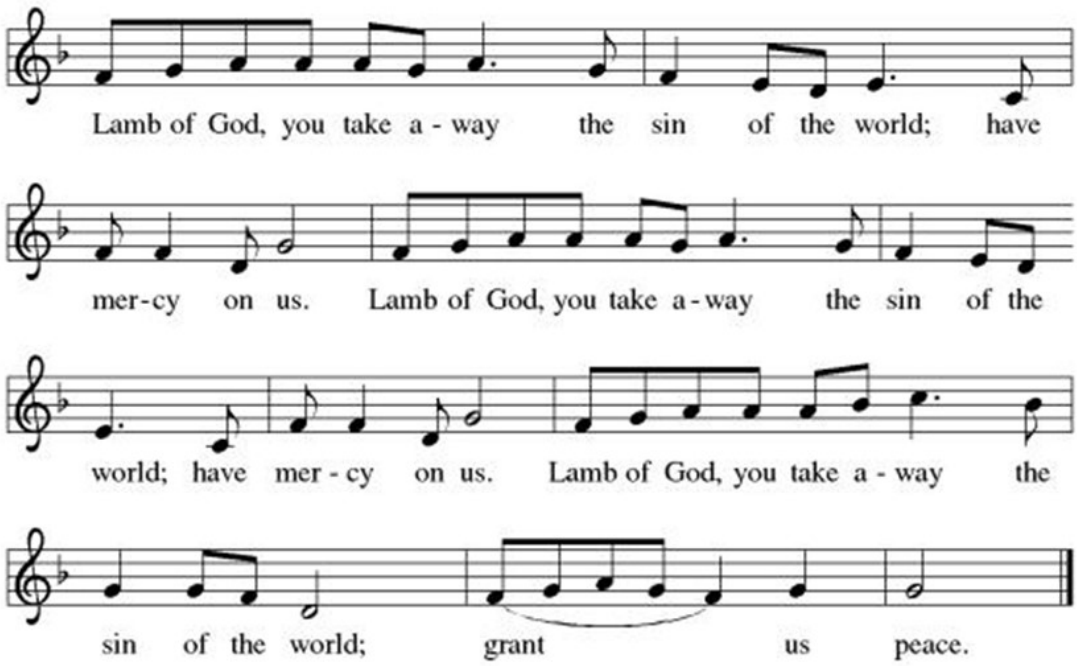
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
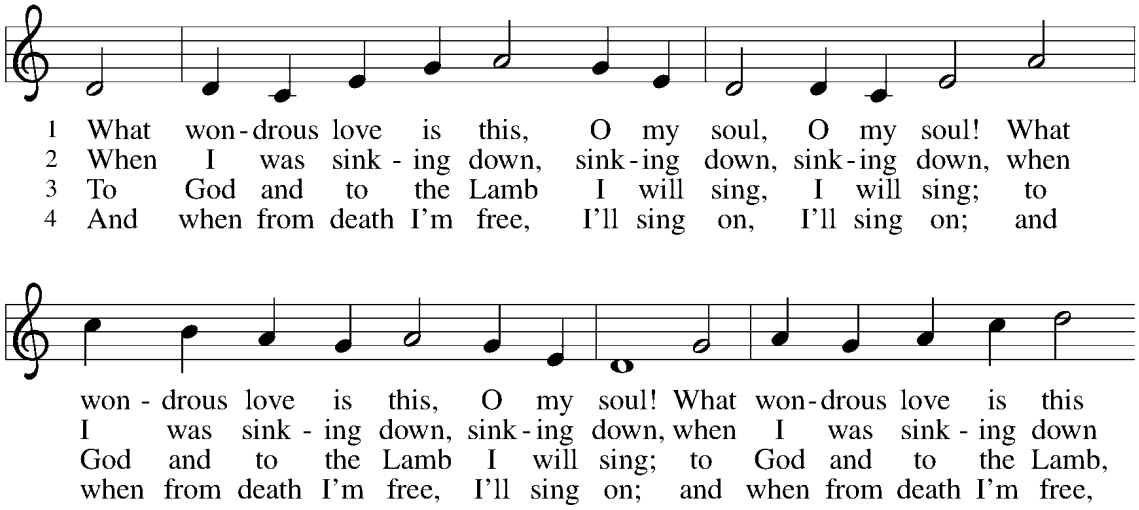
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



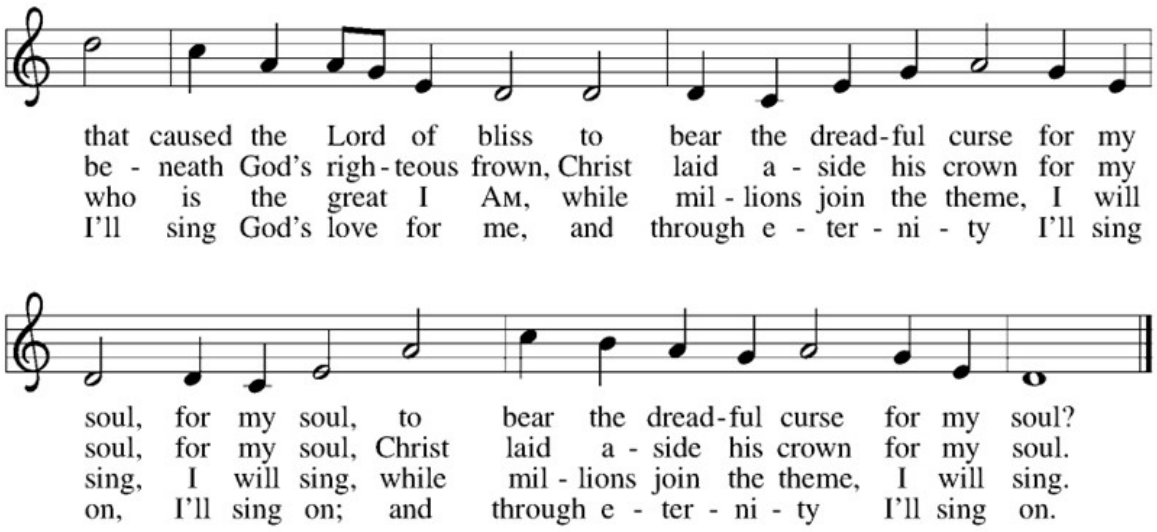
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

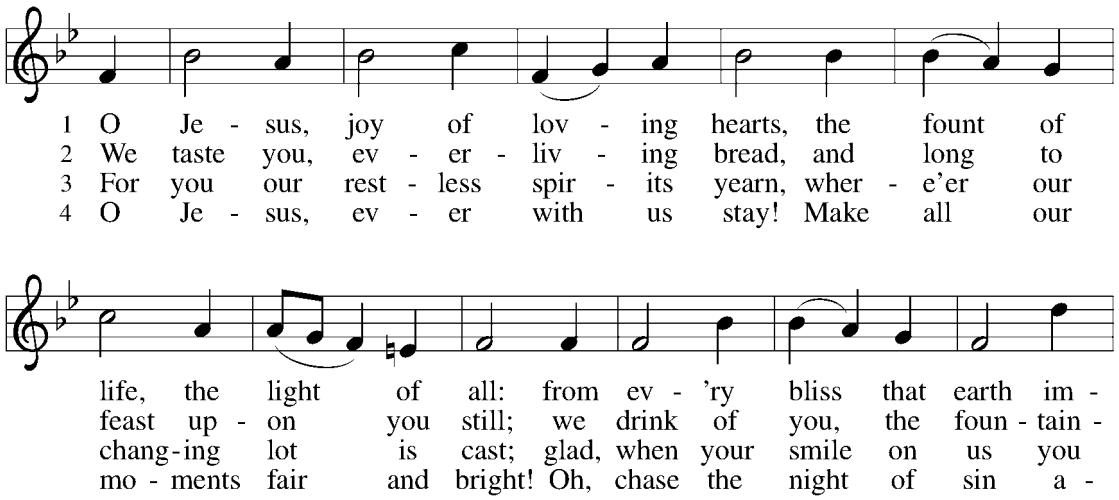
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
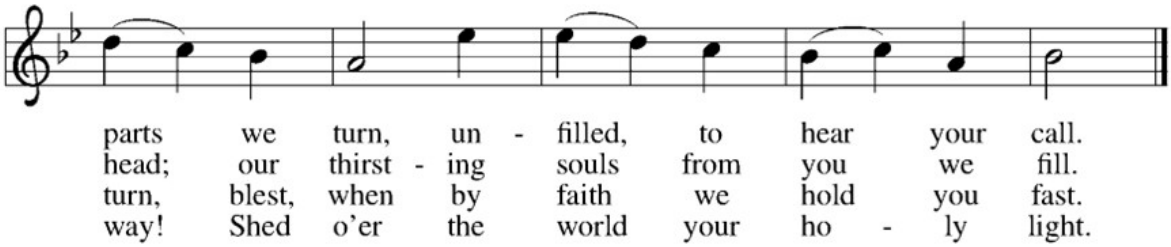
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

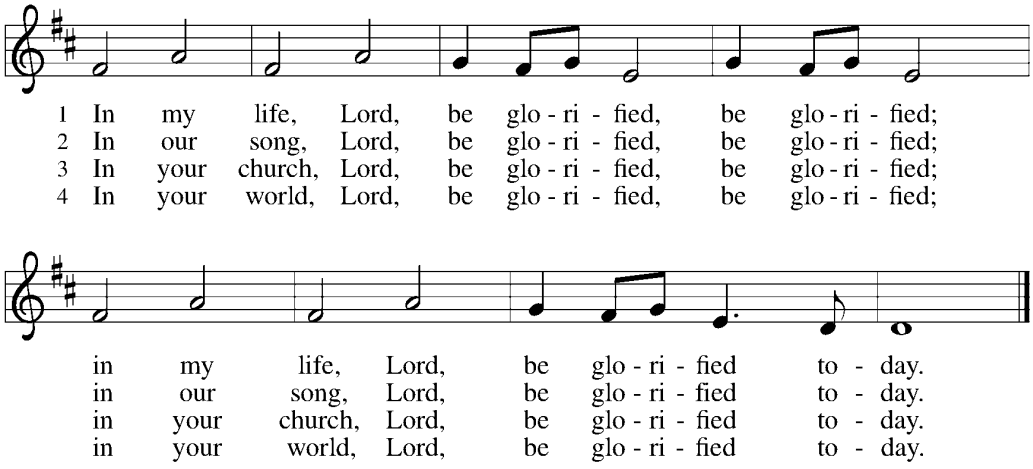
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

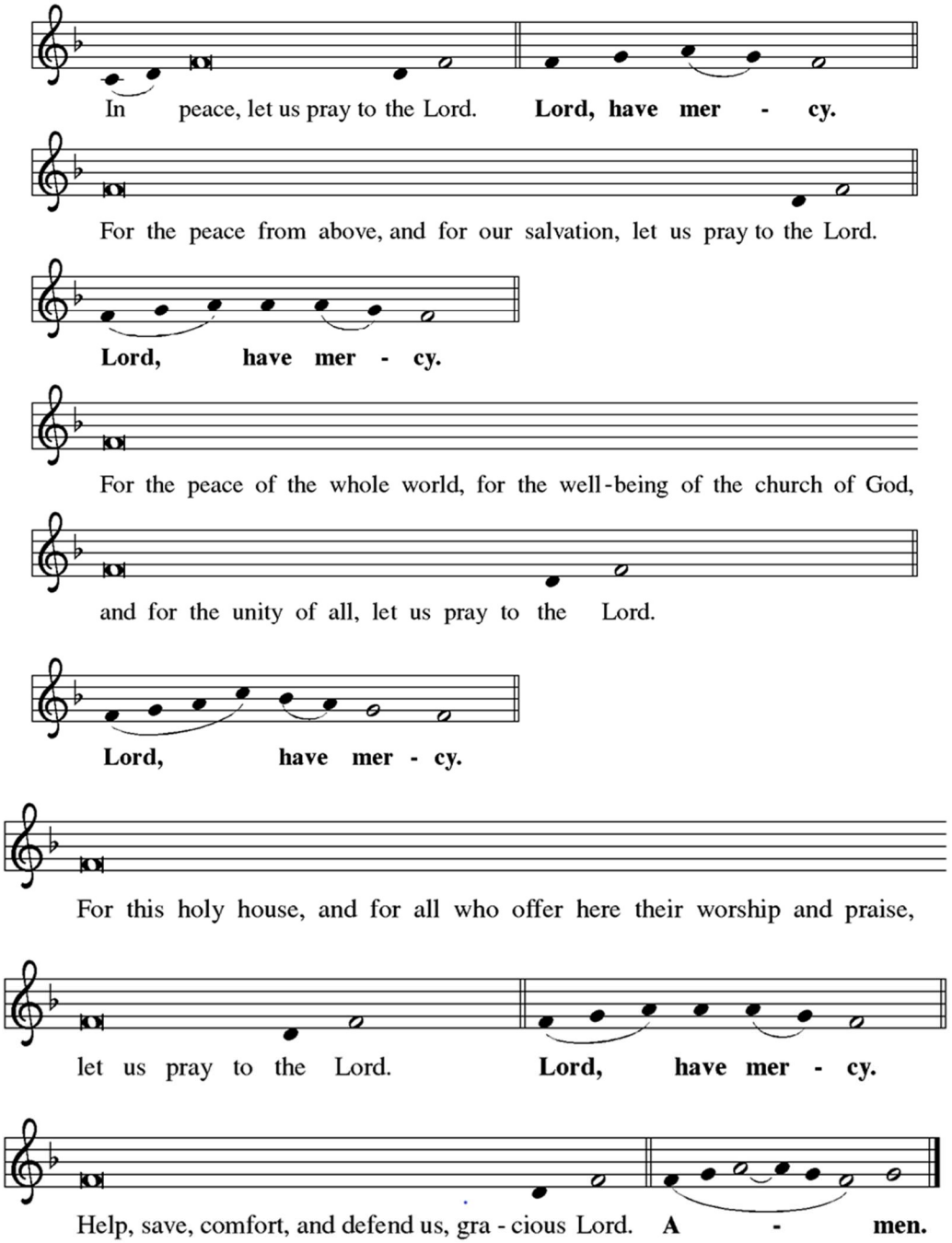
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

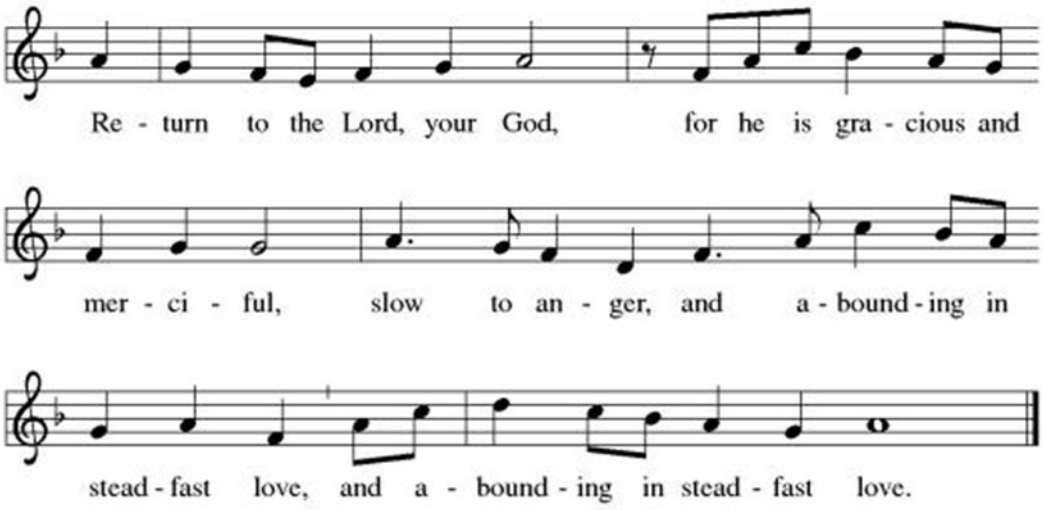
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

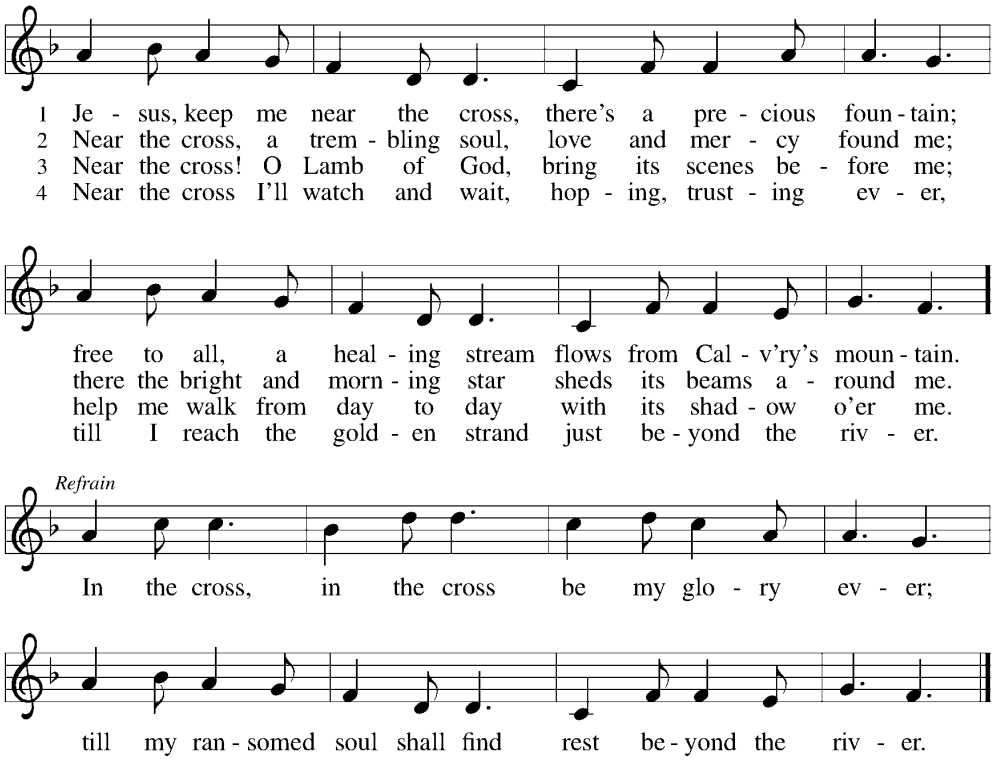
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

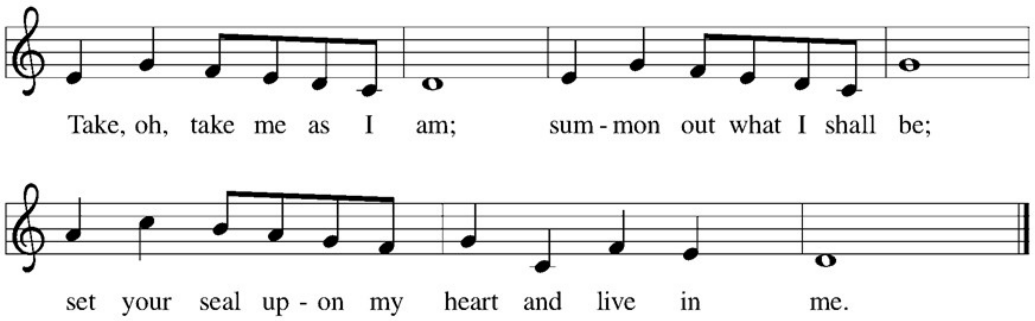
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

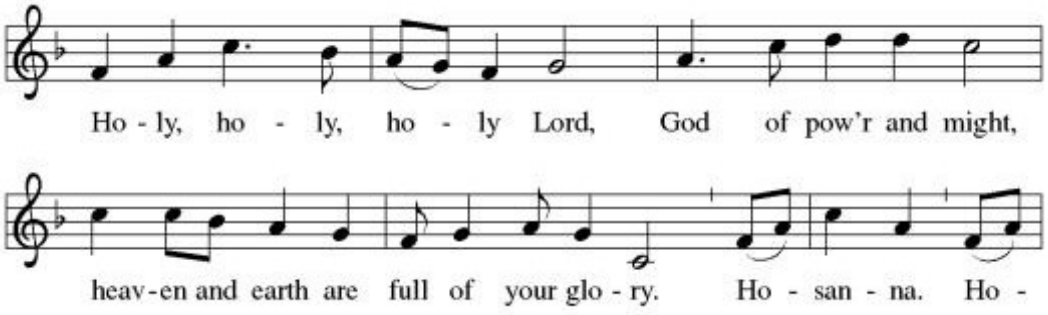
P: Lift up your hearts.

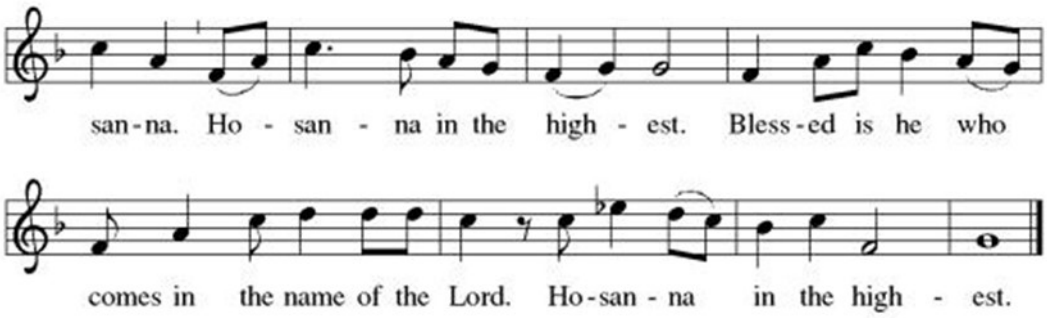
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

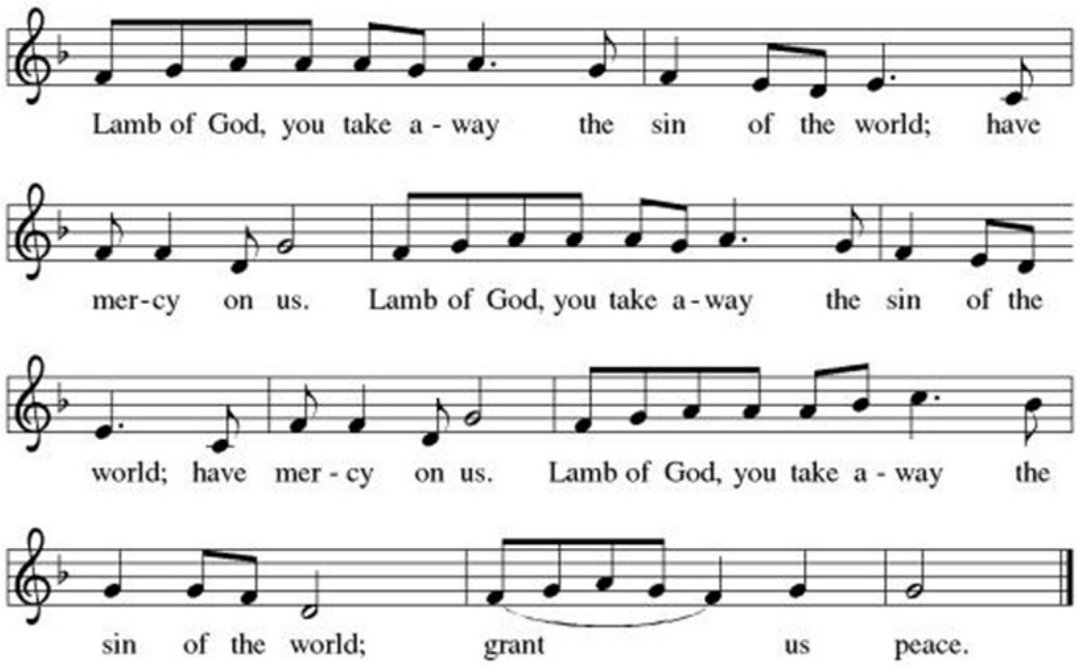
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
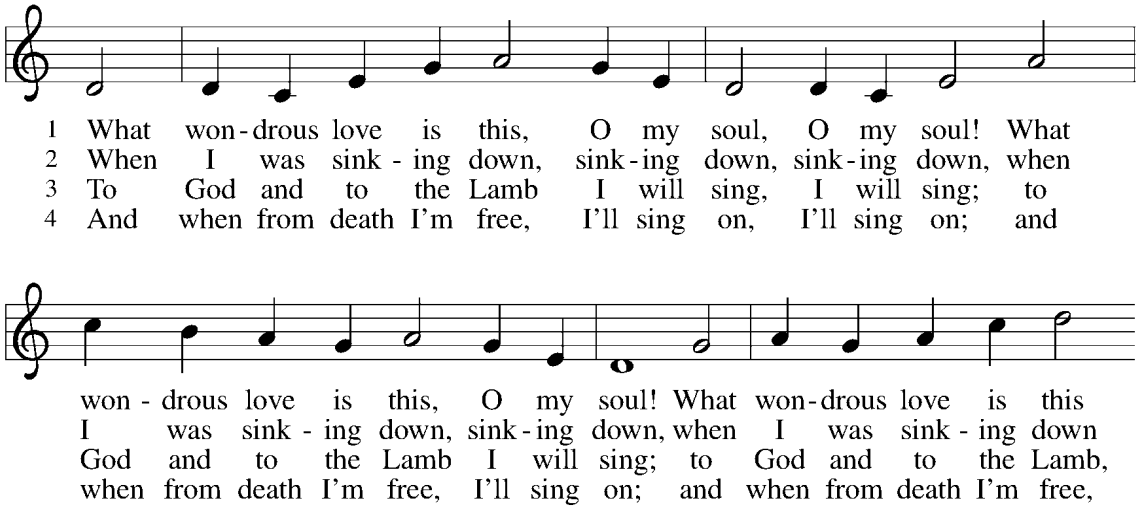
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



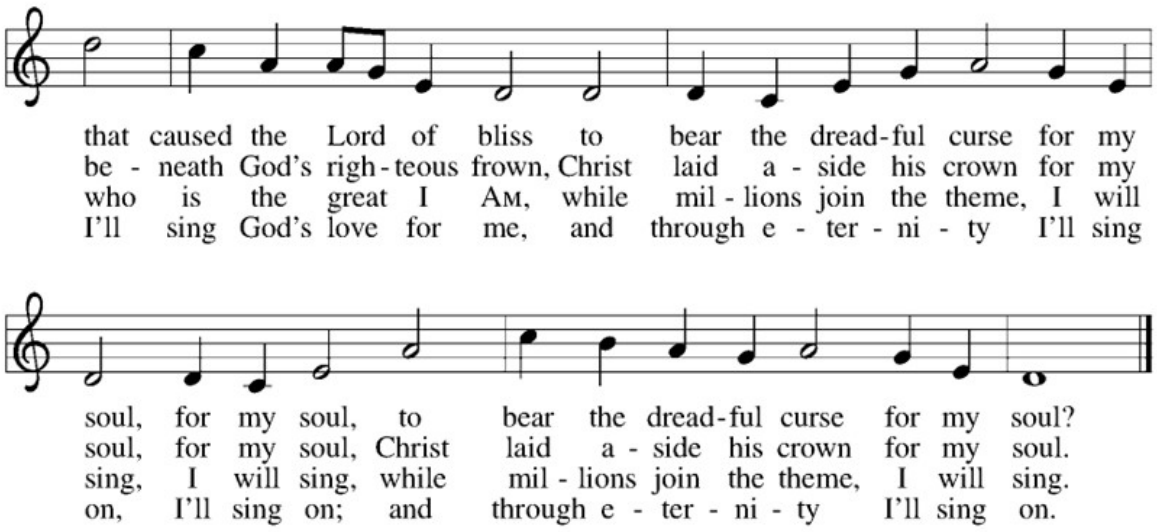
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

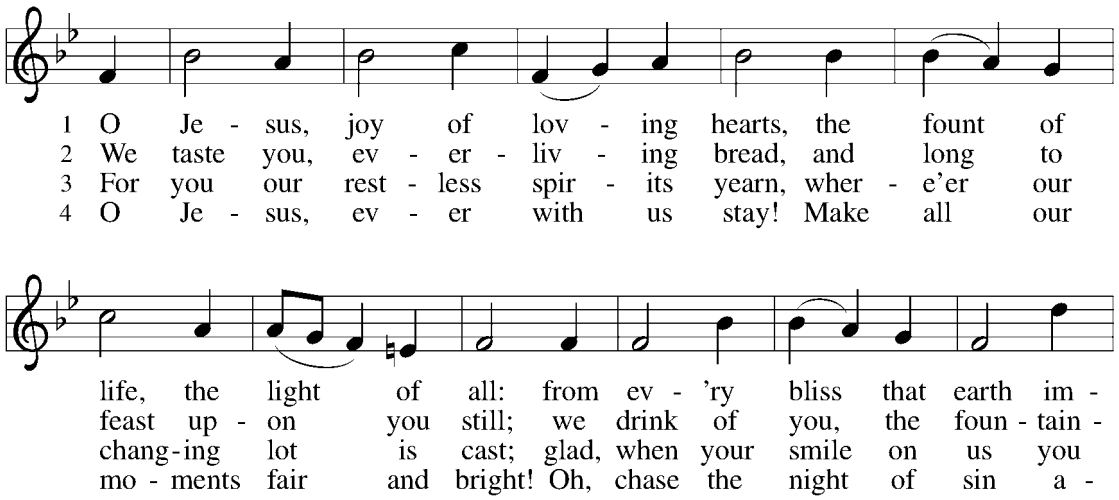
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
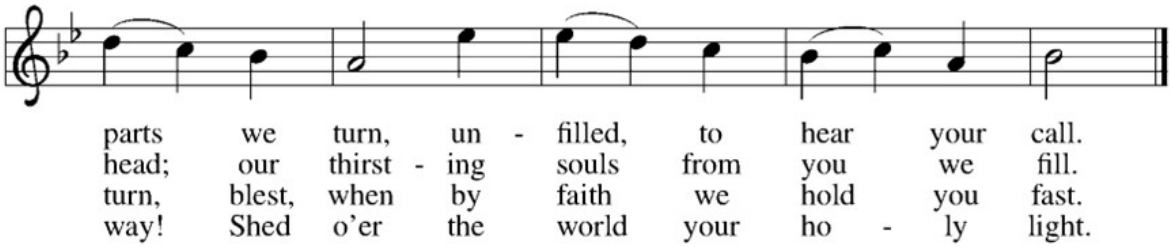
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

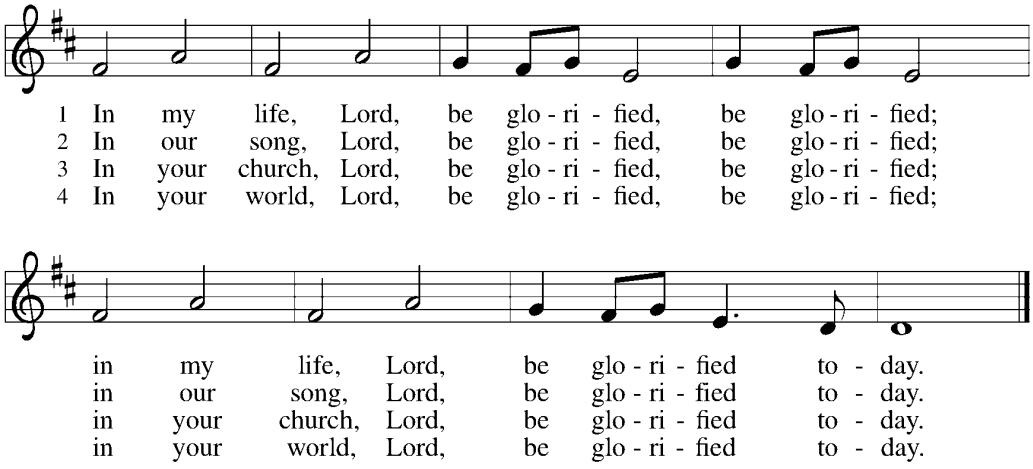
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

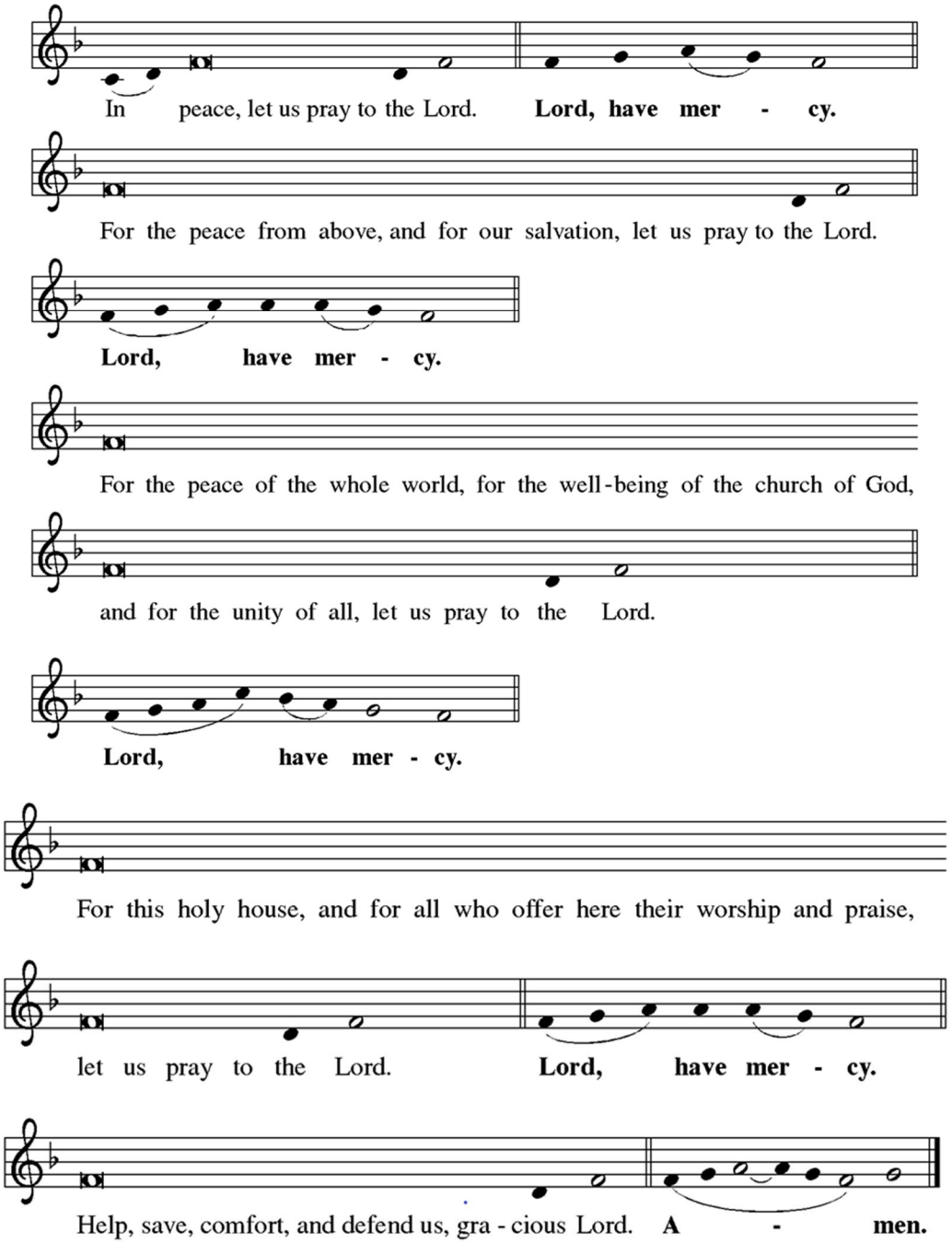
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

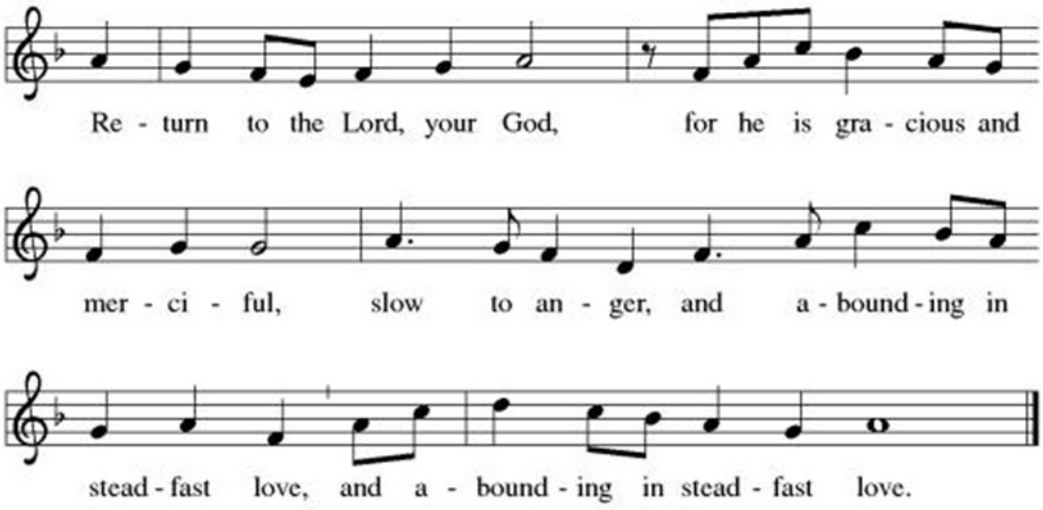
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

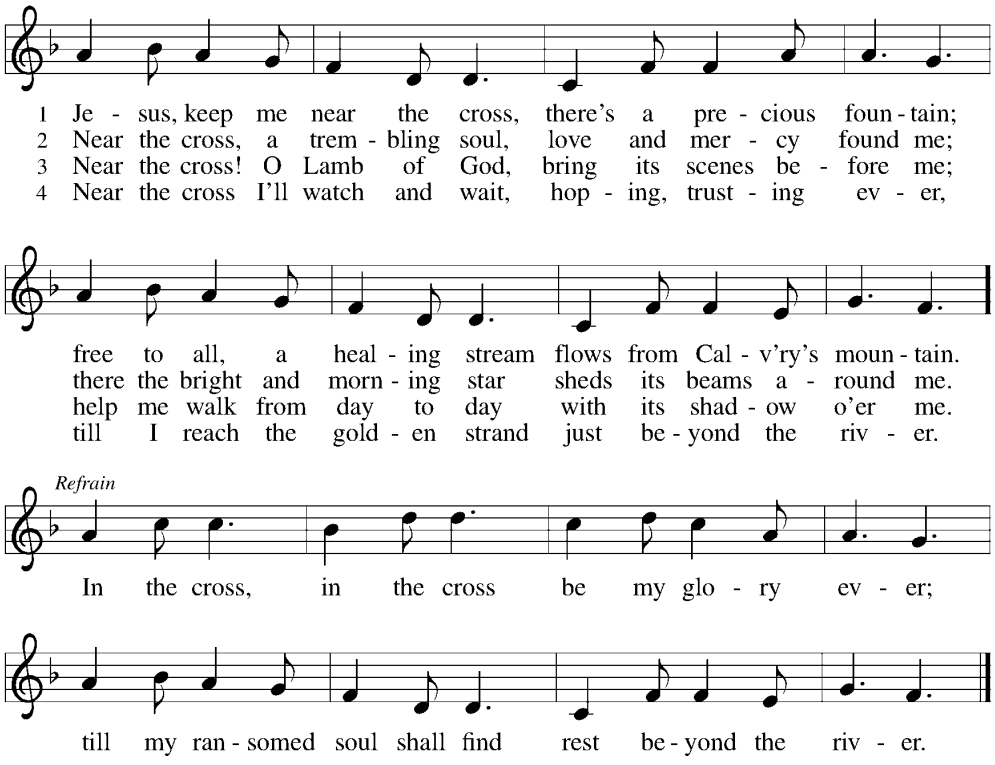
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

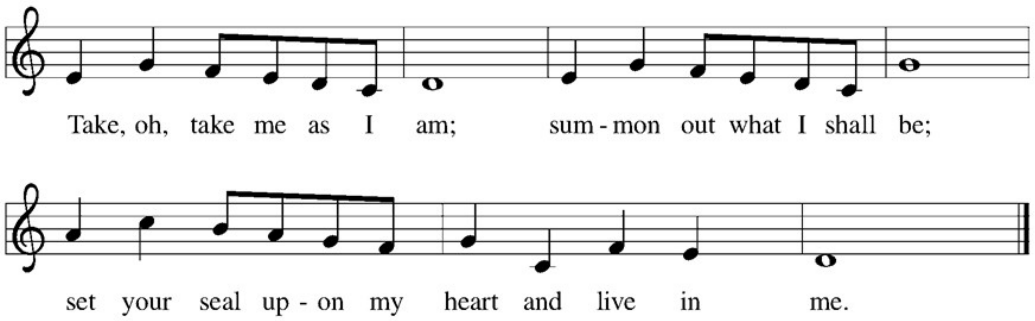
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

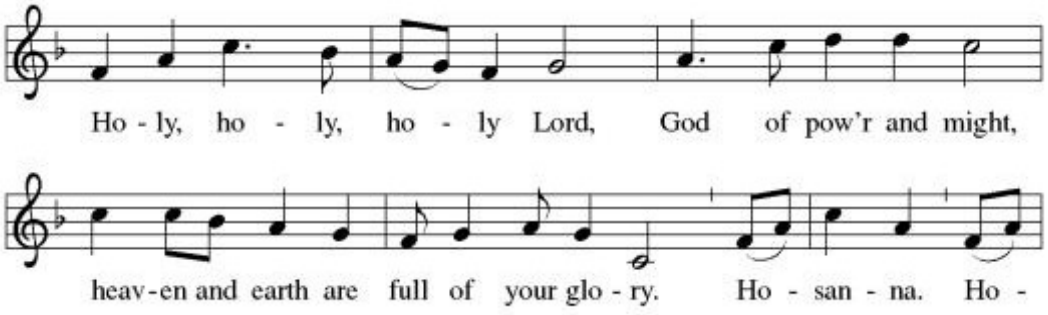
P: Lift up your hearts.

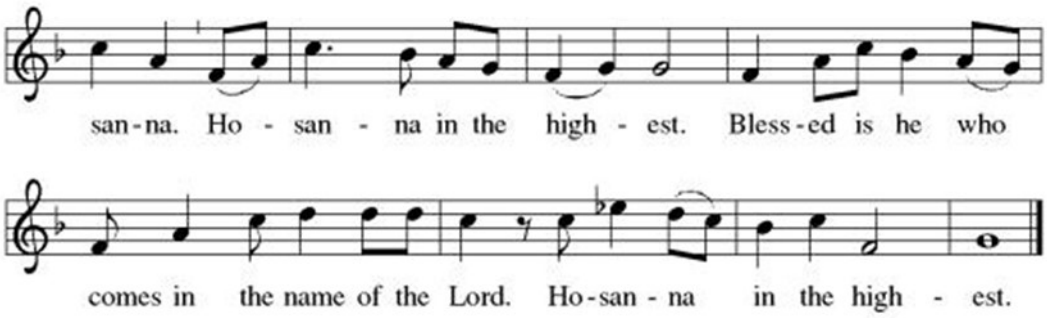
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

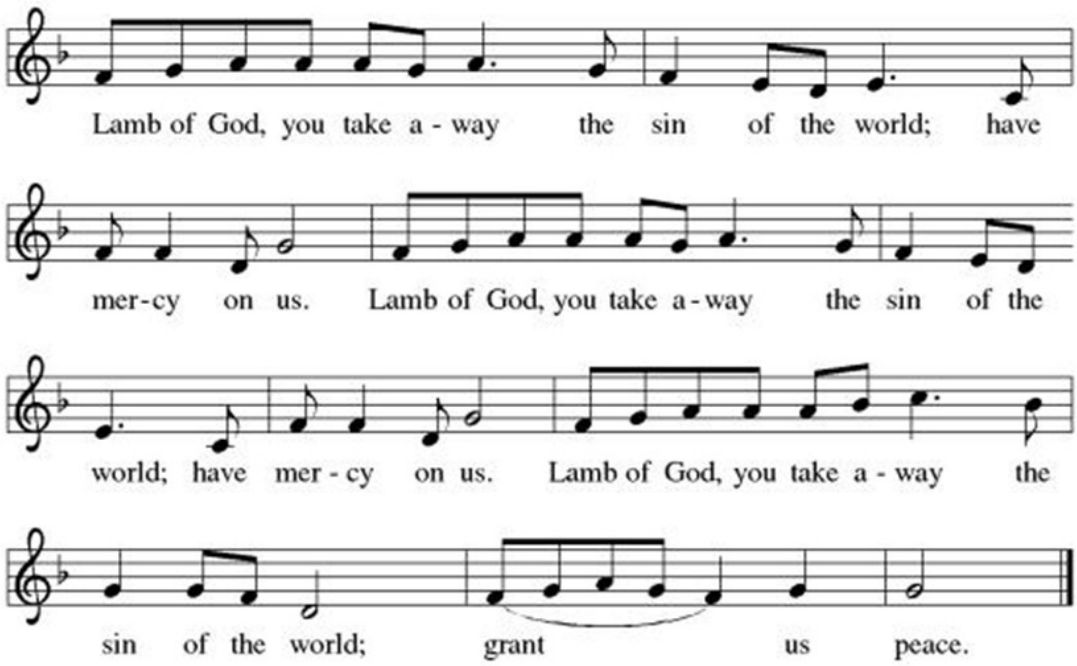
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
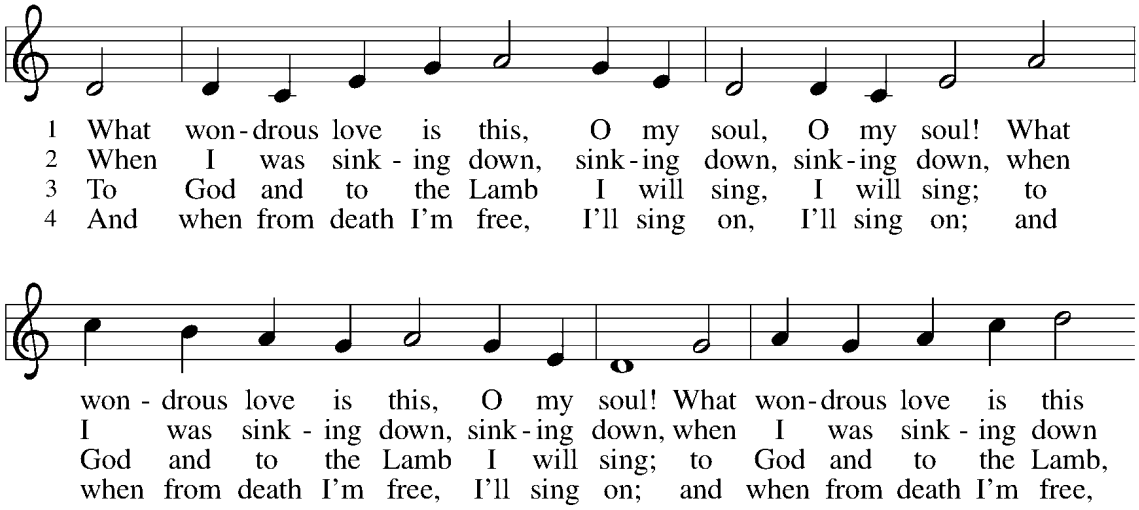
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



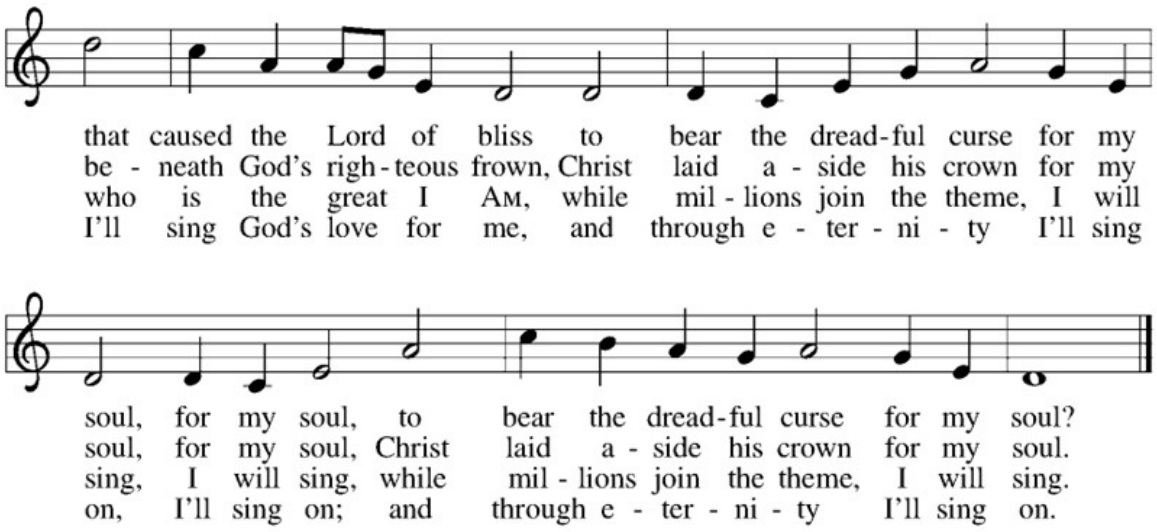
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

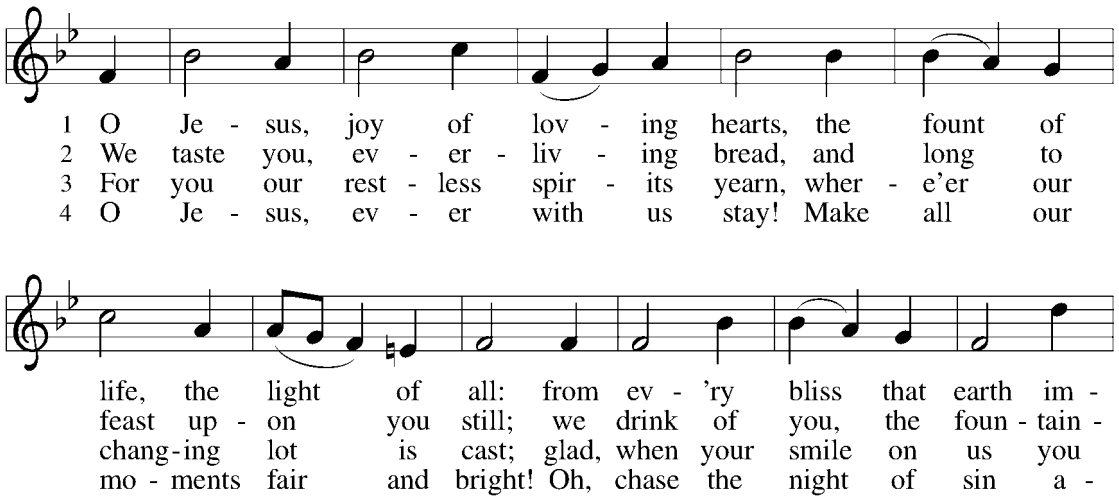
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
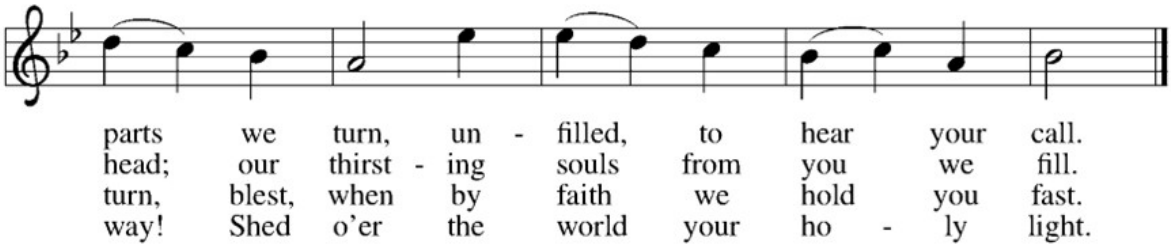
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

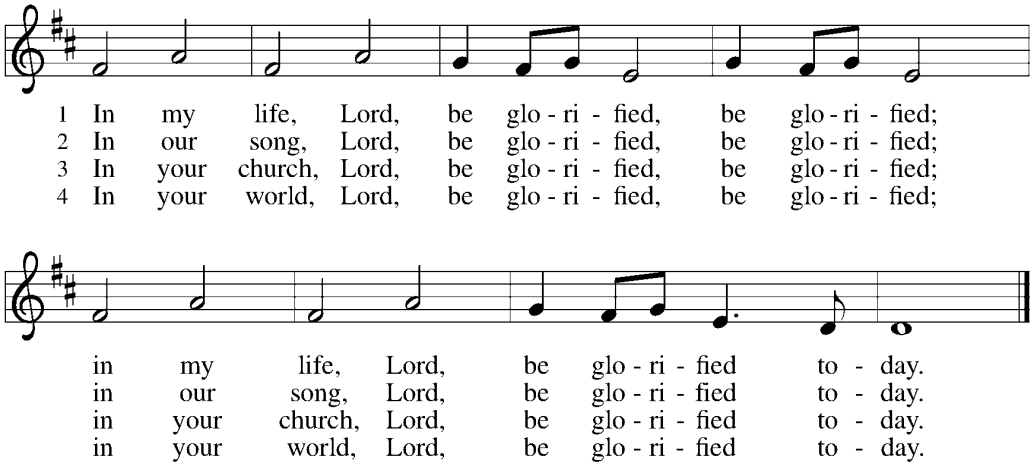
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

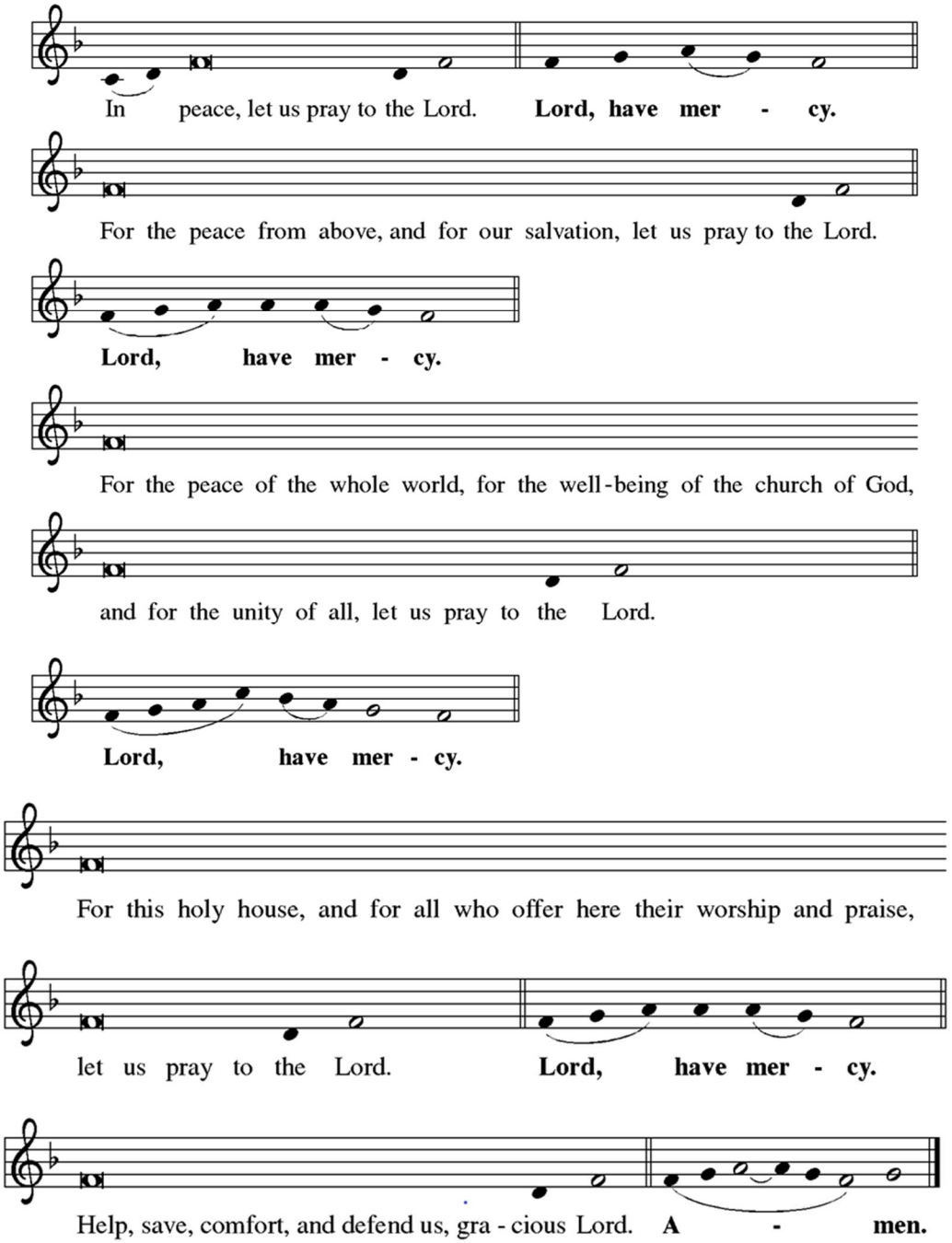
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

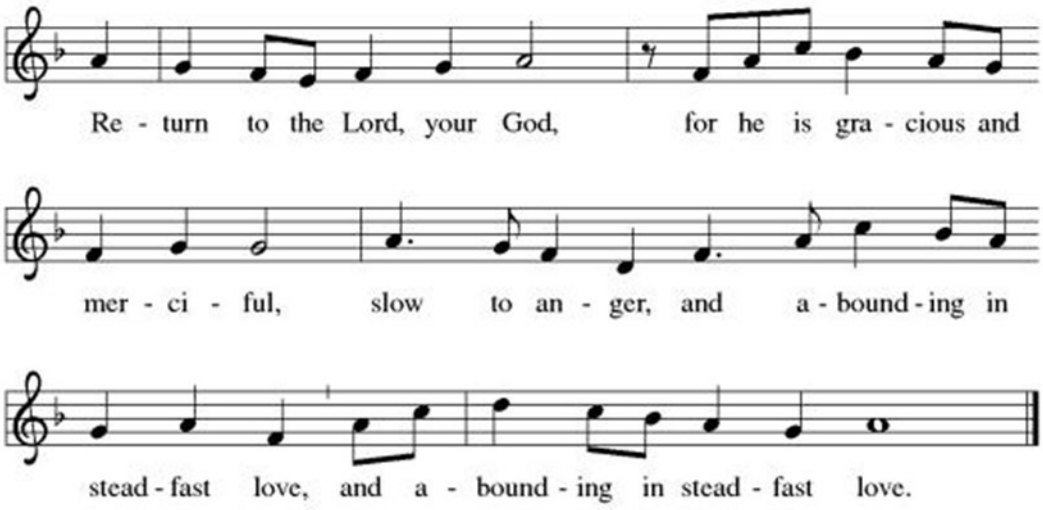
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

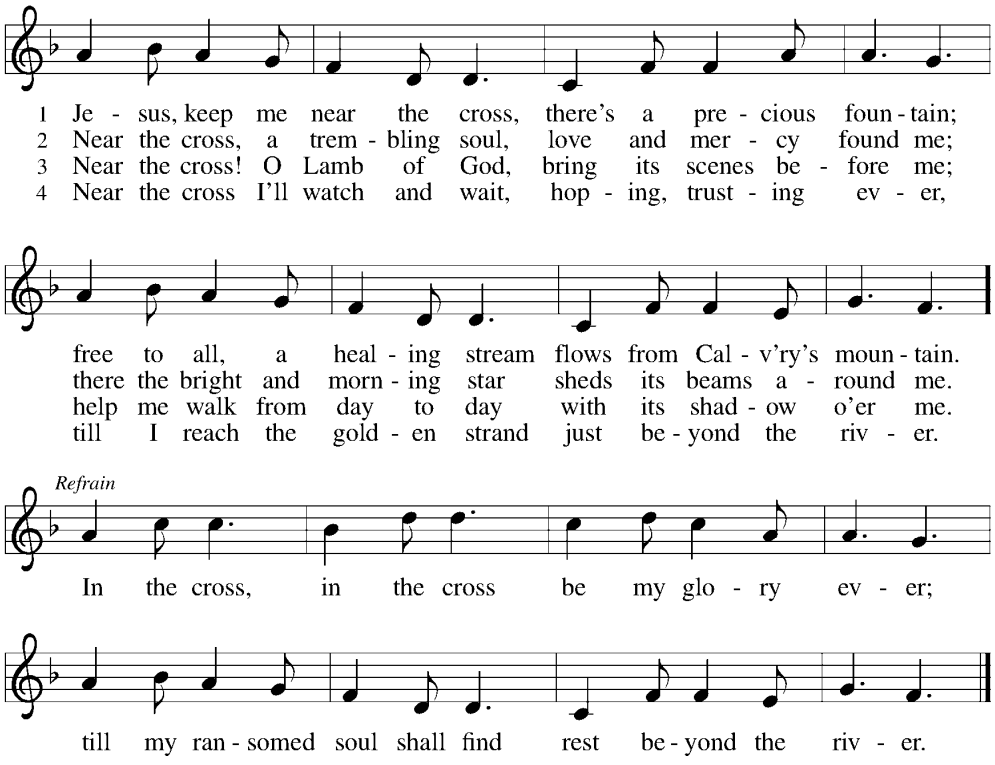
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

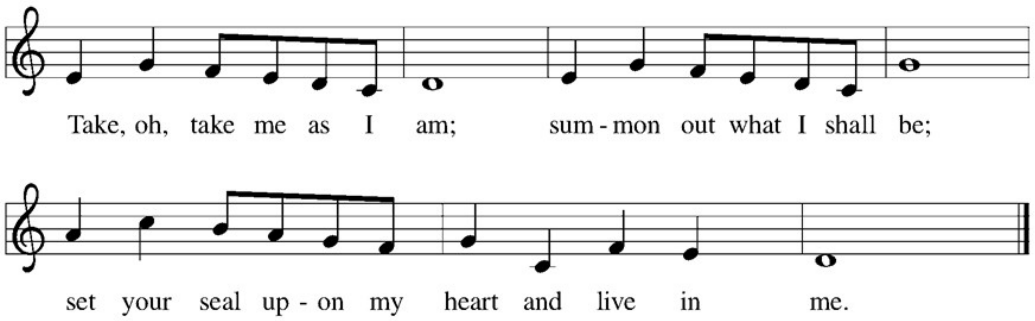
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

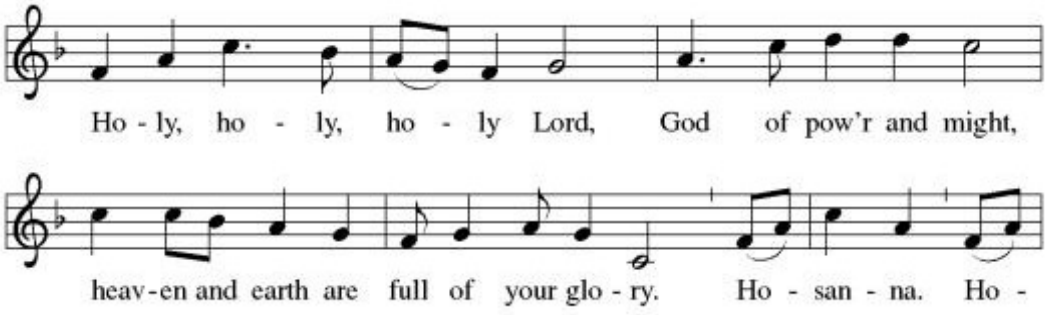
P: Lift up your hearts.

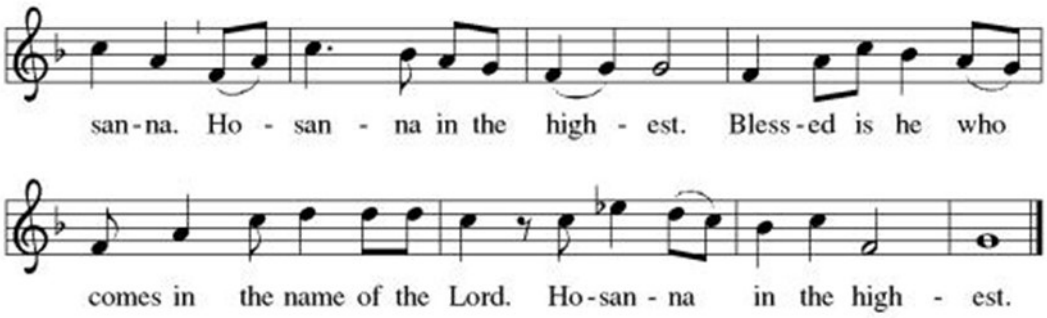
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

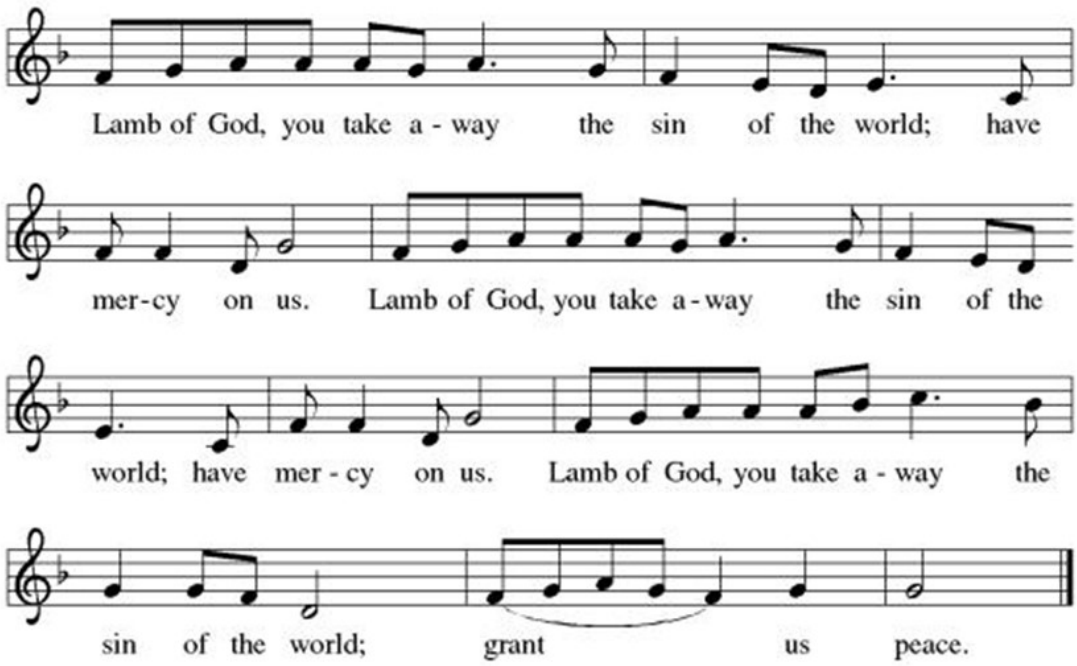
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
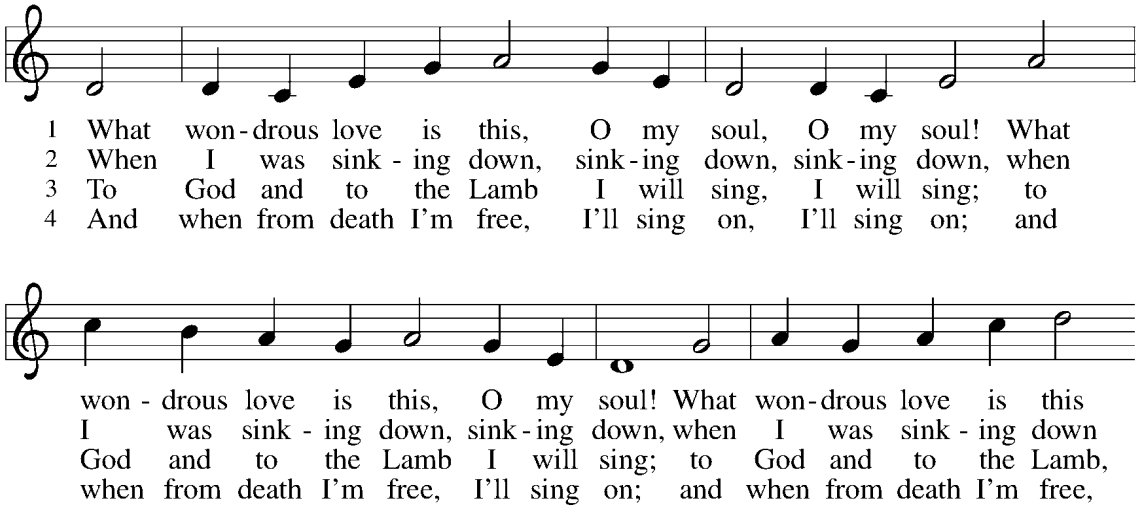
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



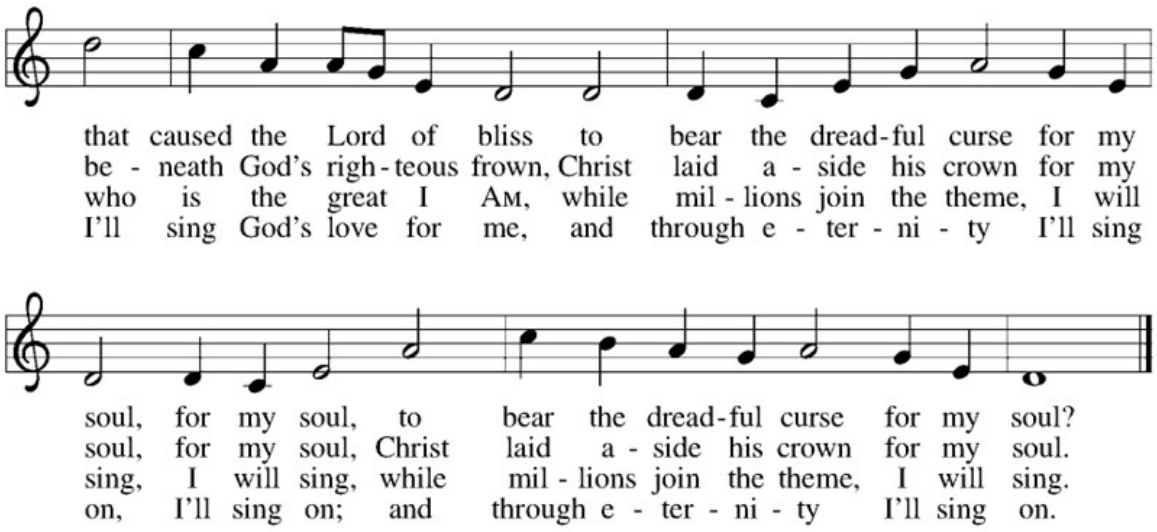
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

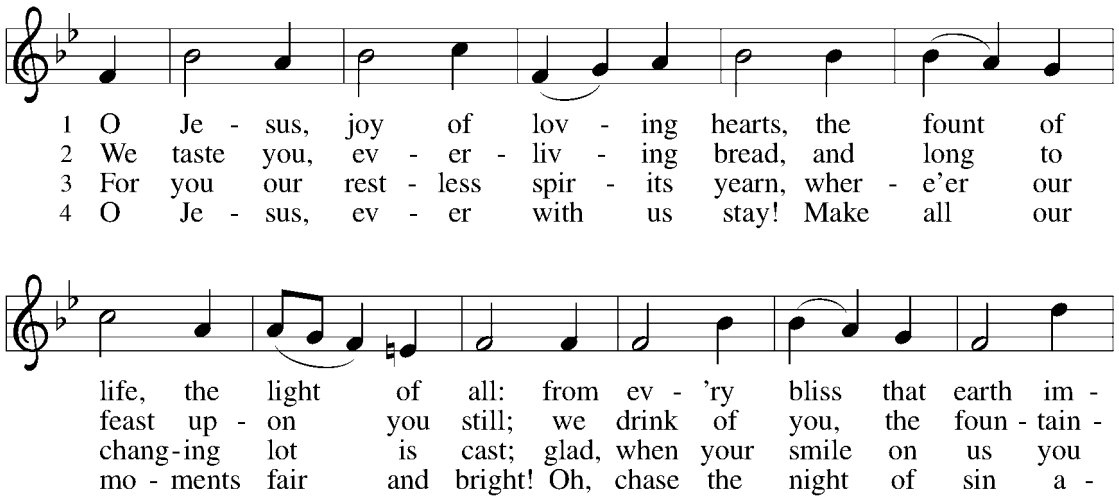
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
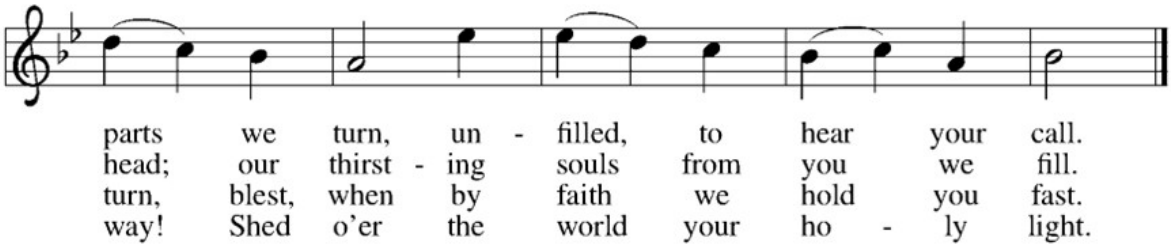
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

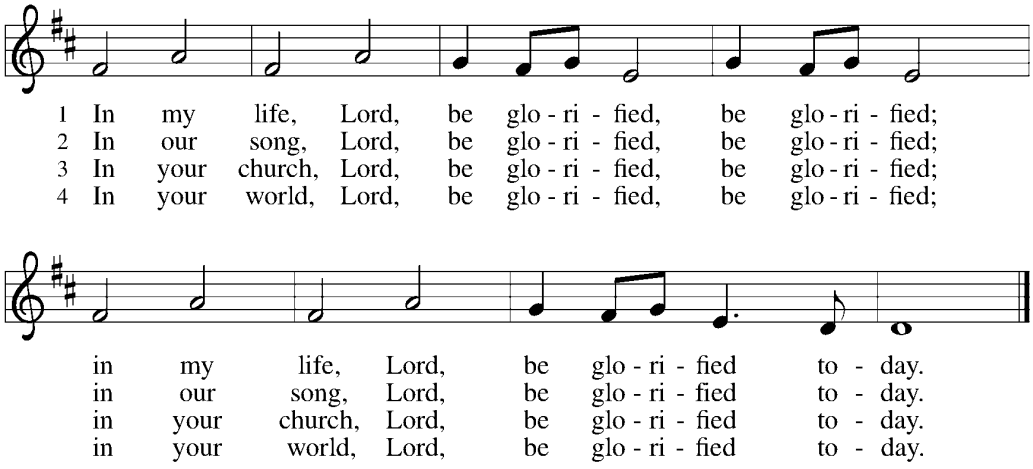
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

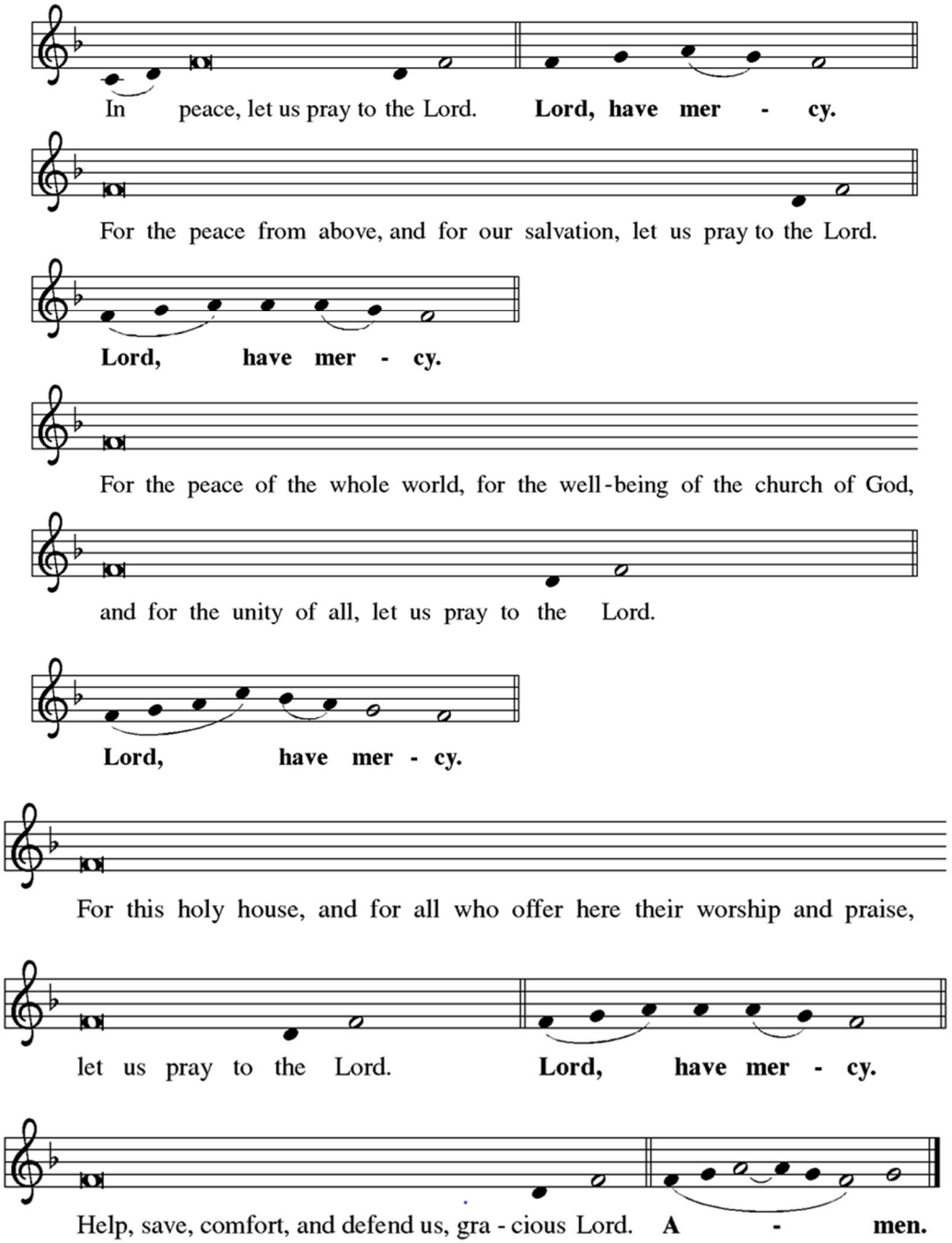
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

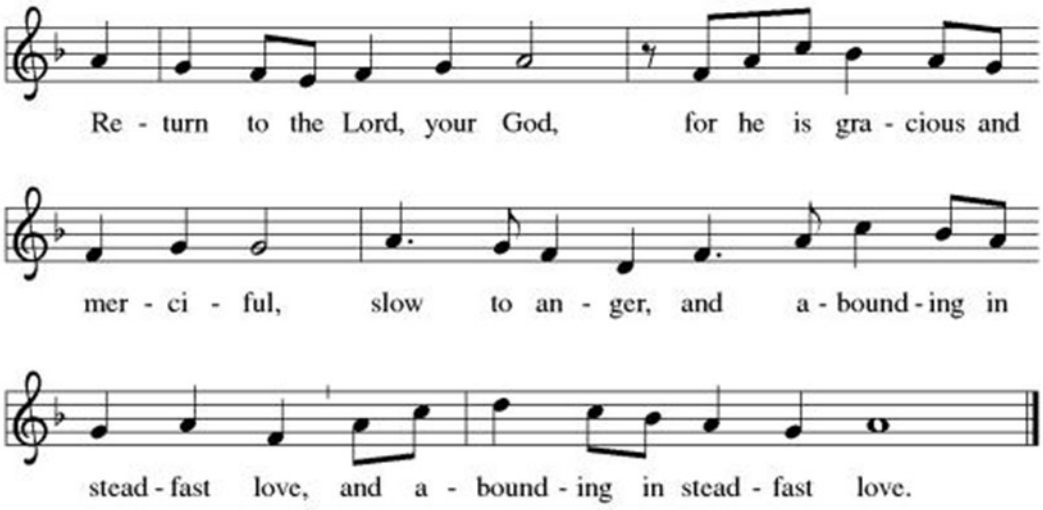
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

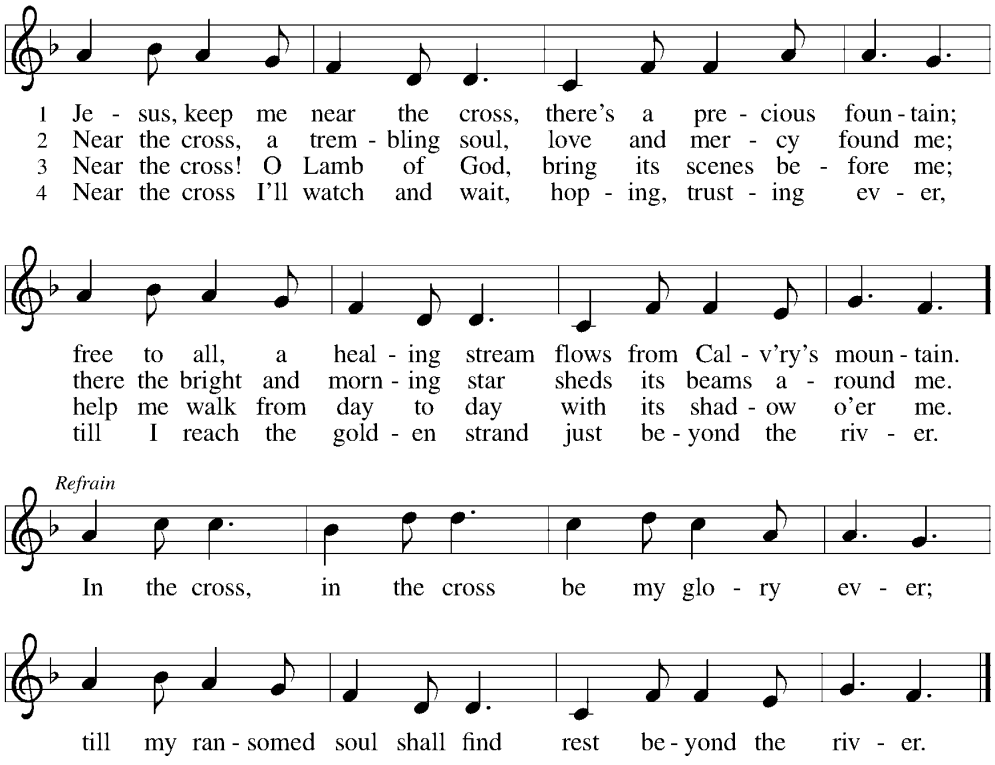
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

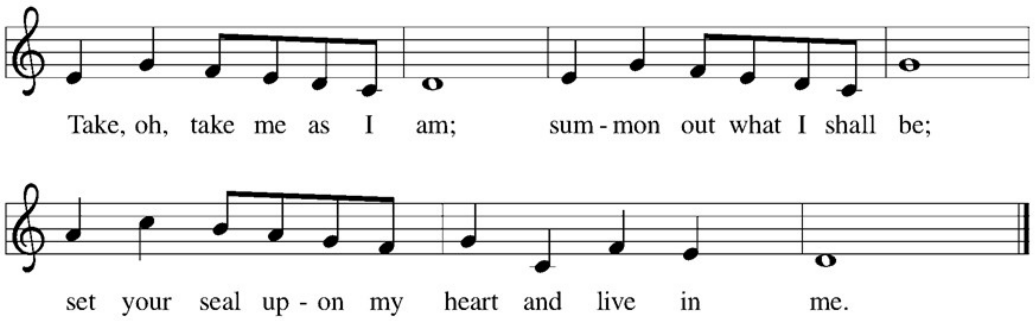
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

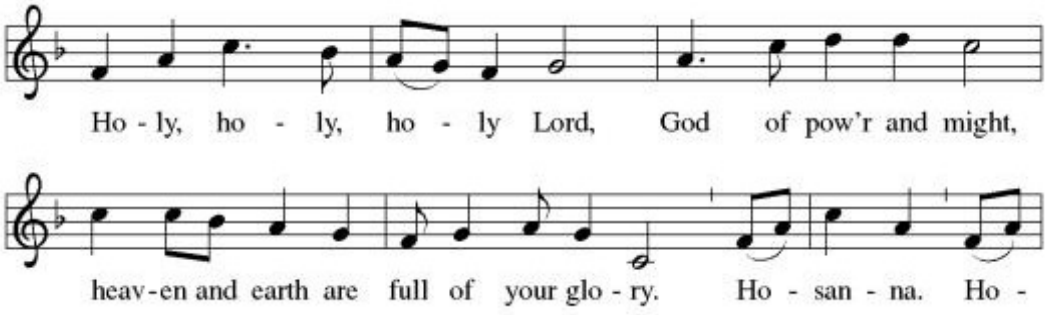
P: Lift up your hearts.

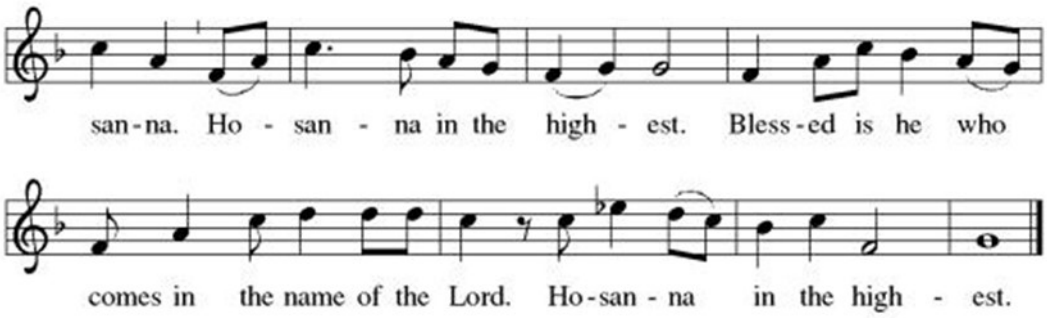
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

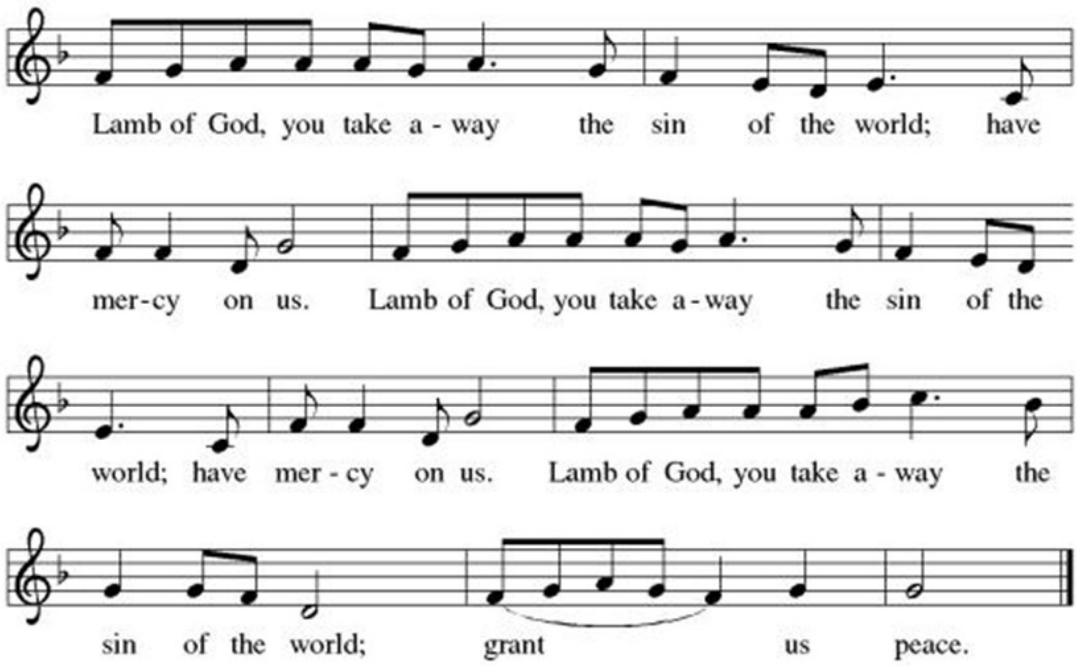
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
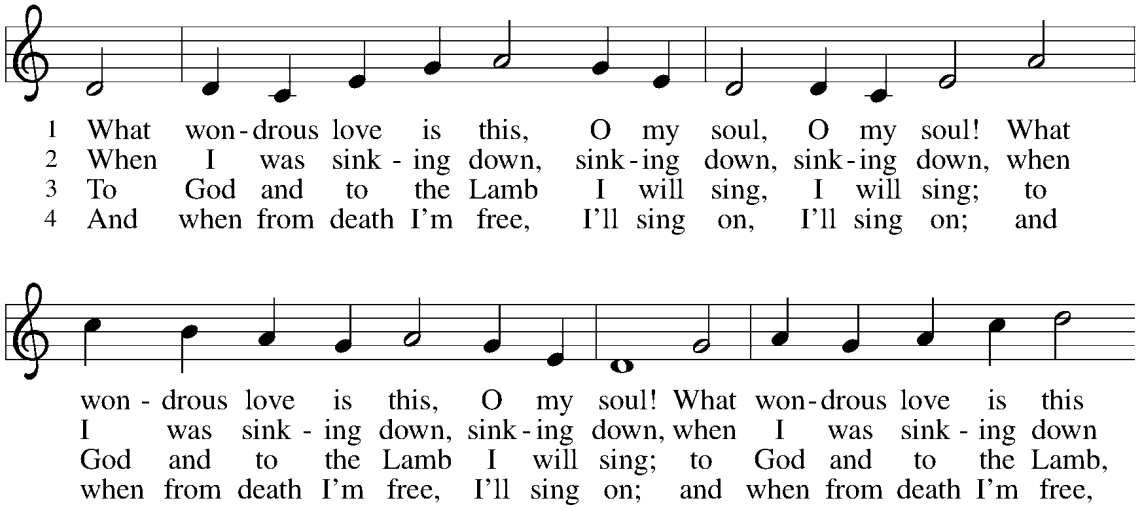
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



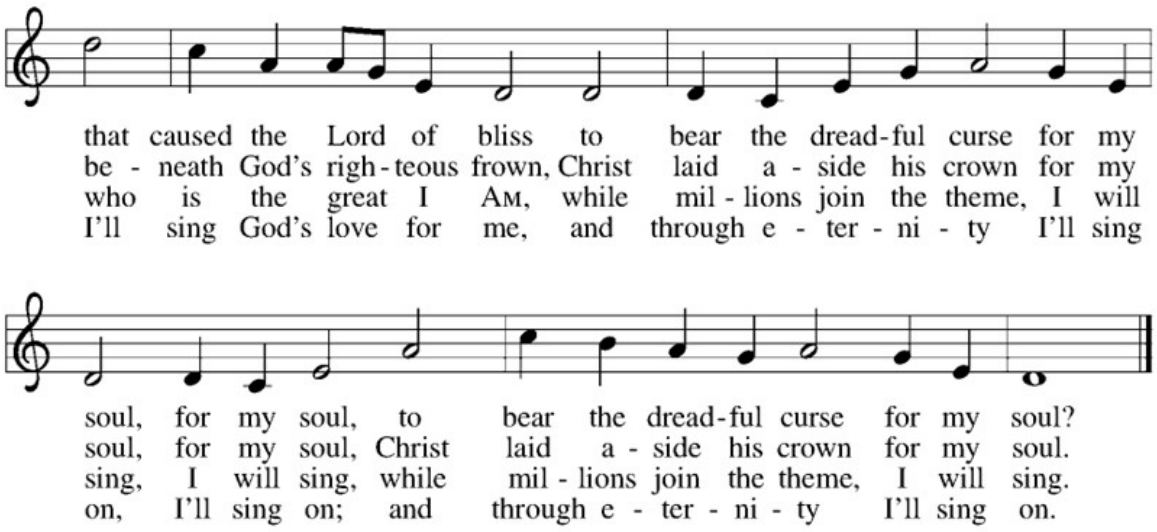
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

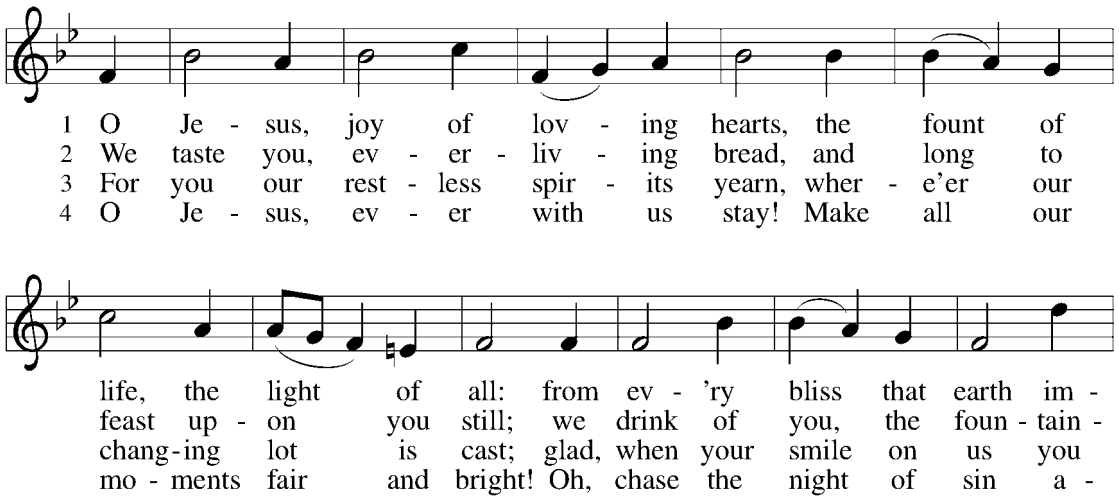
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
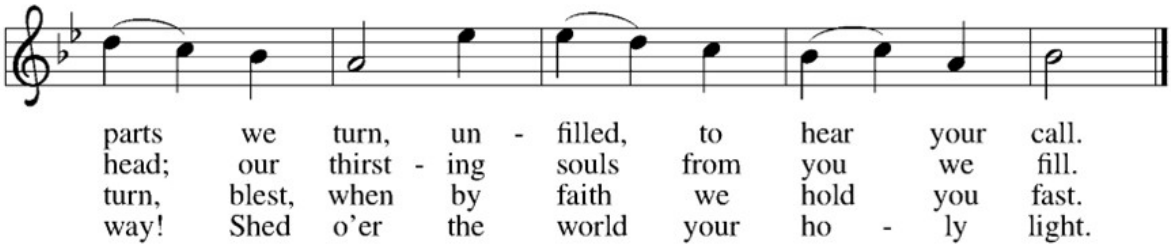
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

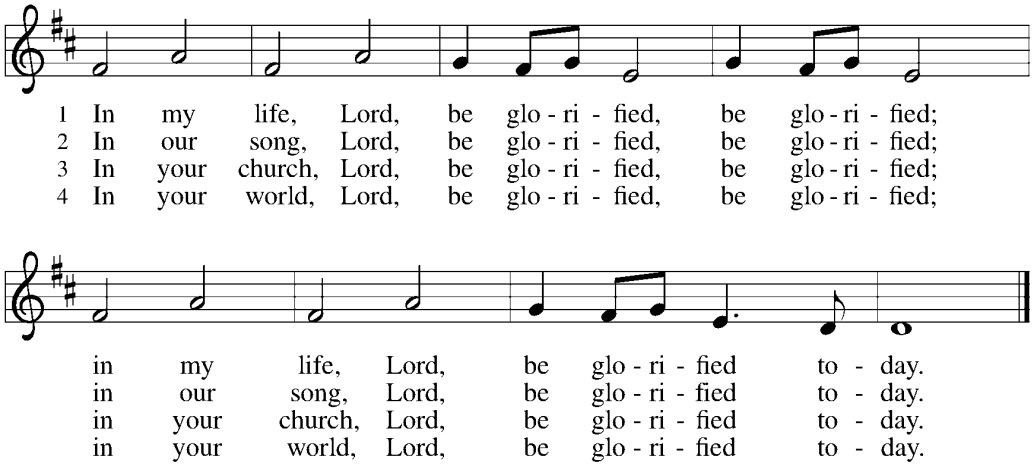
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

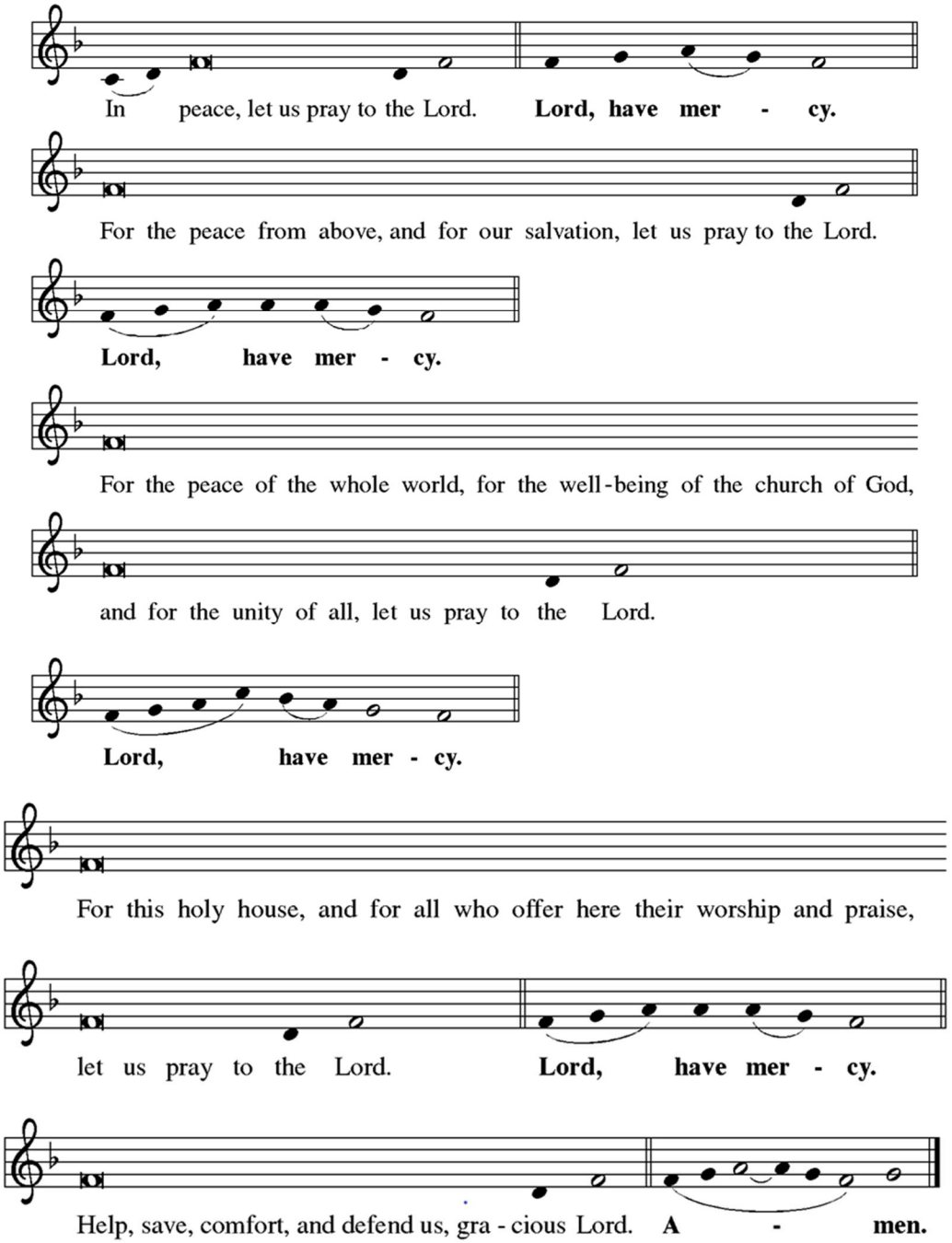
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

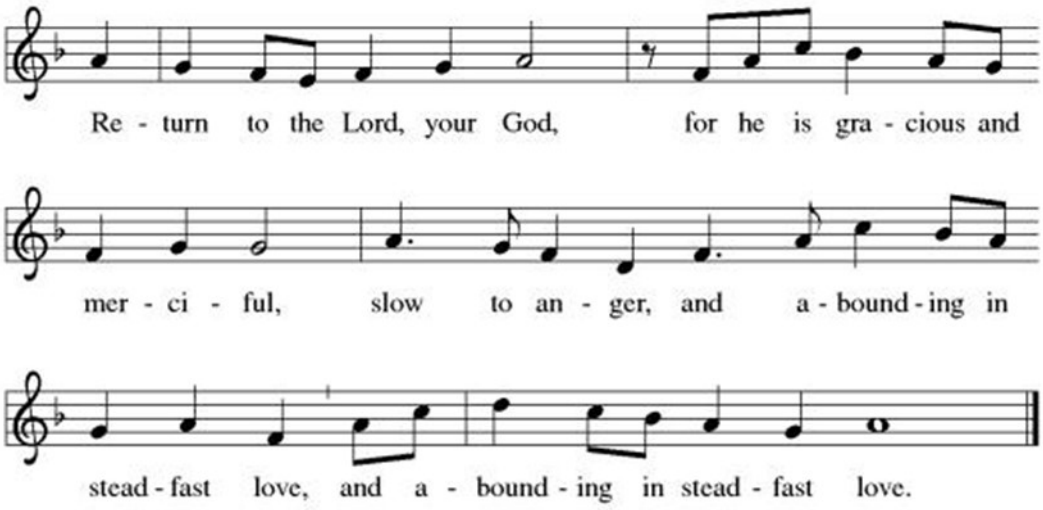
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

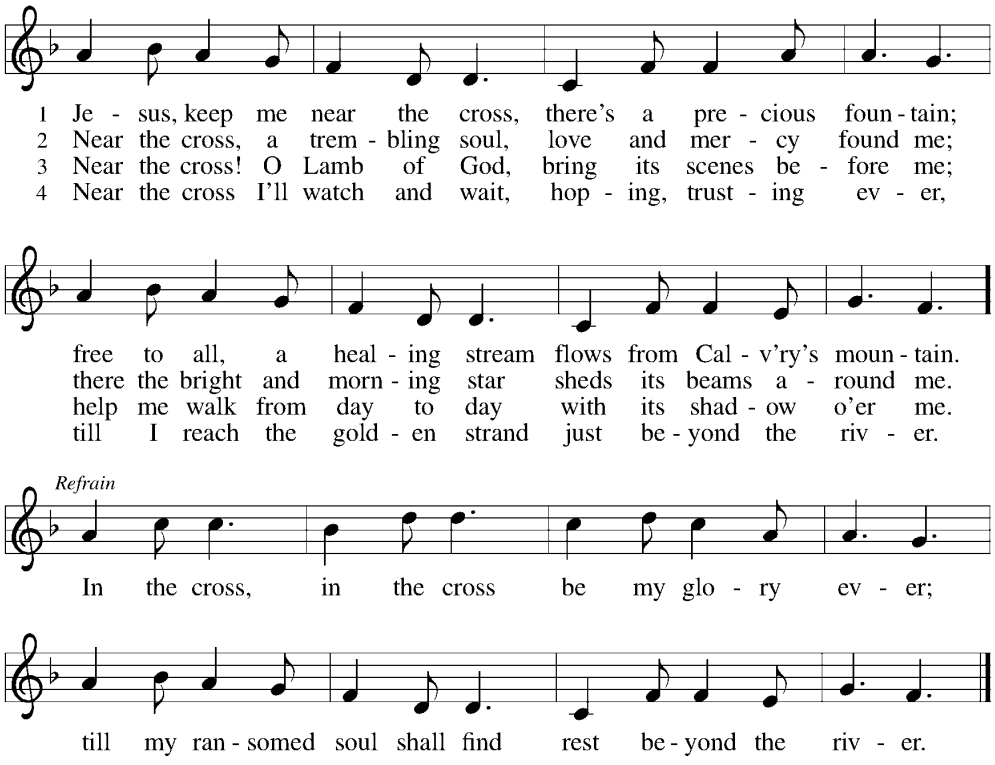
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

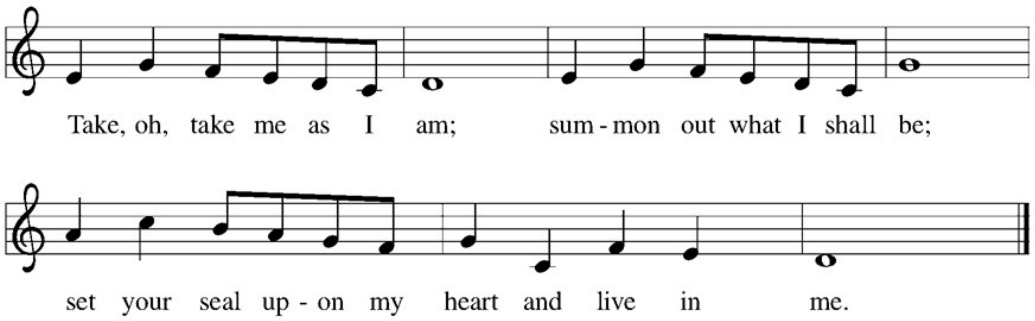
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

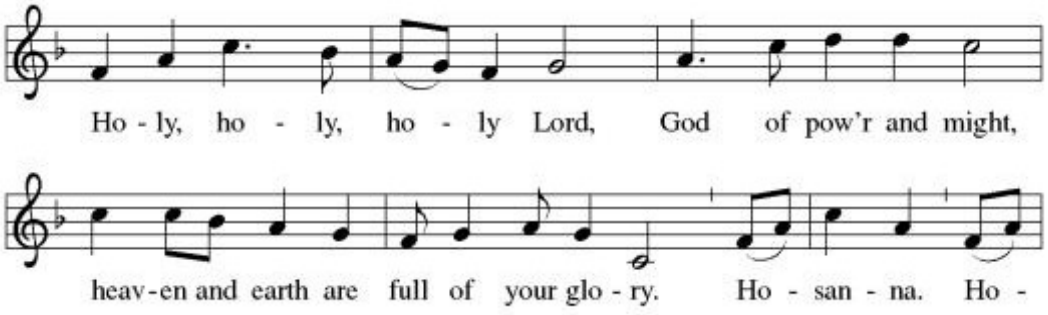
P: Lift up your hearts.

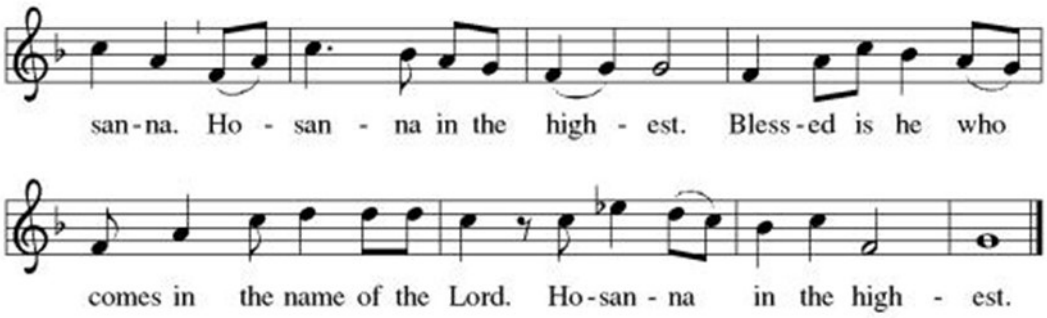
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

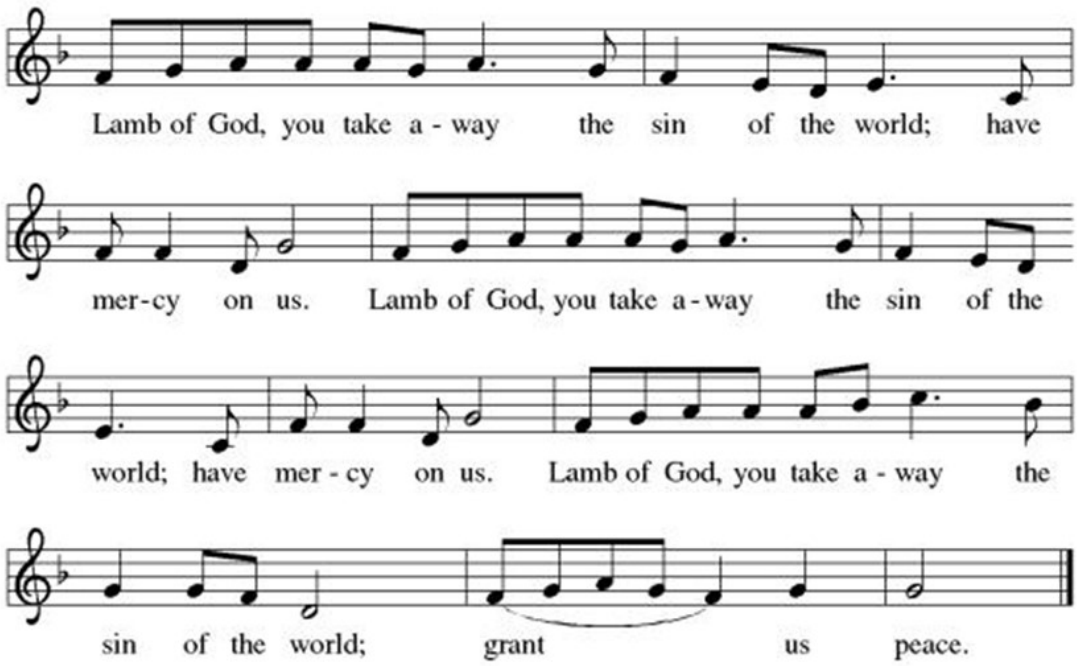
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
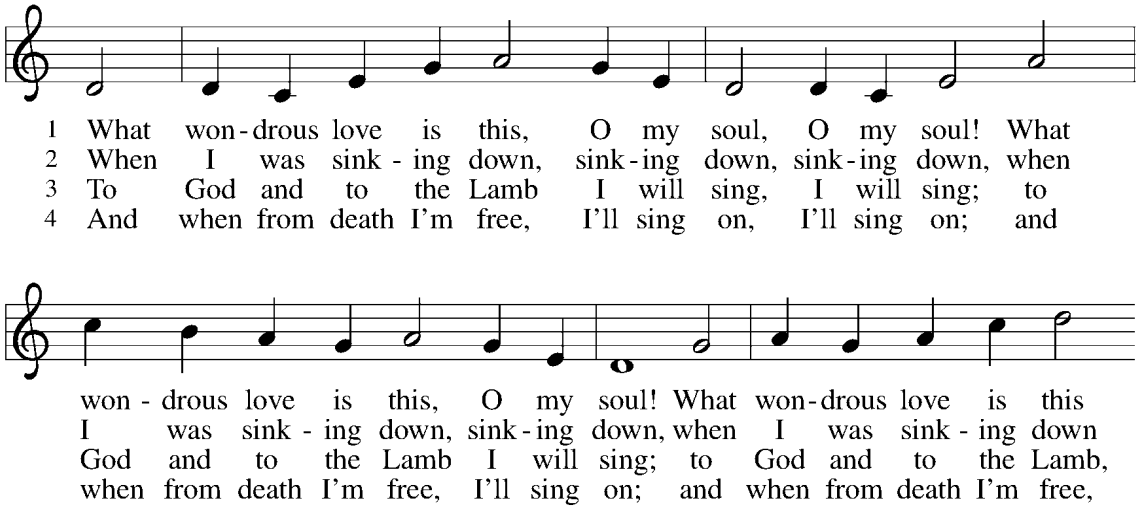
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



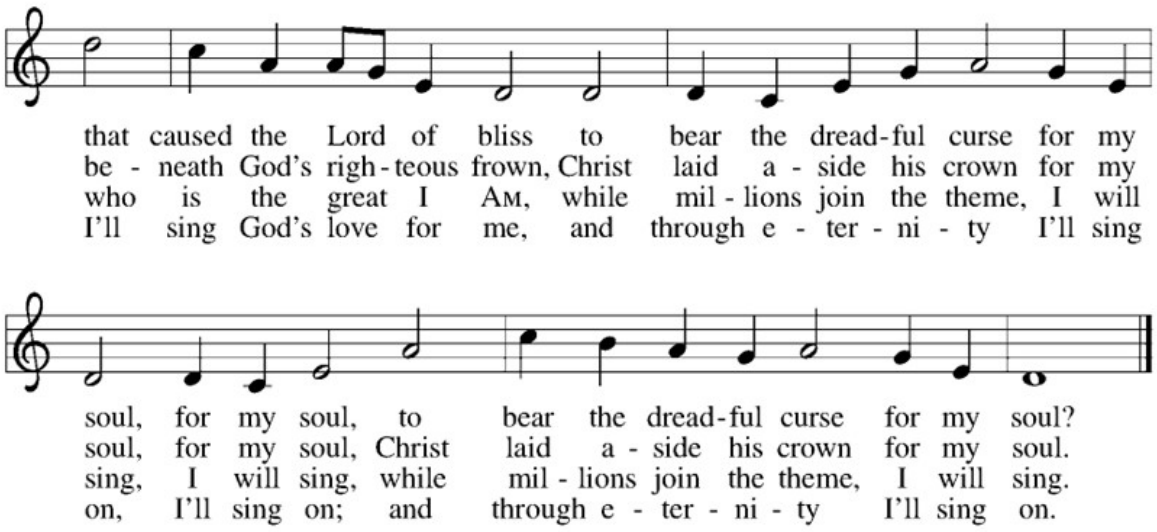
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

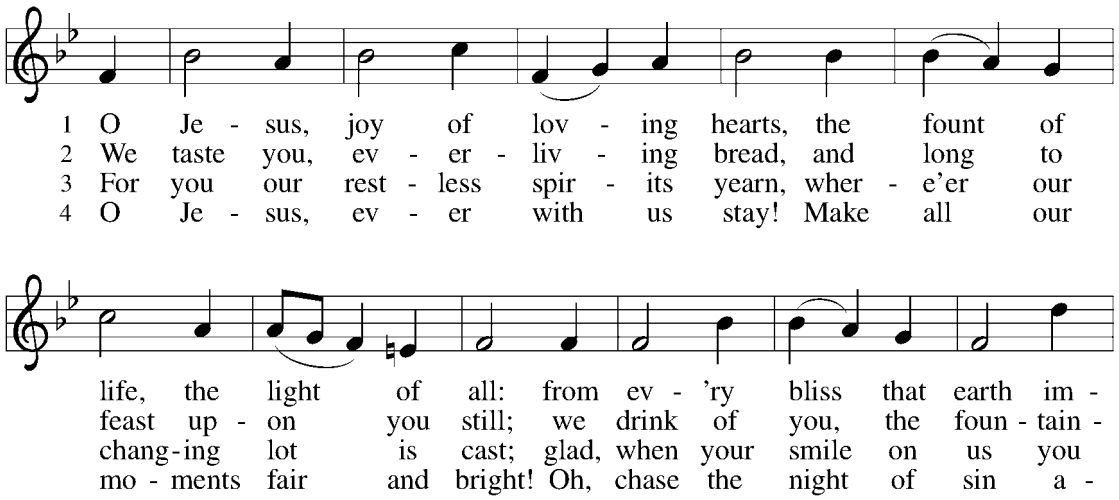
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
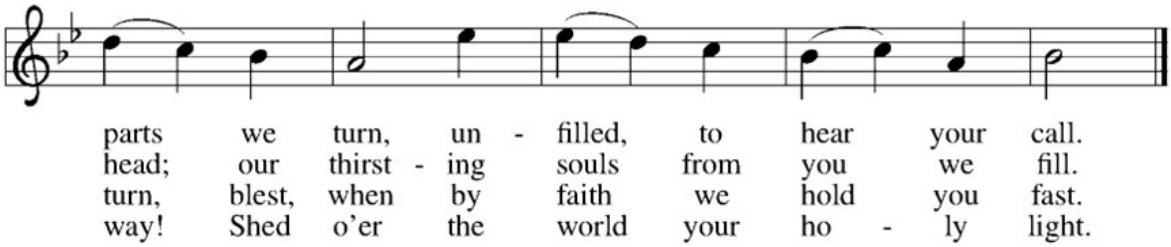
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

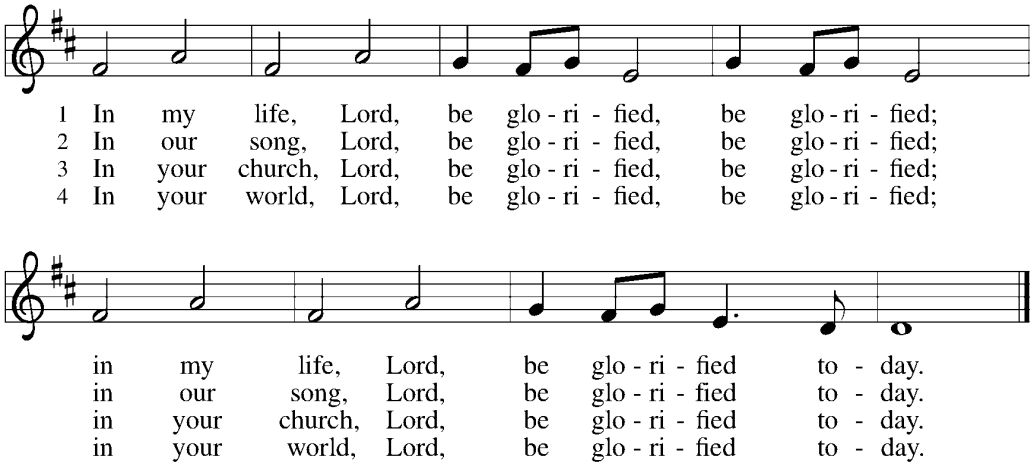
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

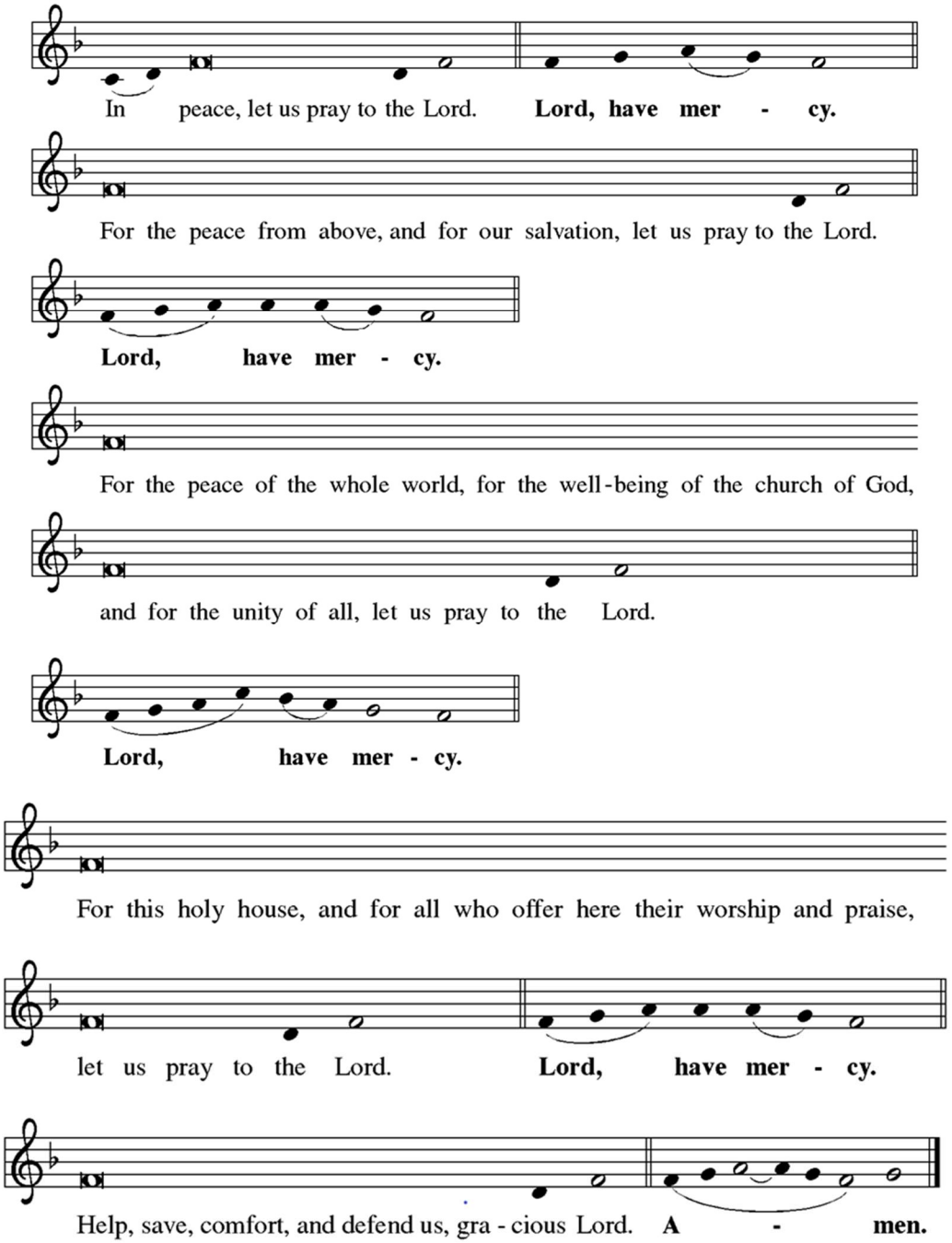
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

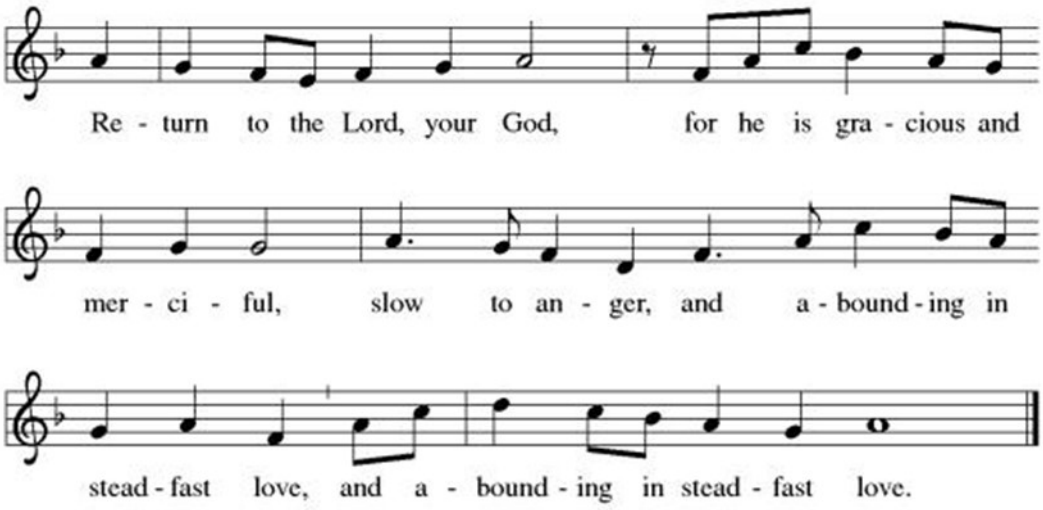
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

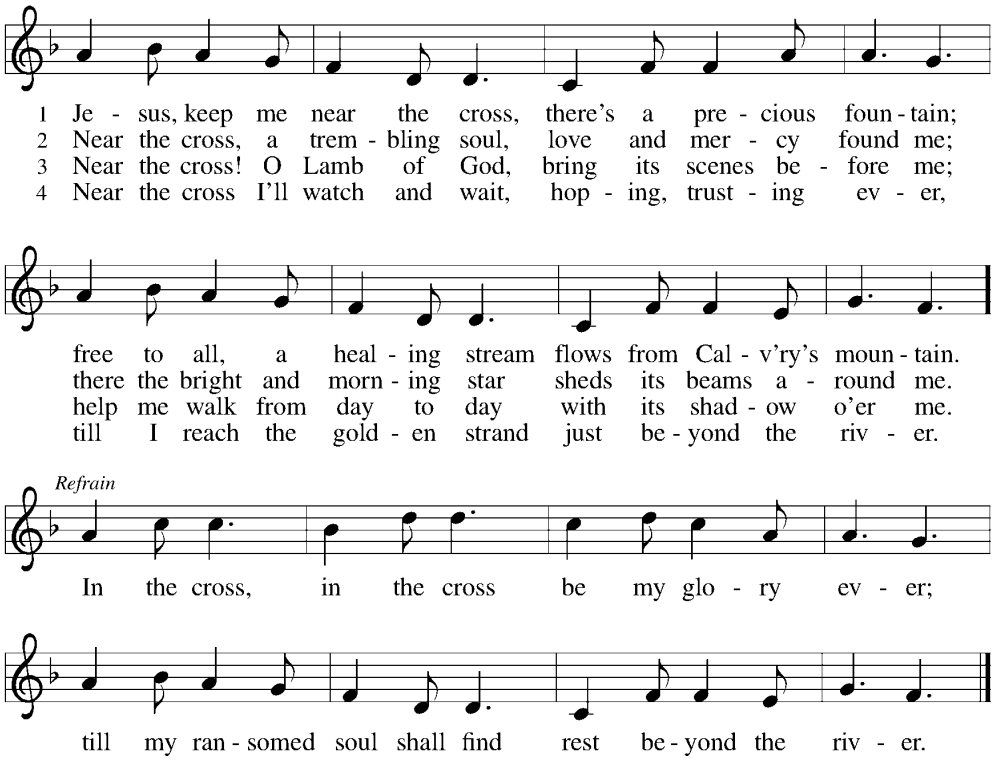
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

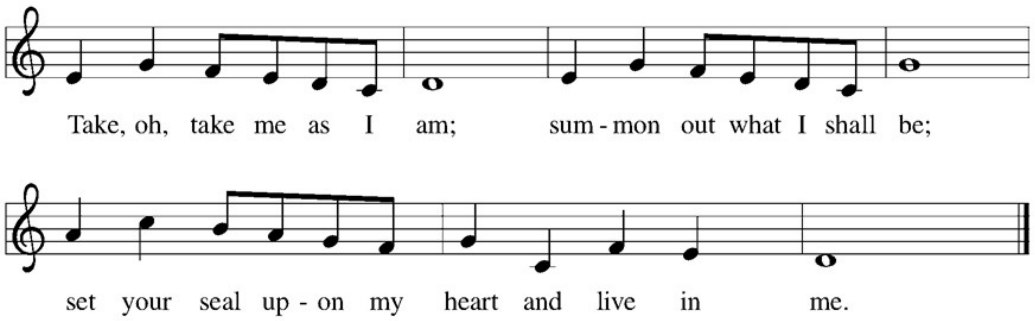
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

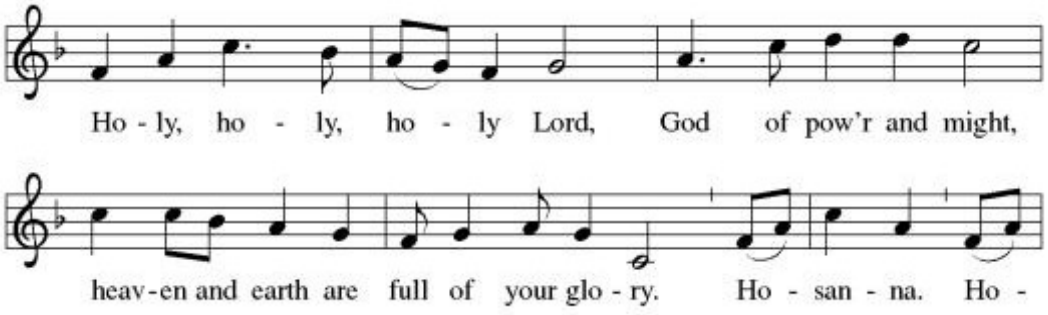
P: Lift up your hearts.

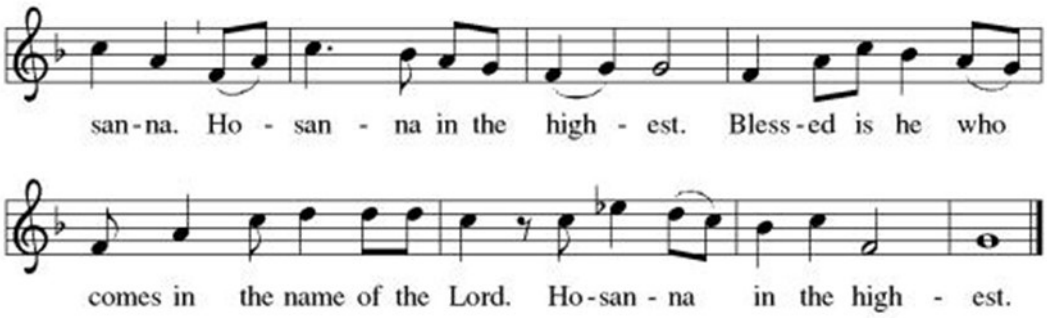
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

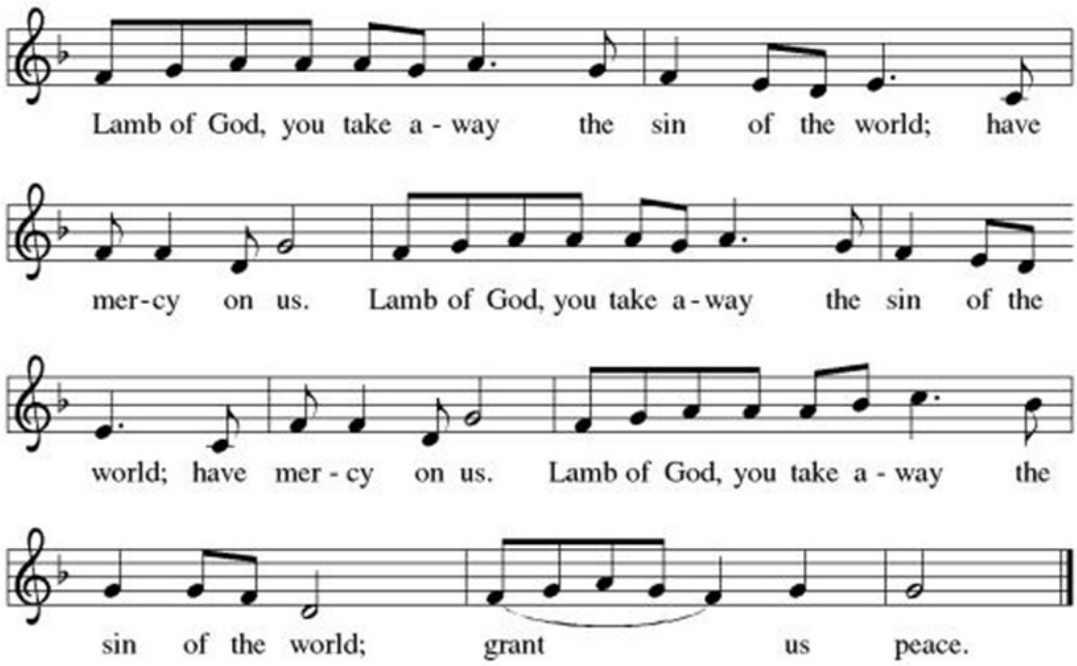
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
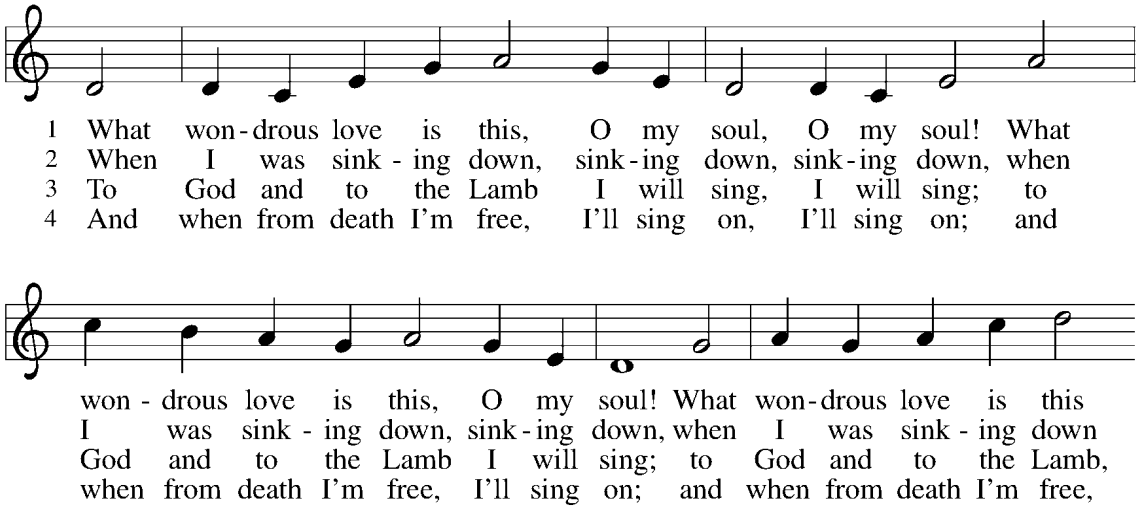
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



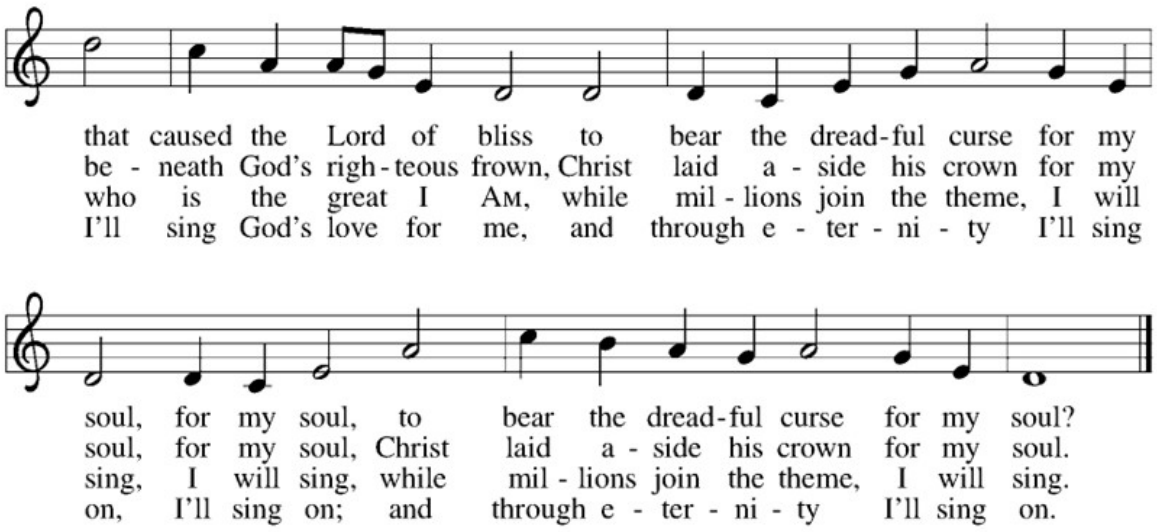
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

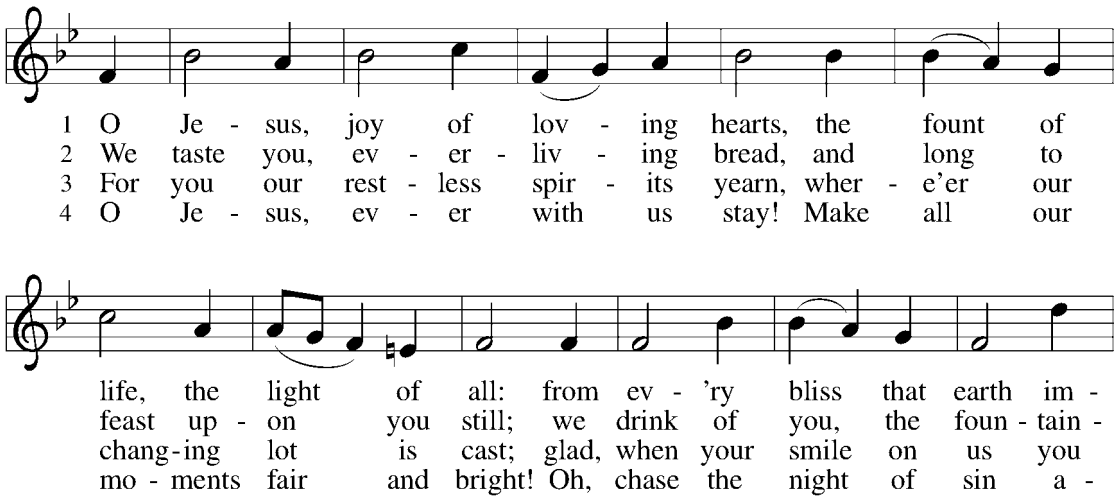
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
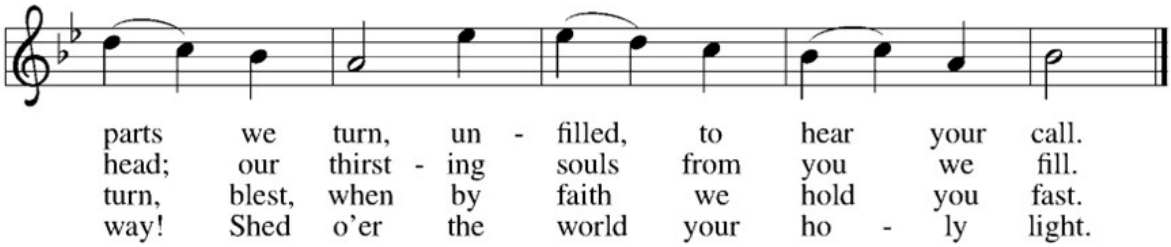
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

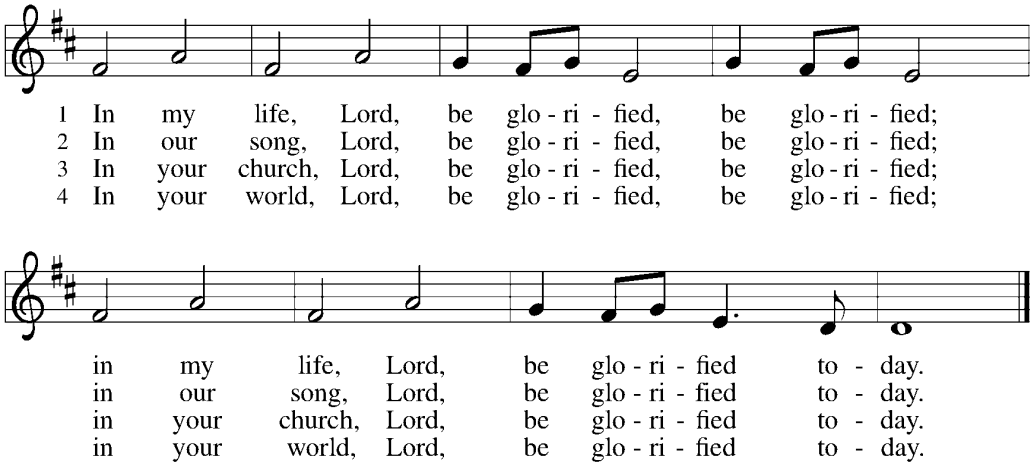
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

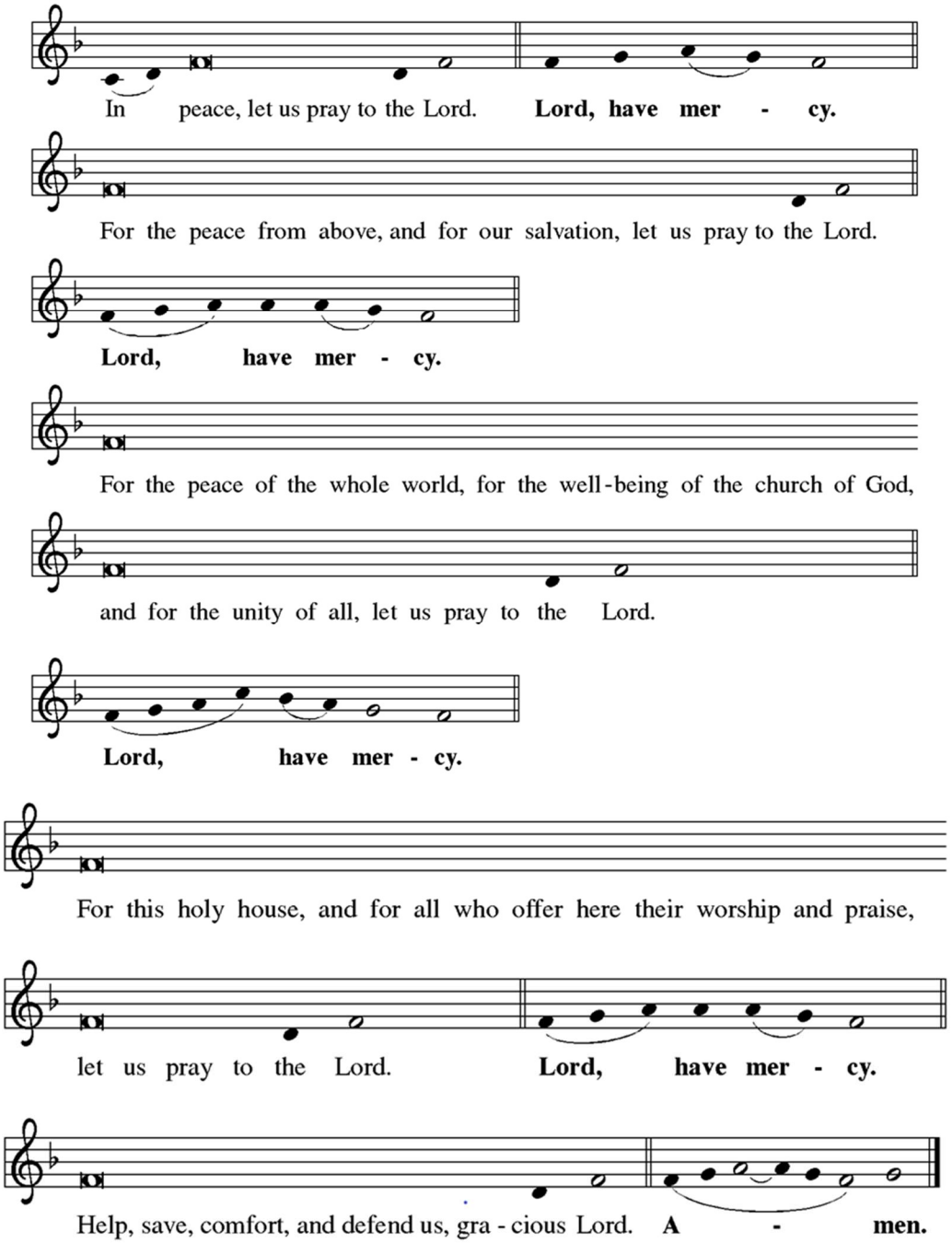
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

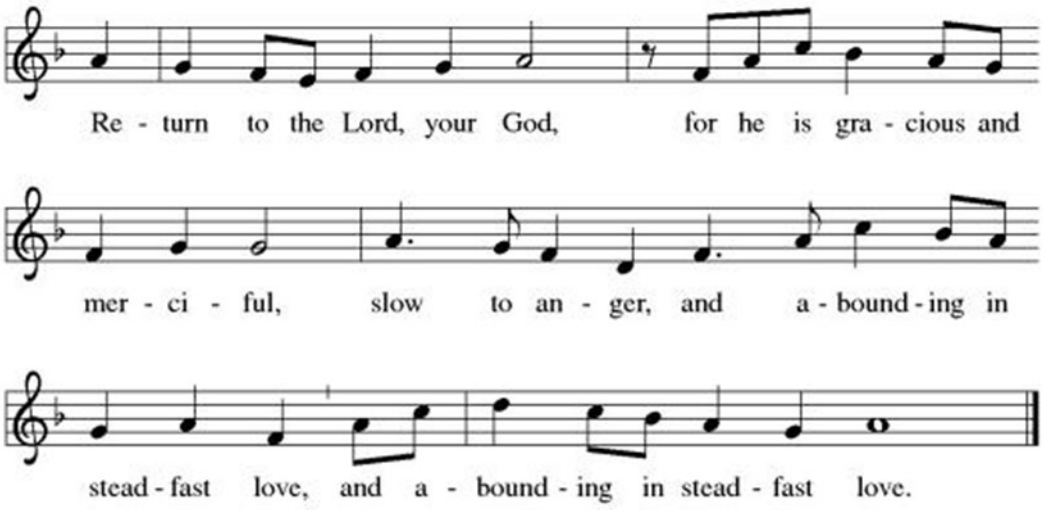
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

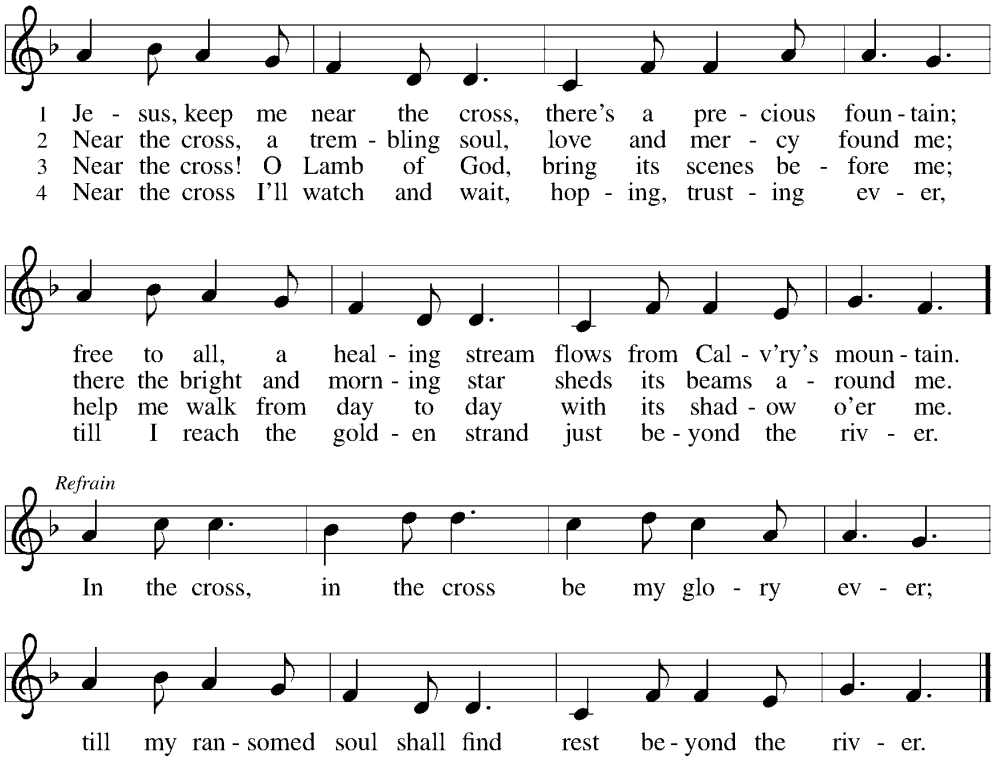
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

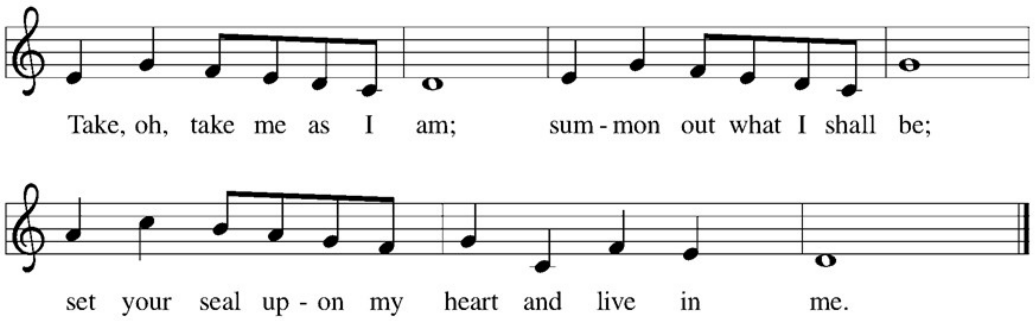
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

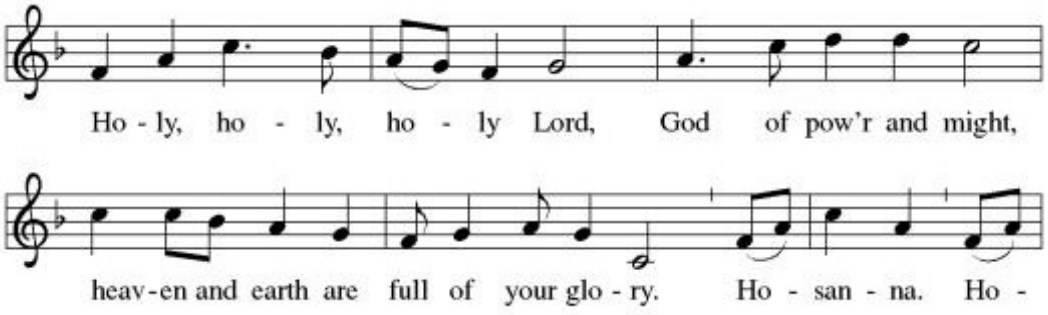
P: Lift up your hearts.

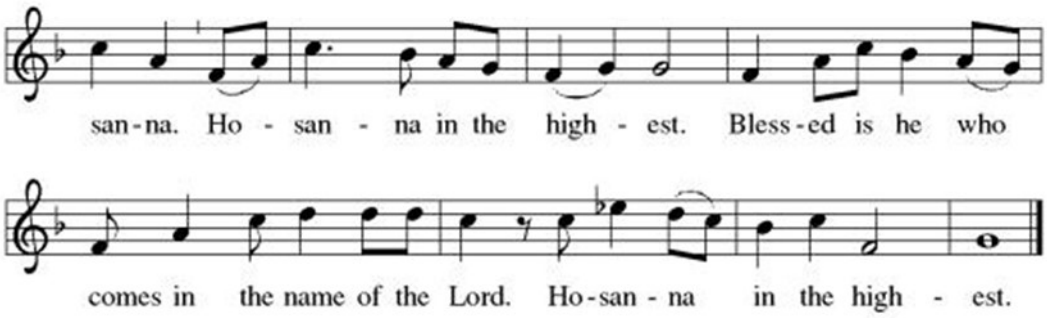
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

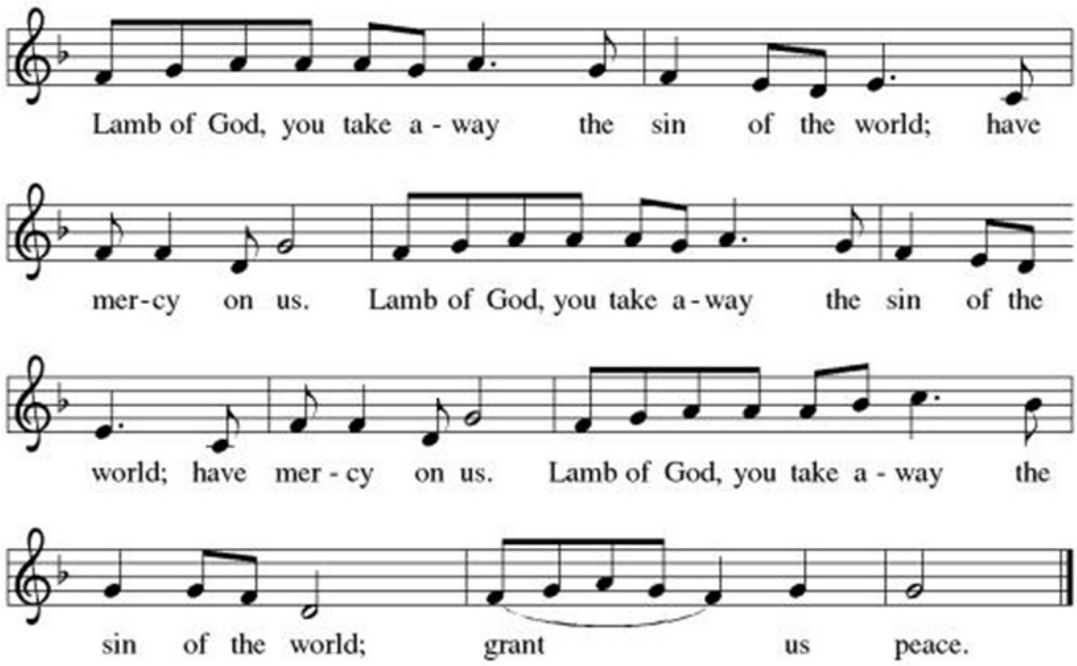
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
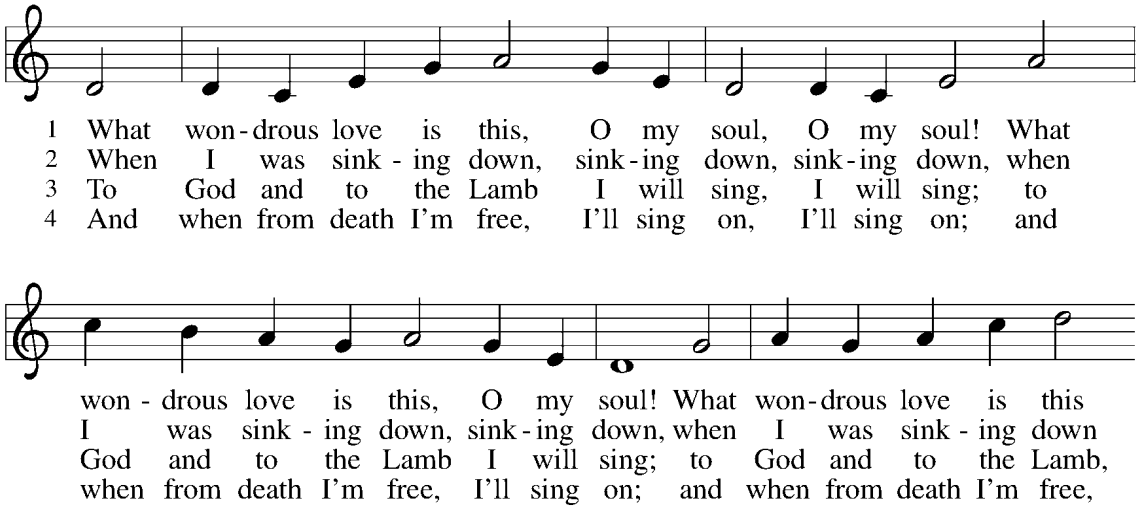
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



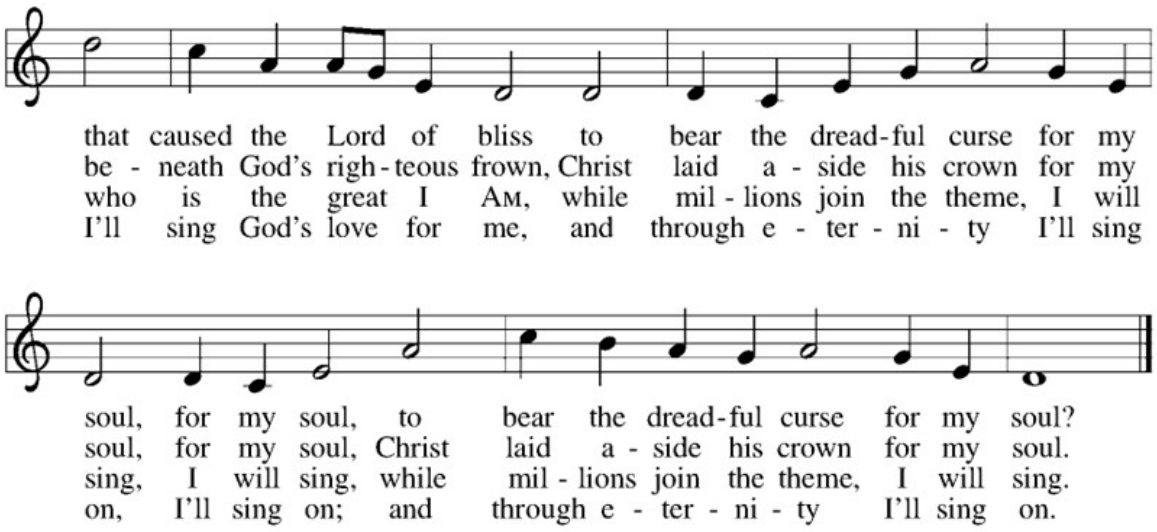
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

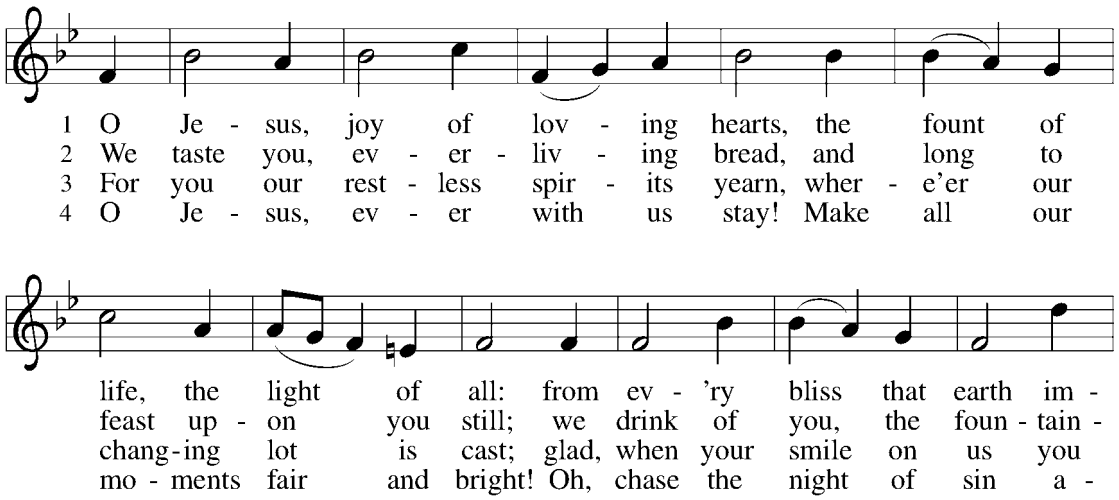
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
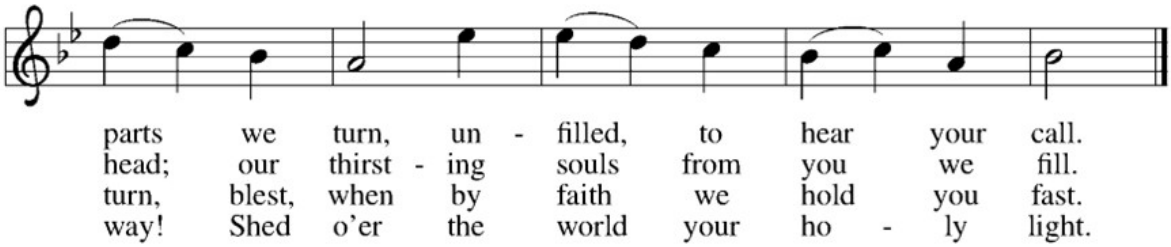
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

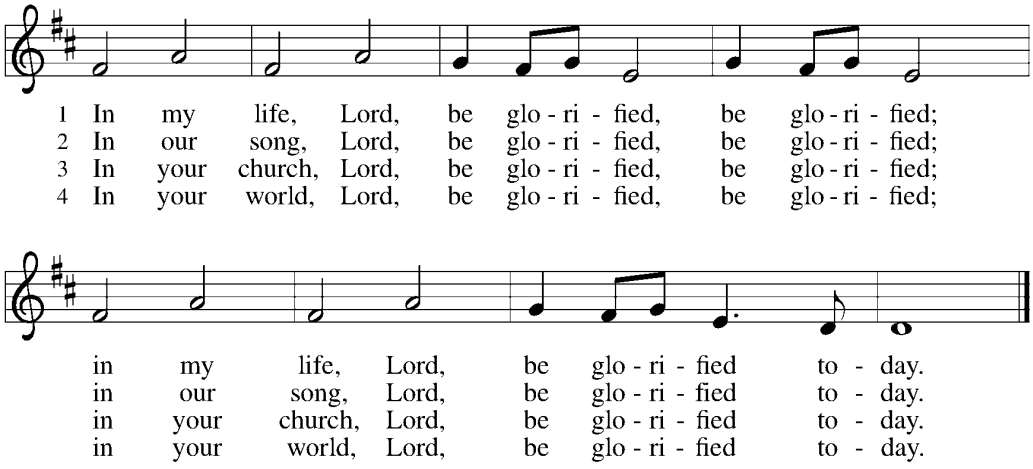
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

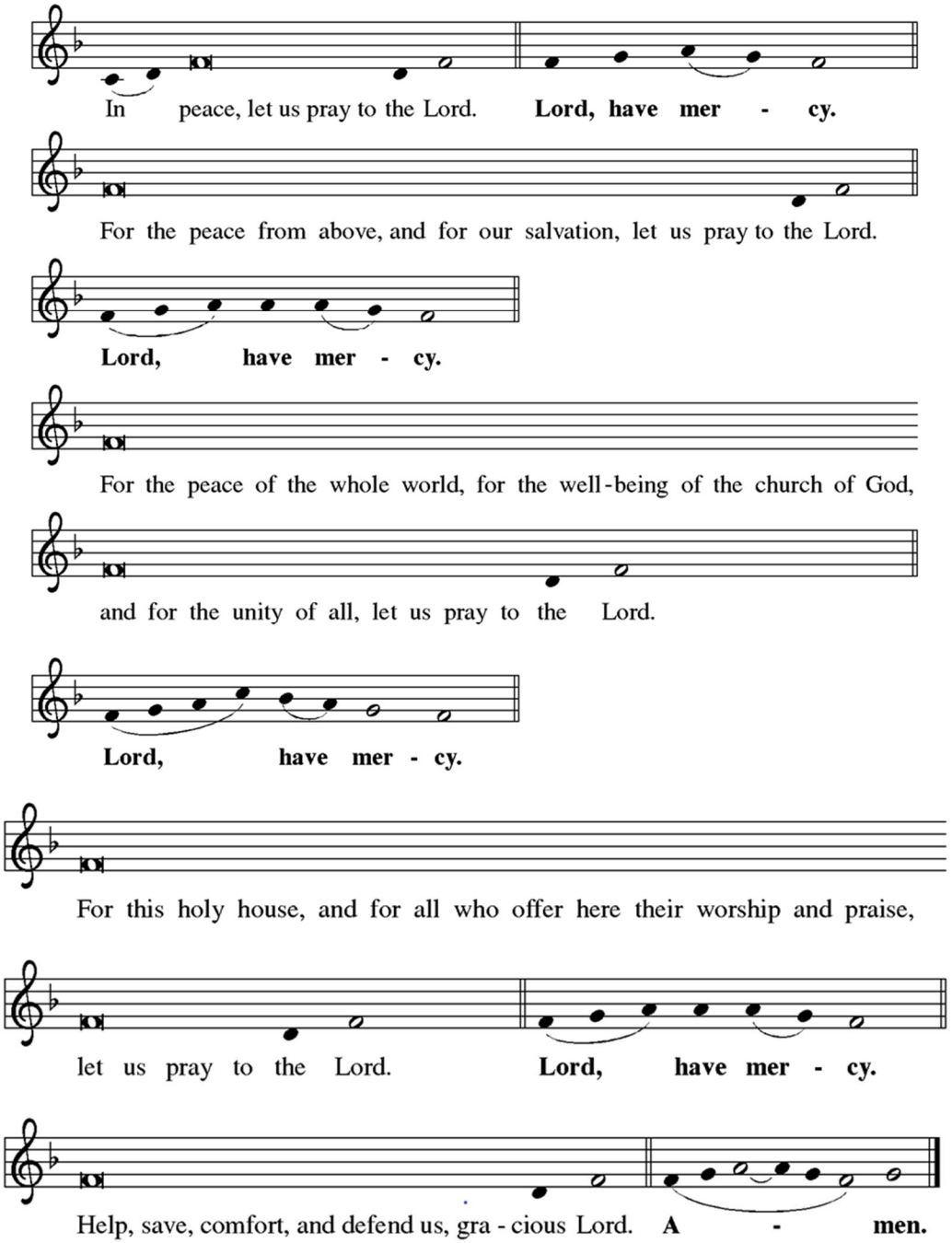
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

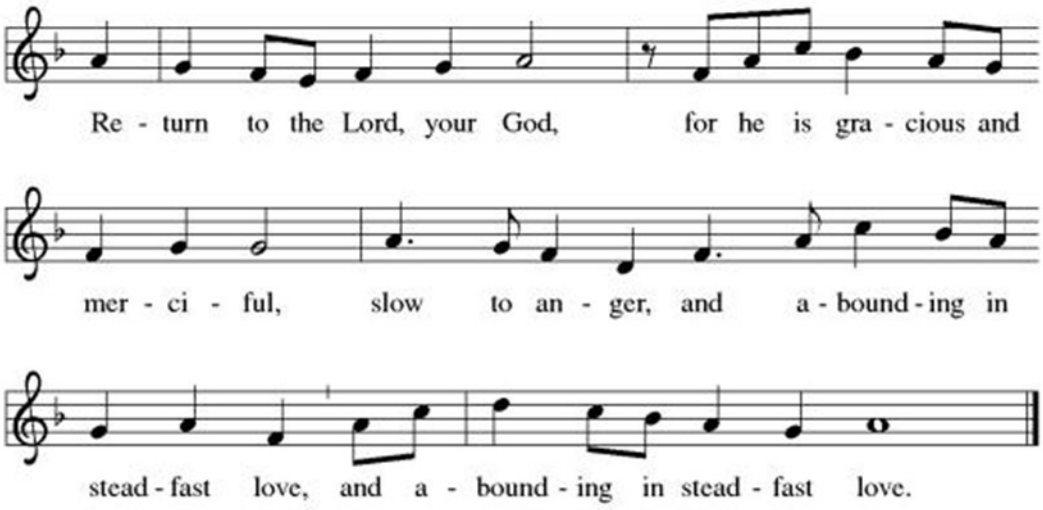
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

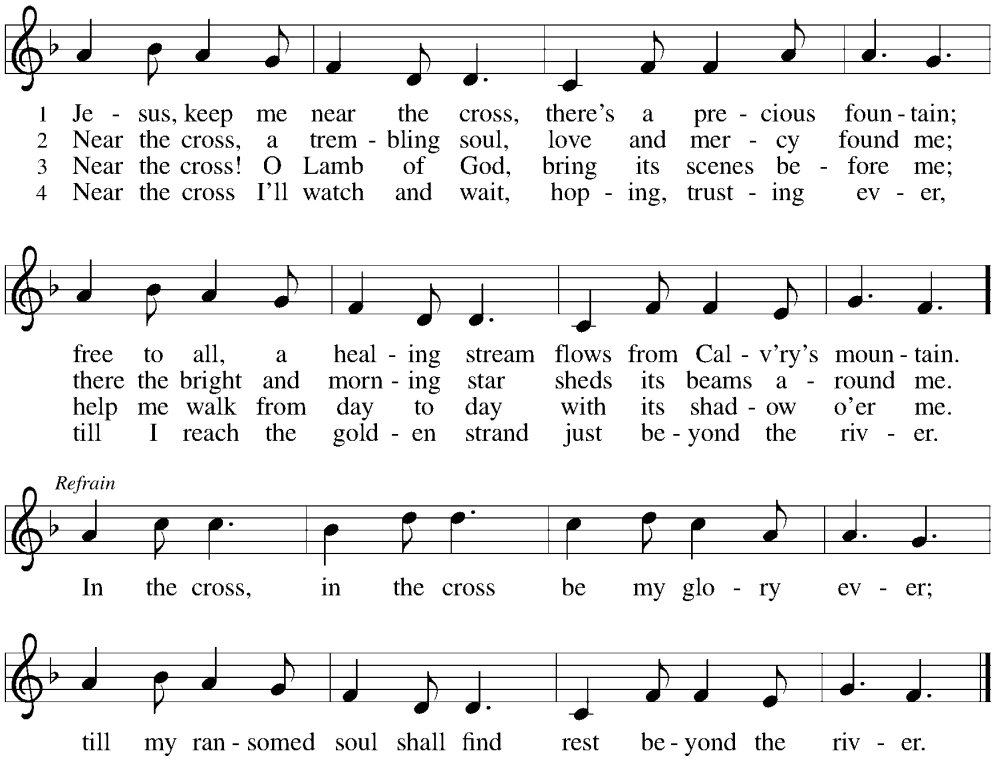
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

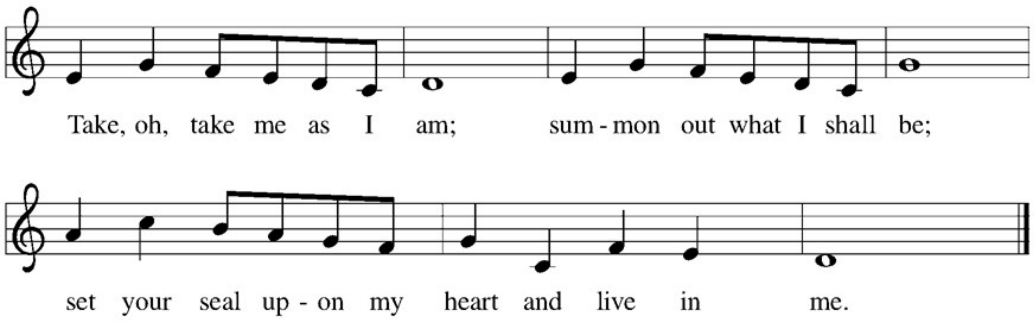
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

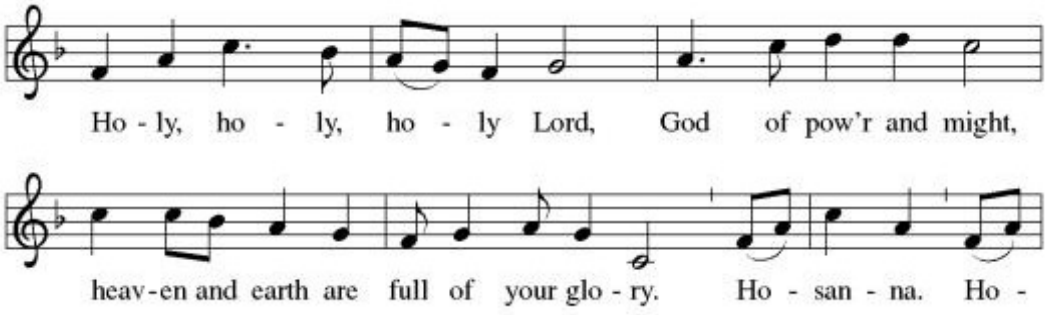
P: Lift up your hearts.

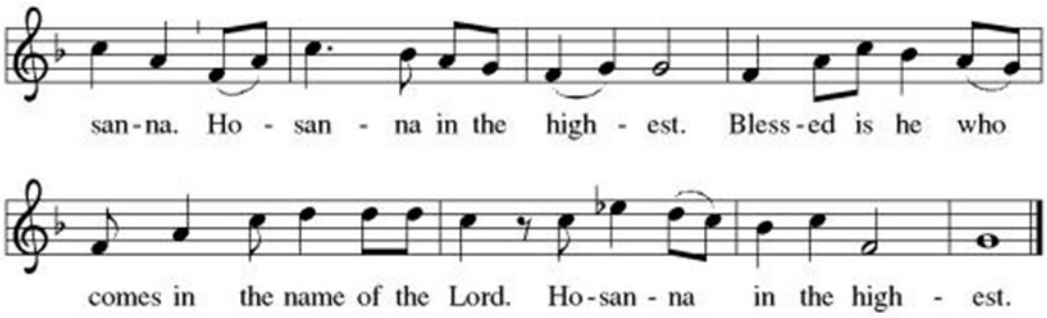
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

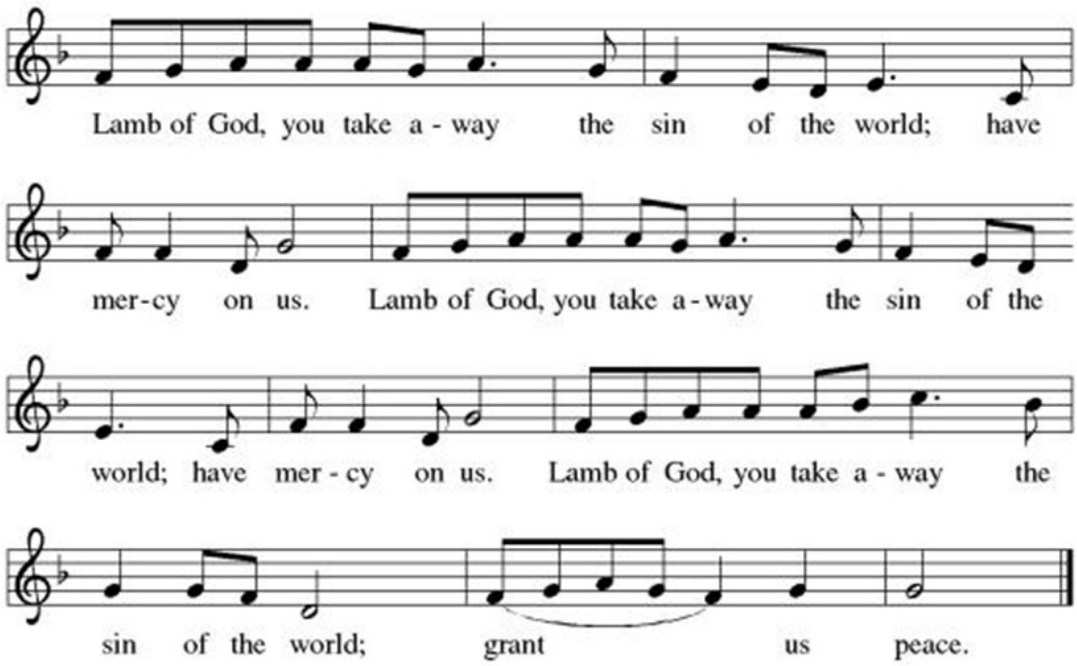
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
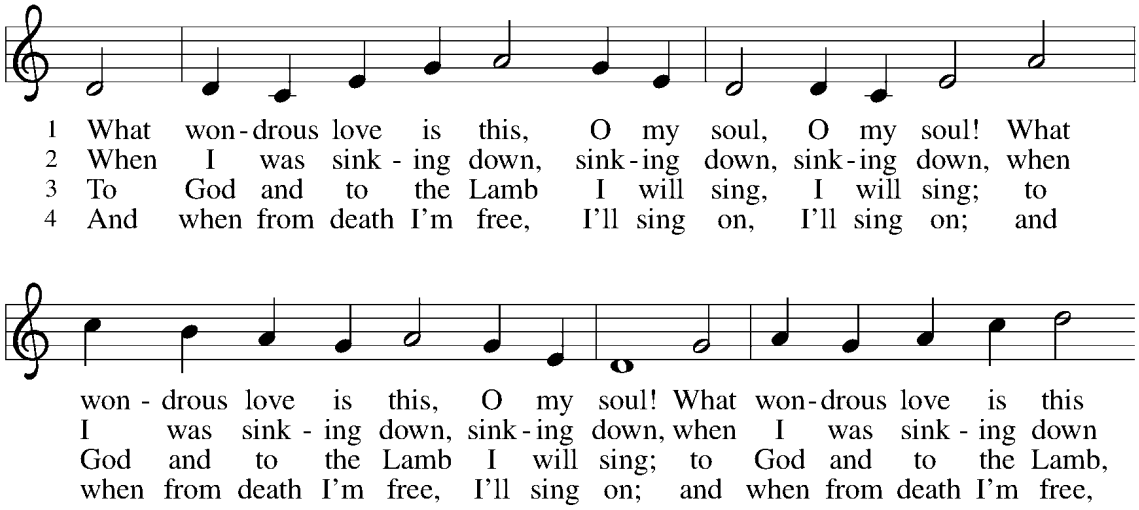
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



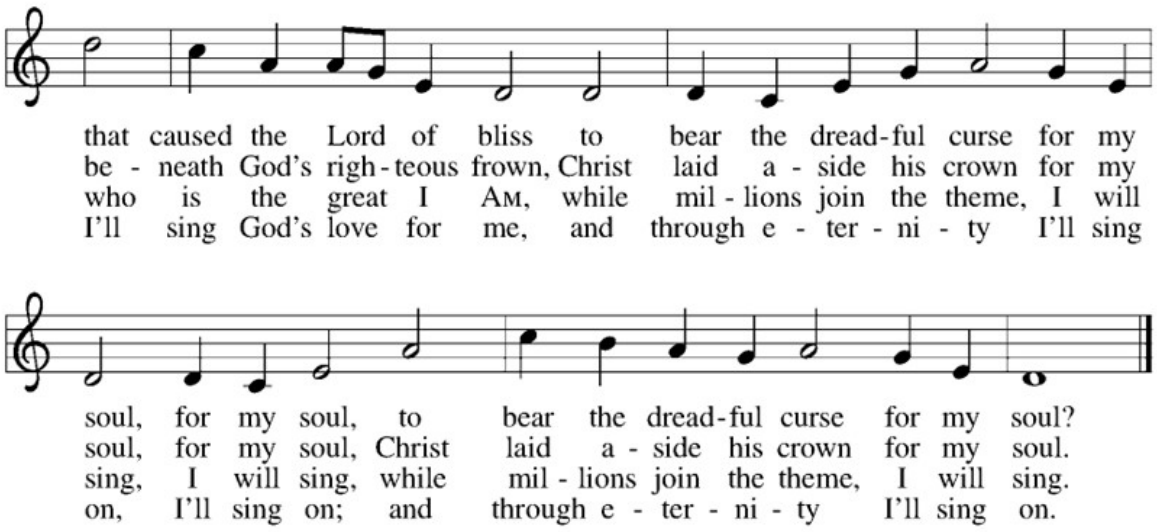
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

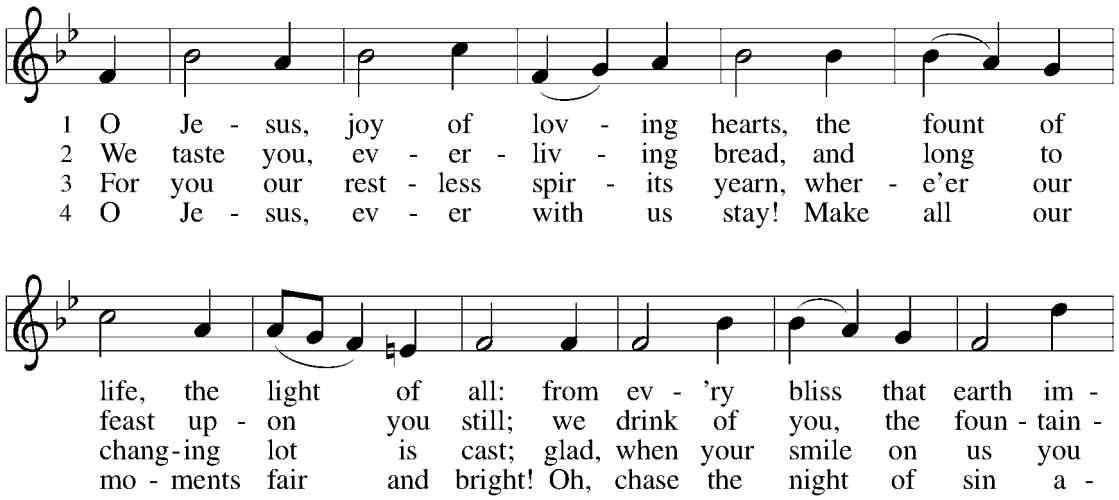
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
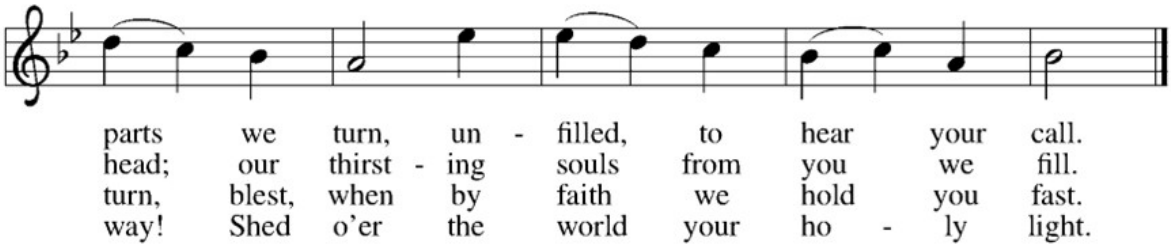
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

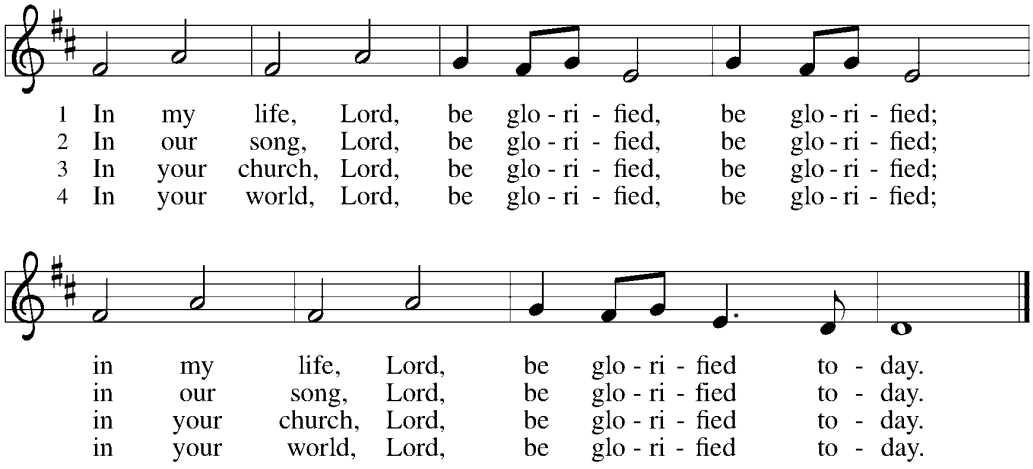
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

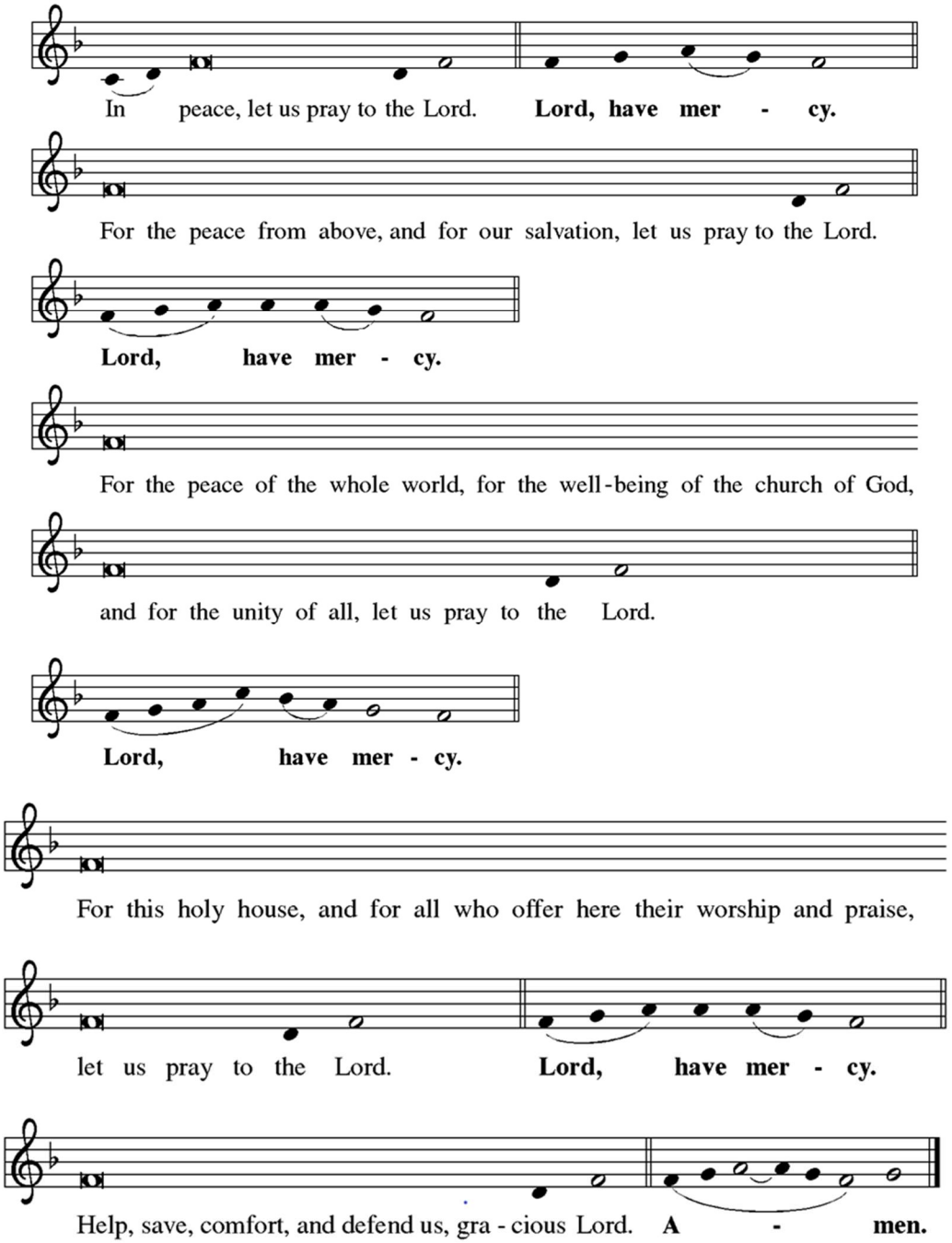
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

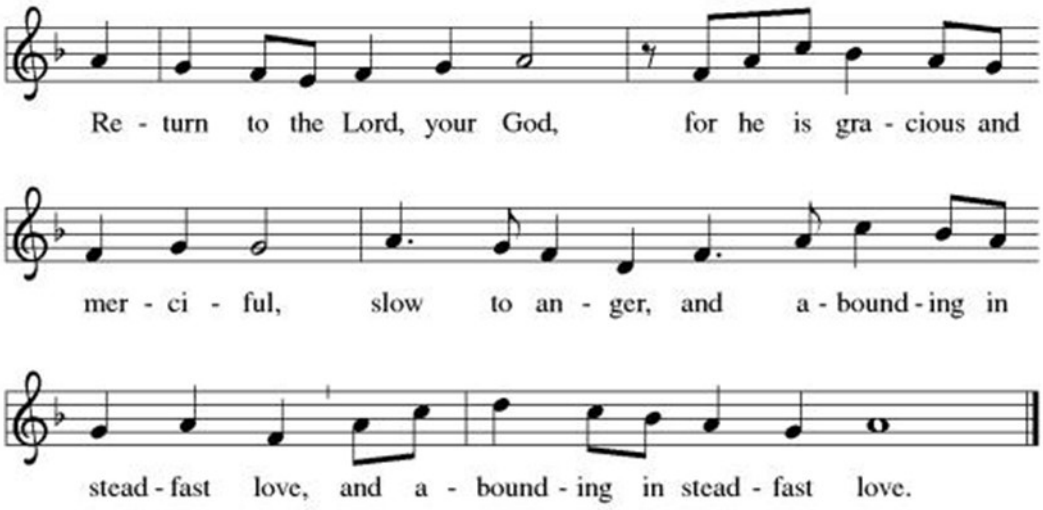
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

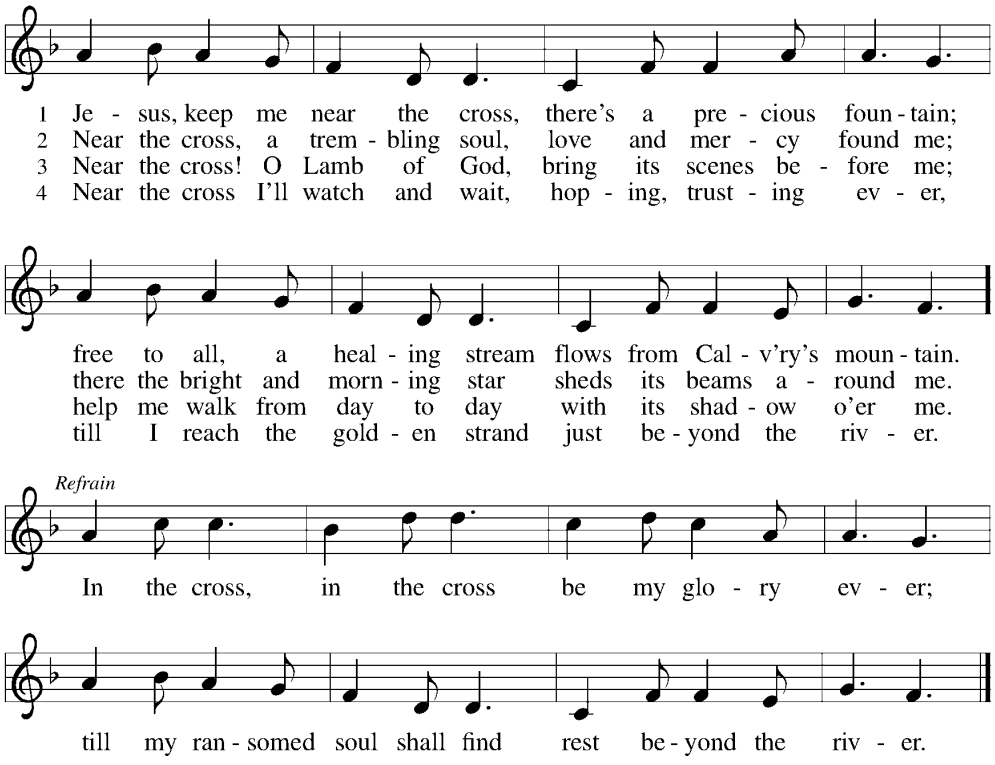
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

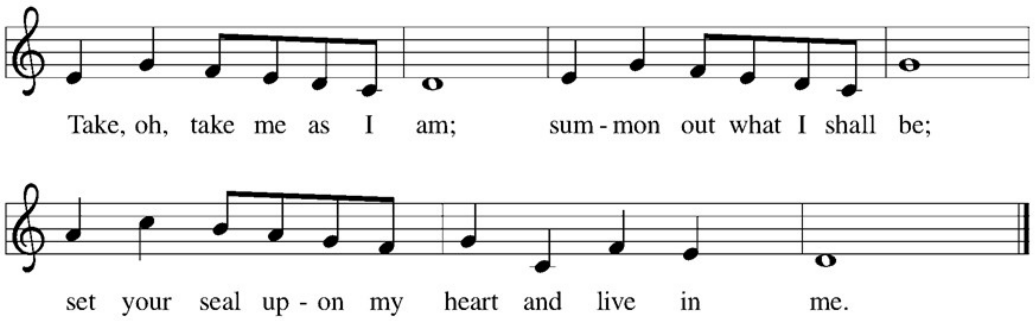
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

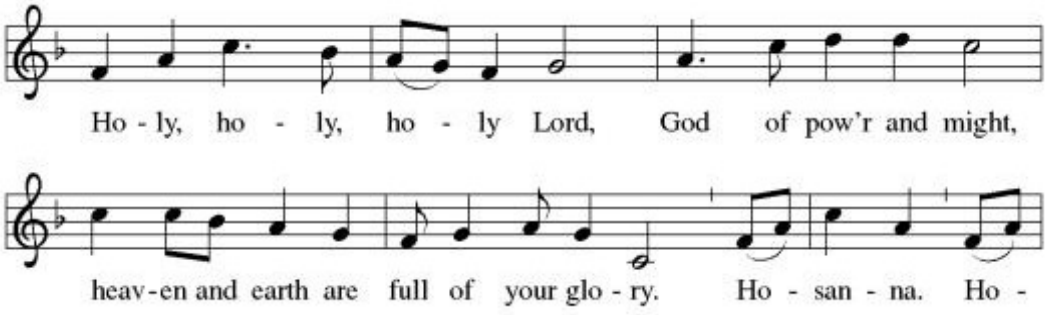
P: Lift up your hearts.

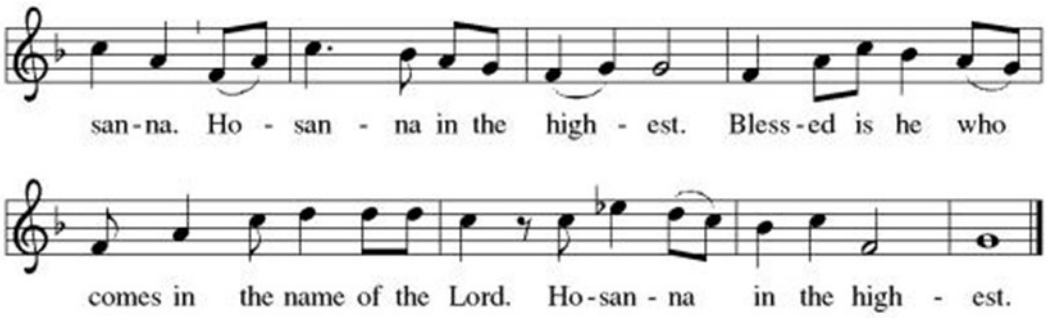
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

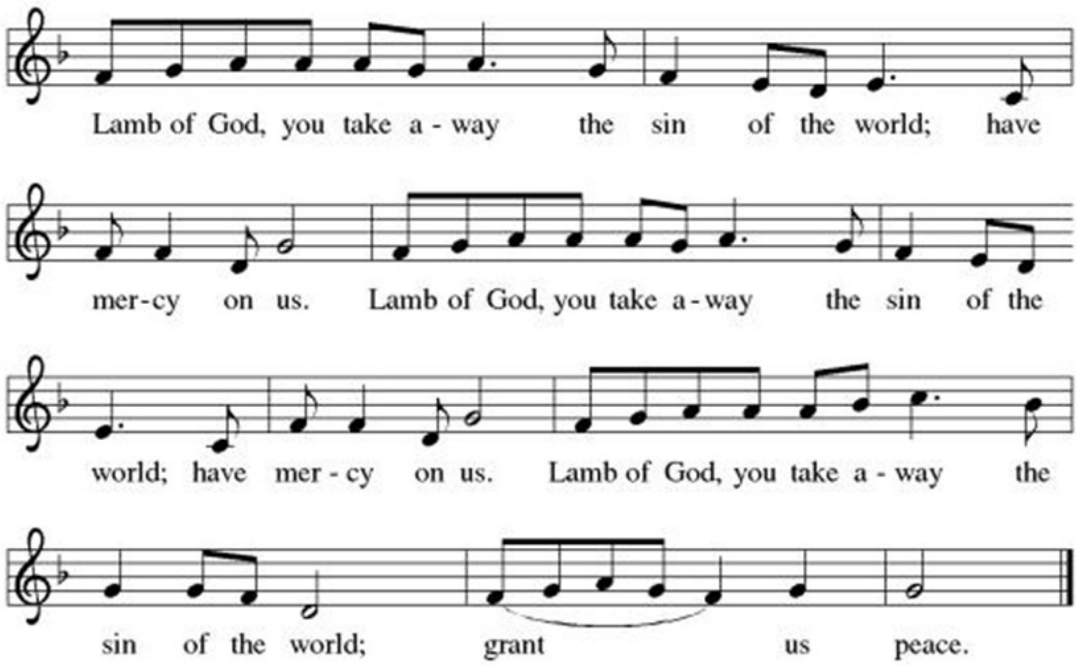
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
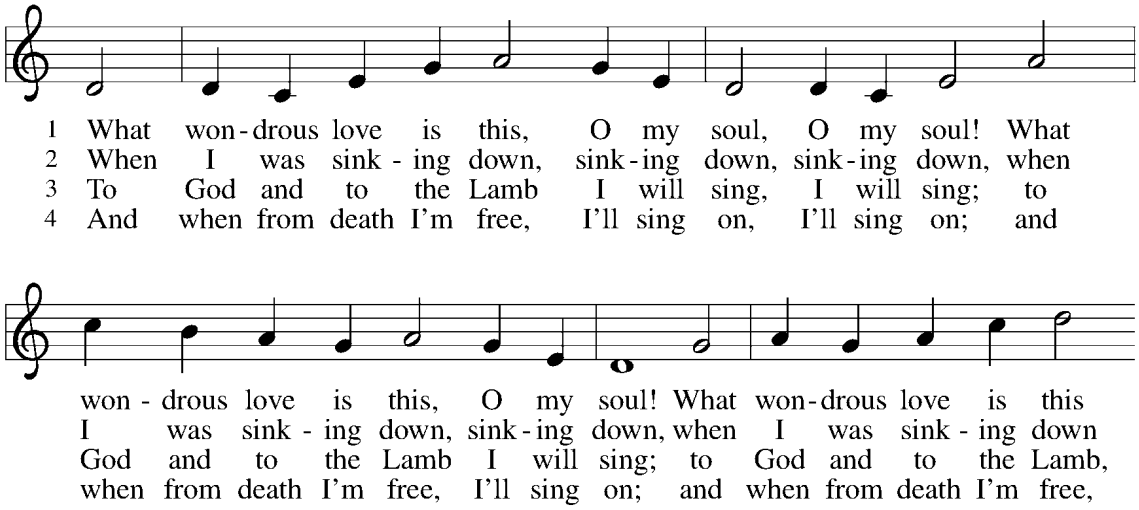
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



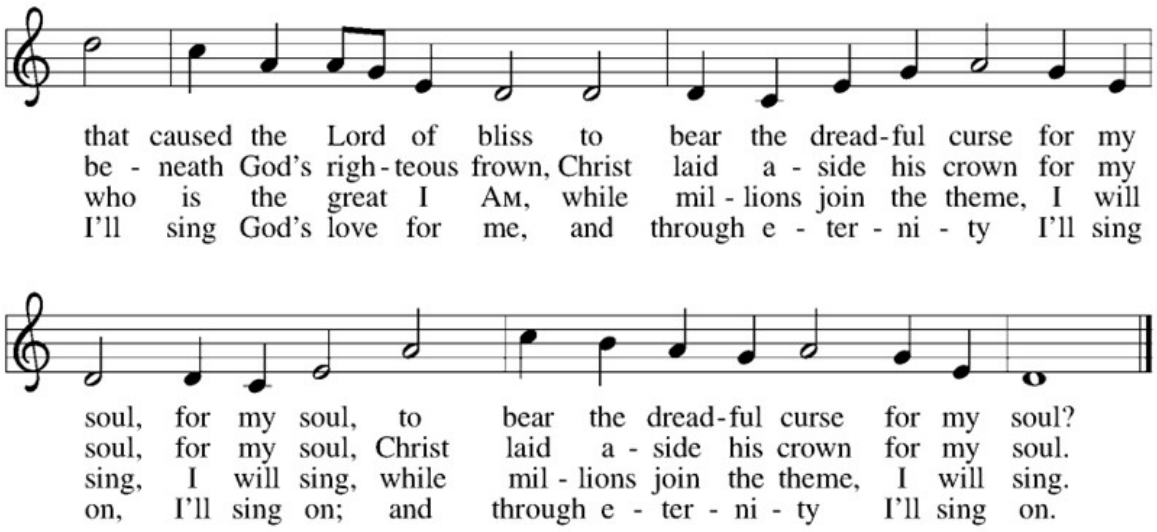
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

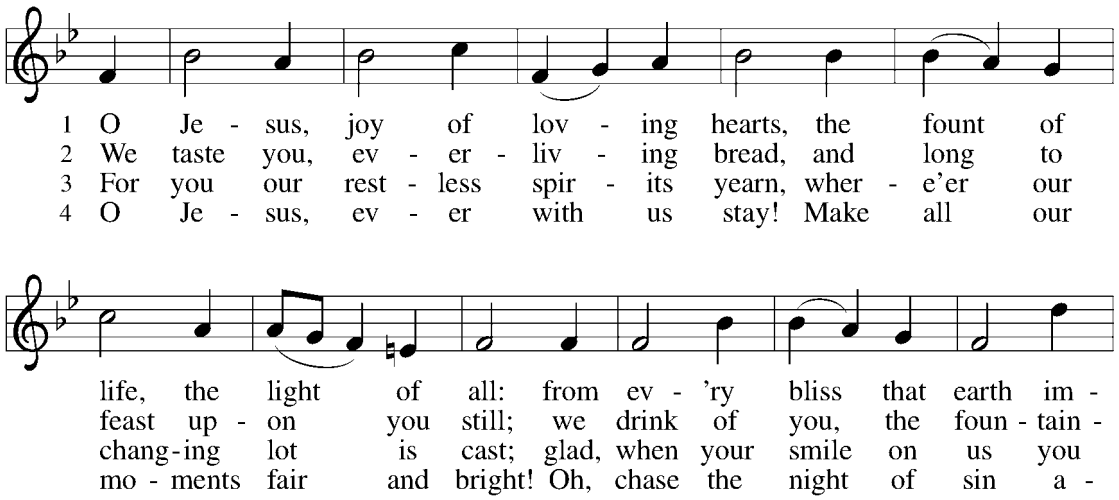
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
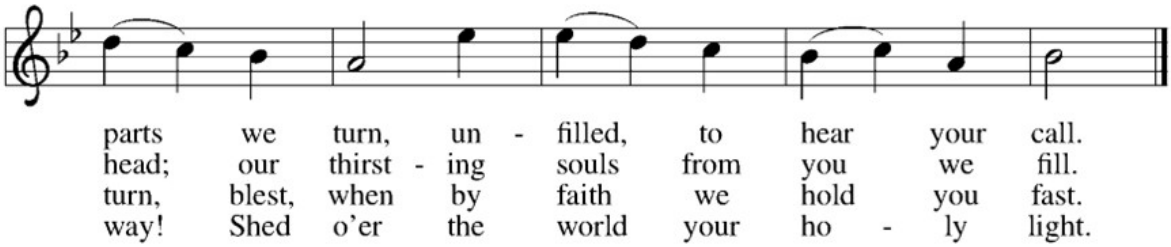
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

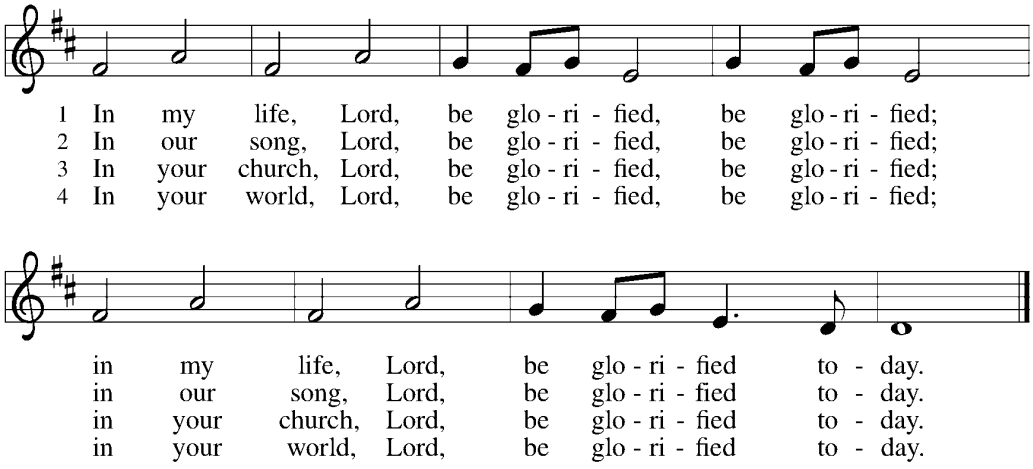
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

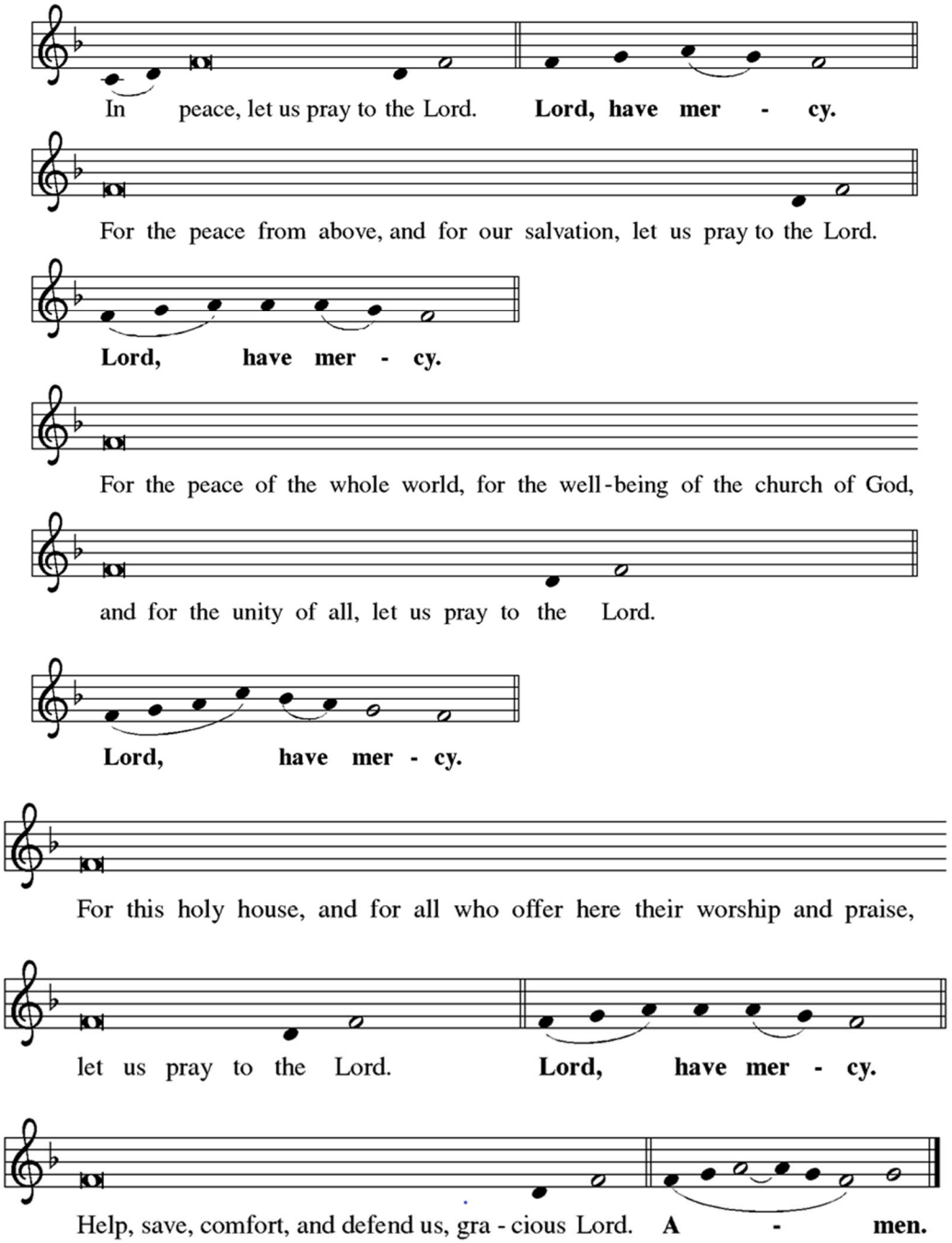
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

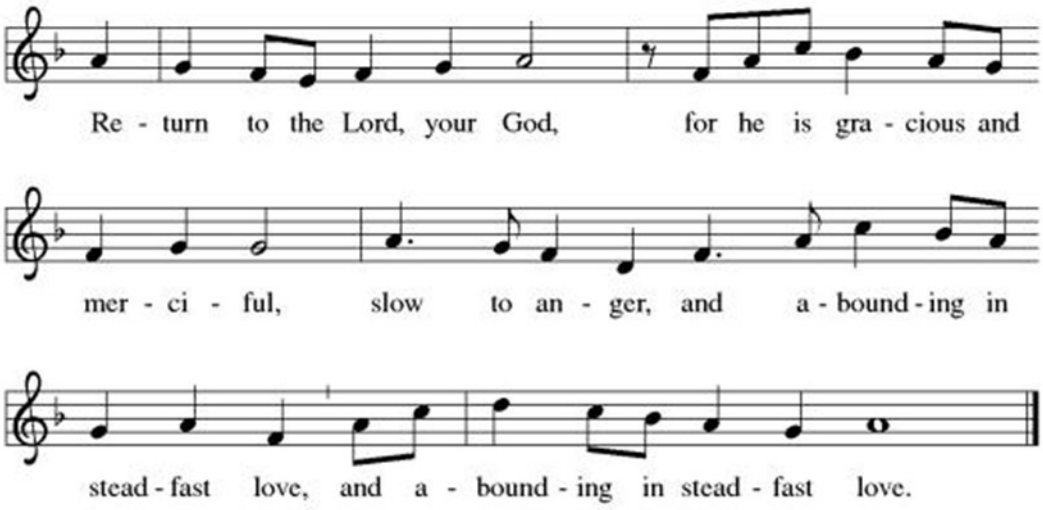
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

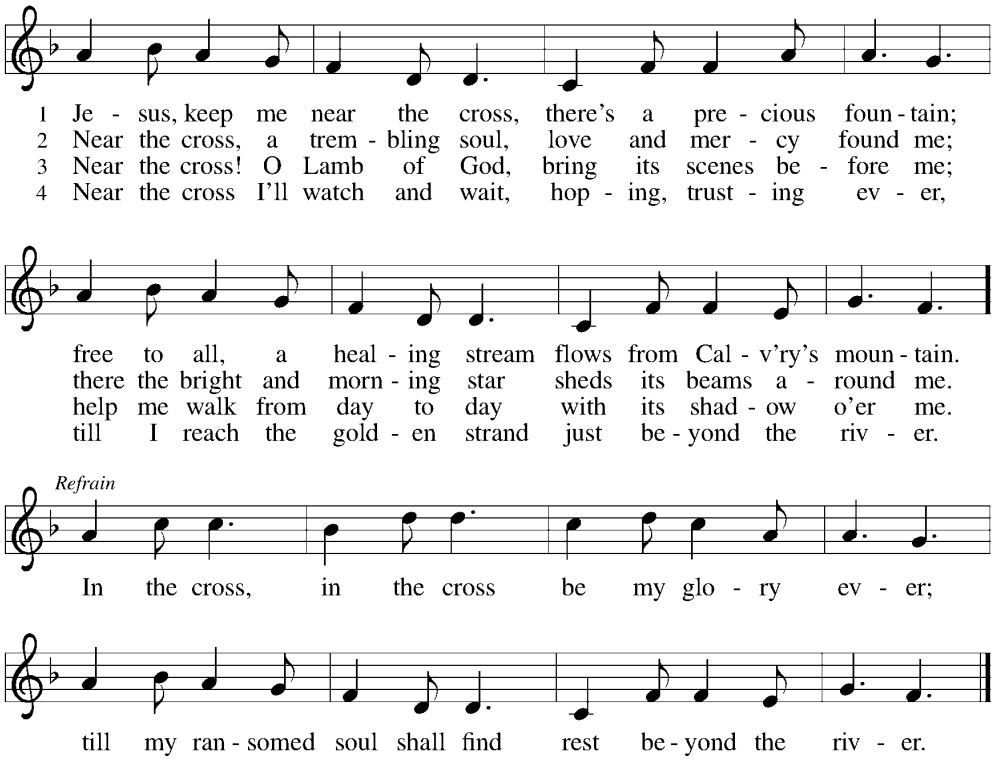
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

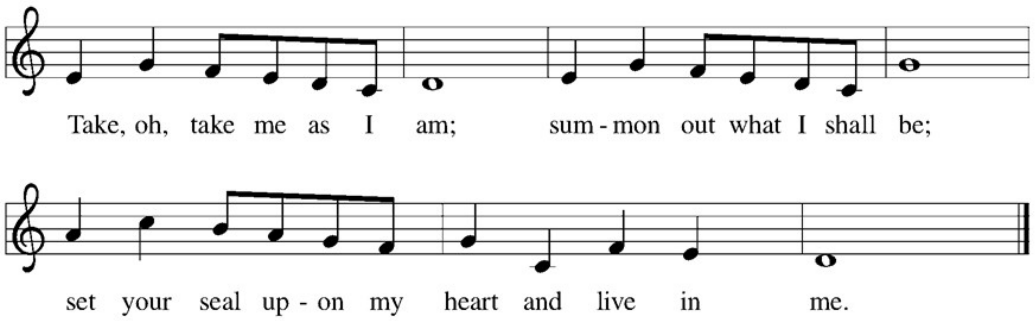
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

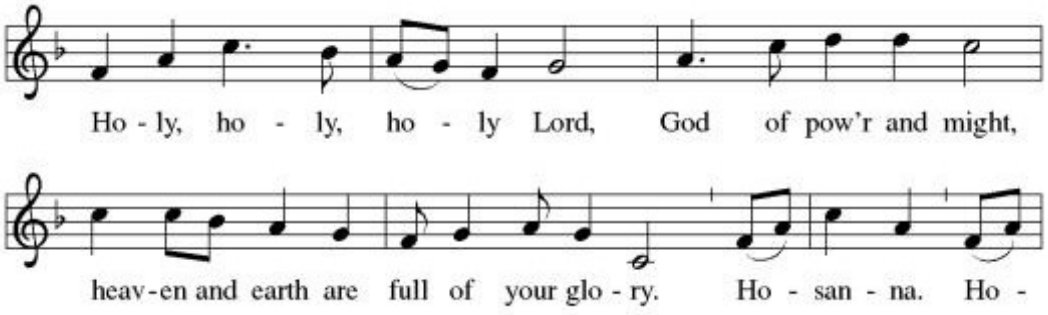
P: Lift up your hearts.

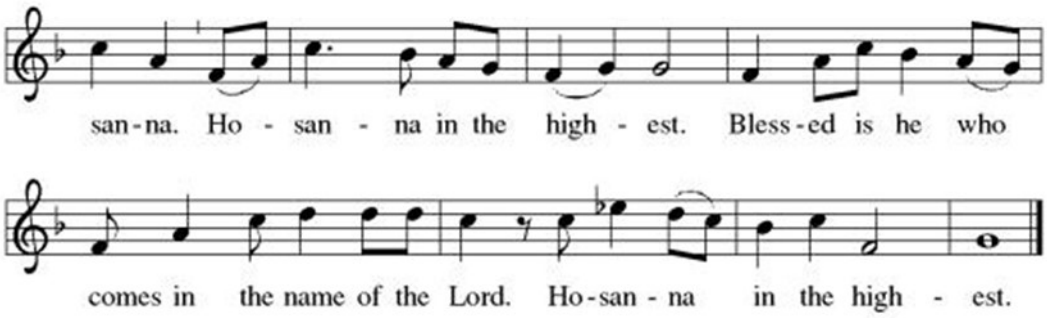
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

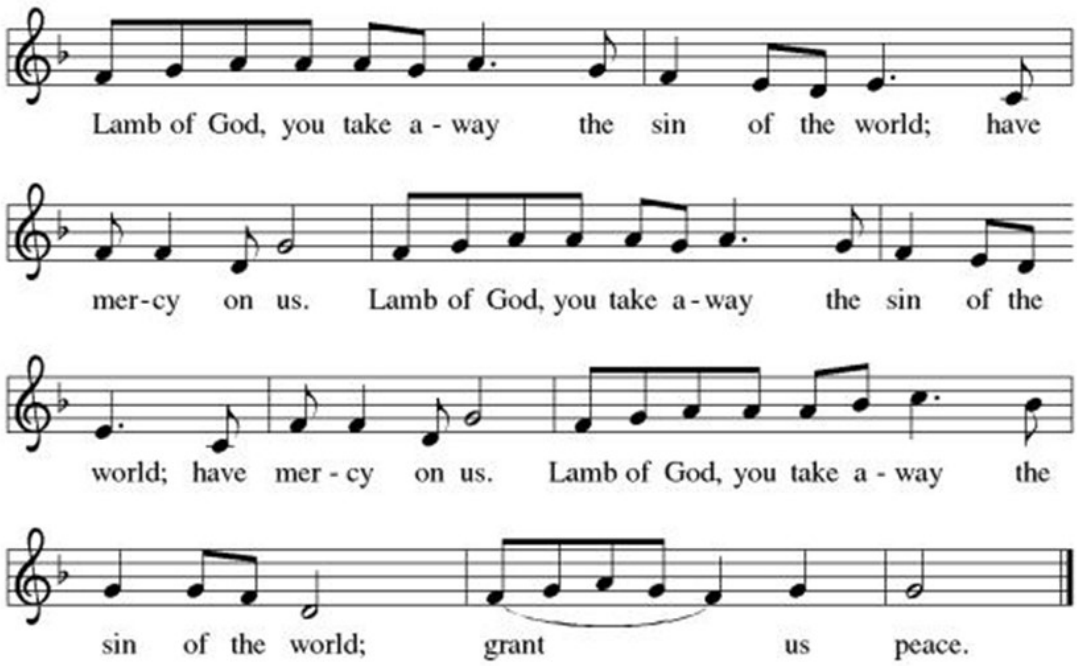
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
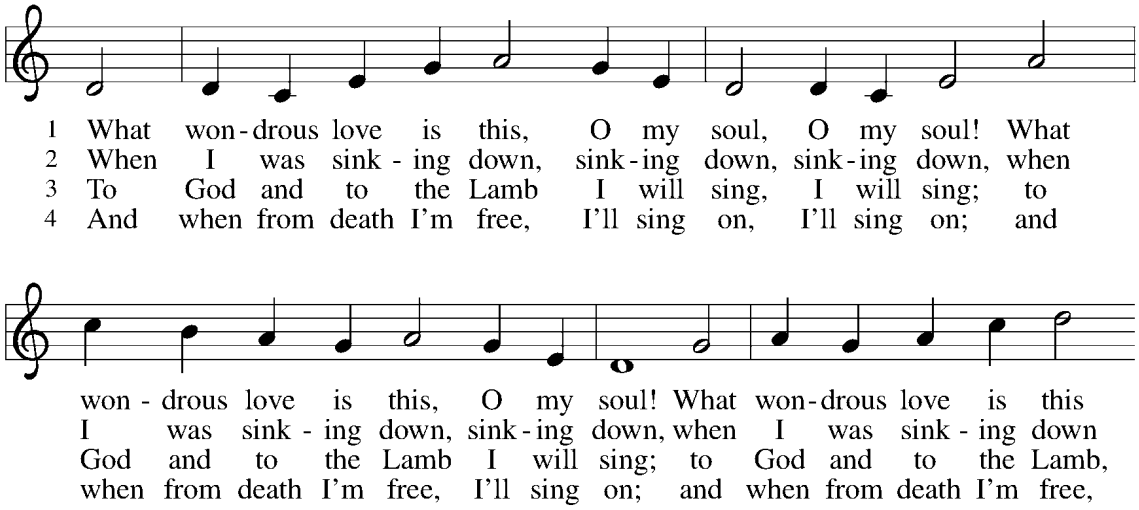
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



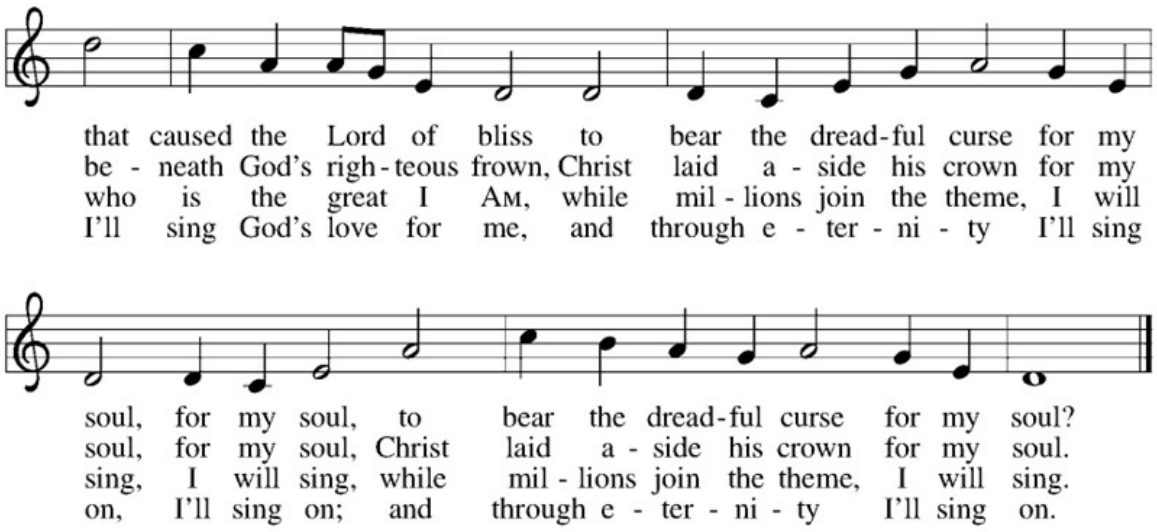
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

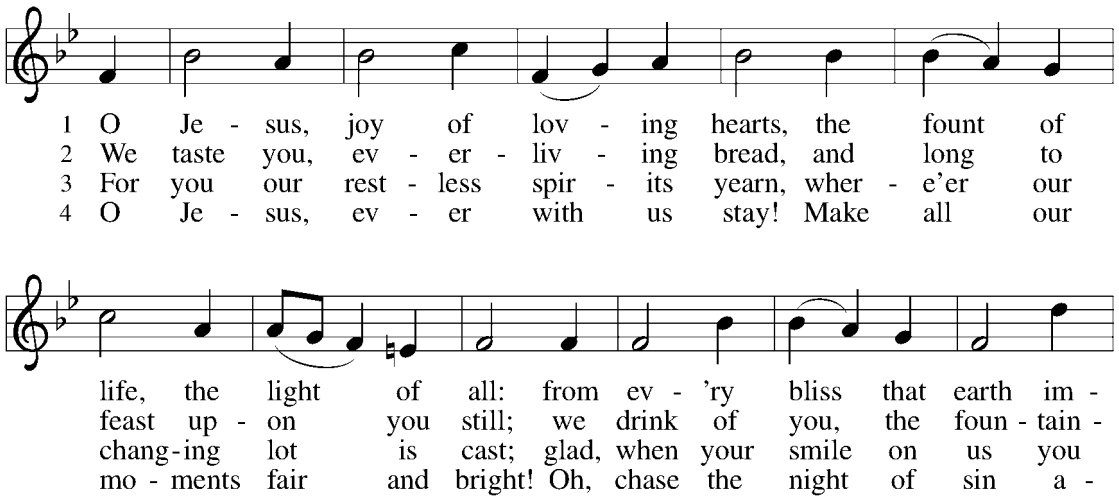
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
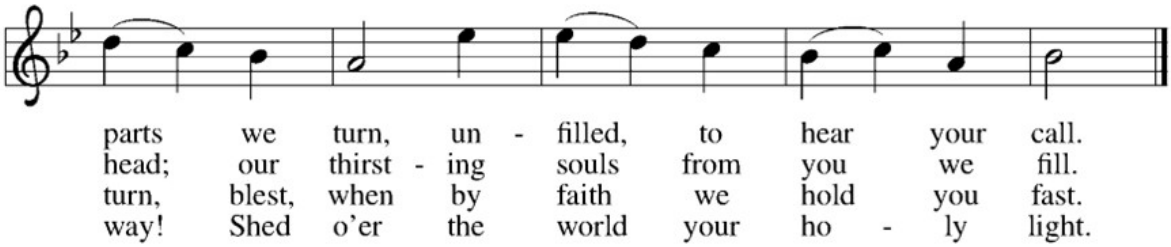
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

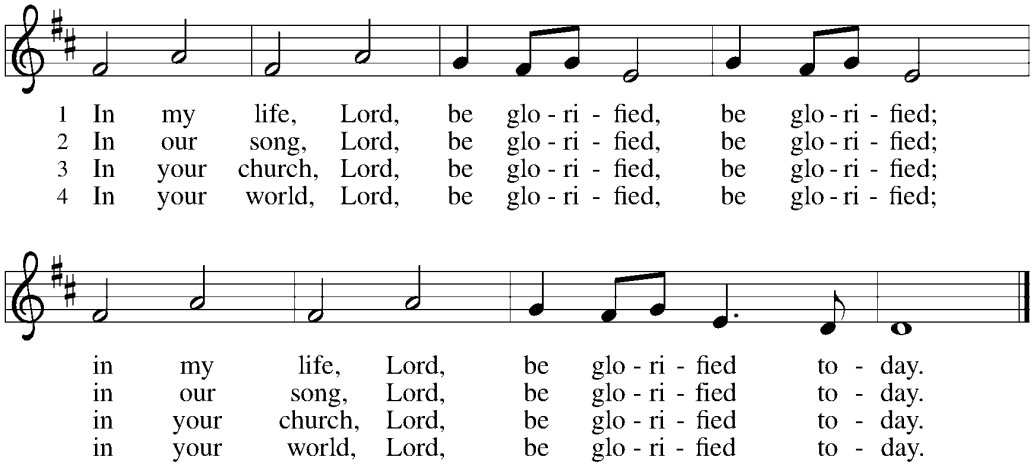
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

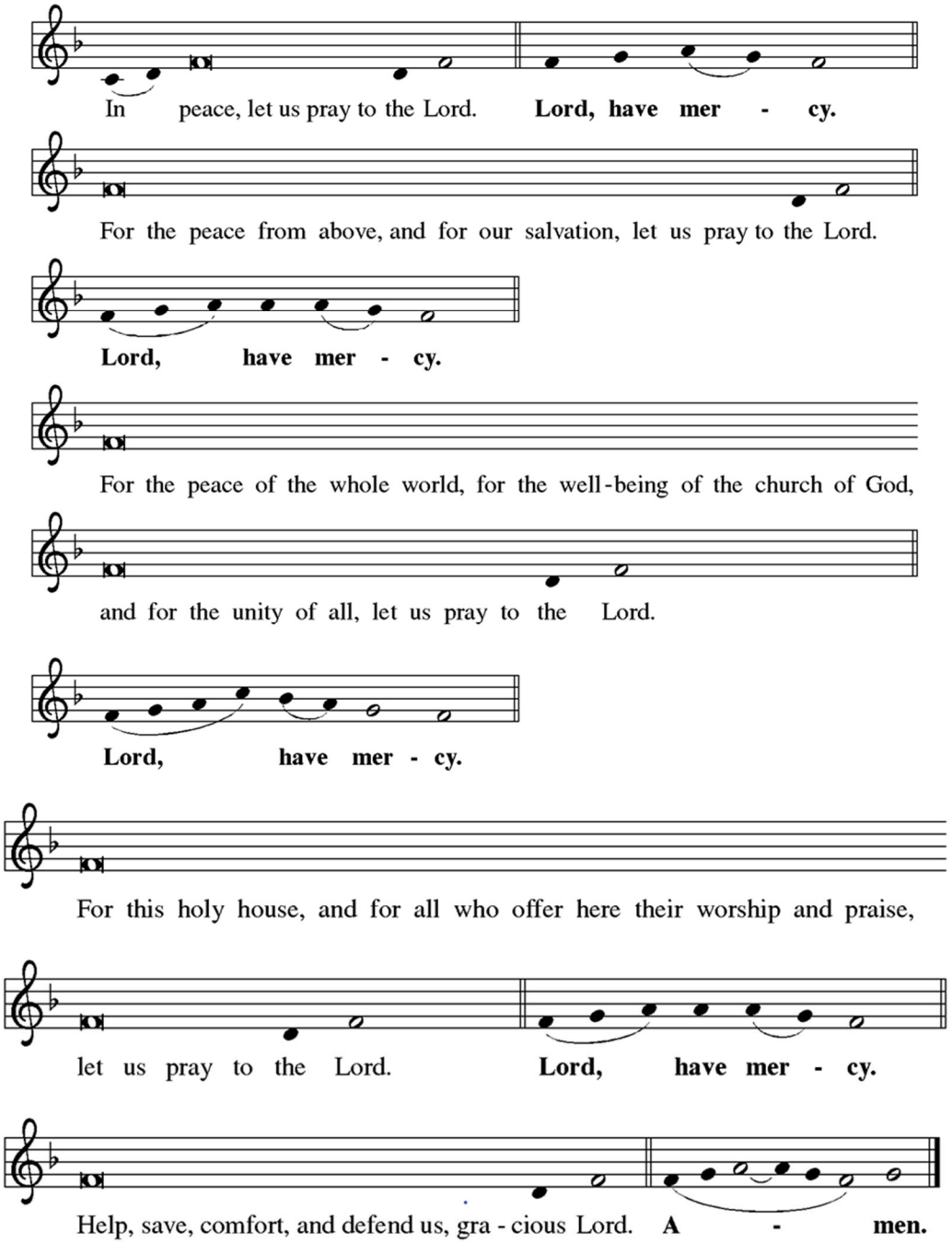
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

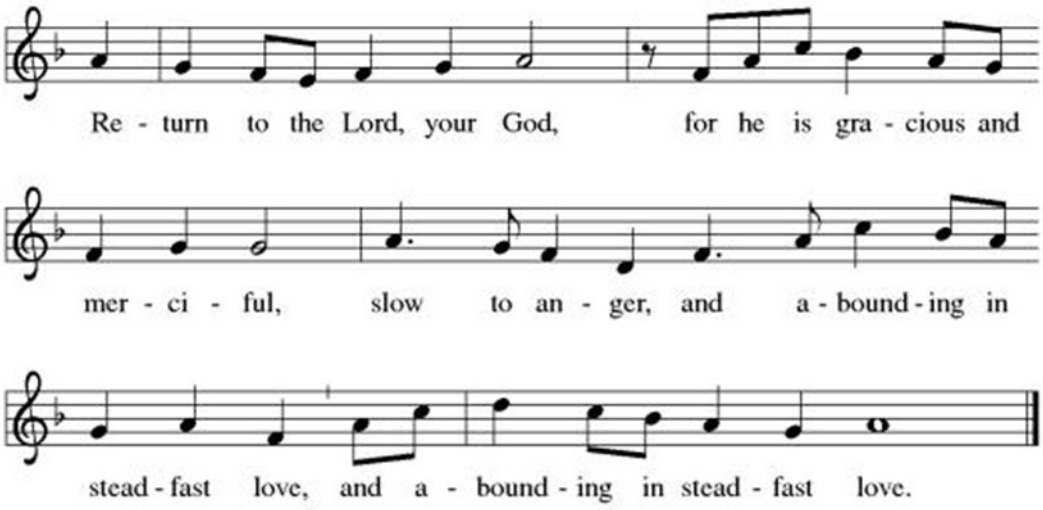
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

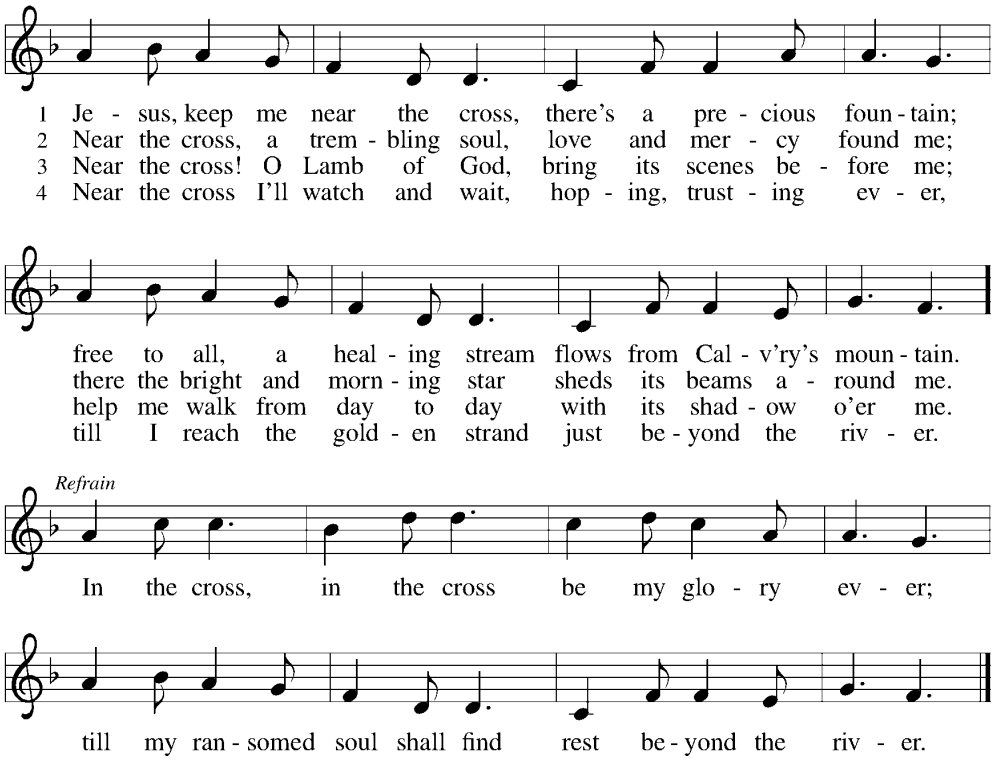
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

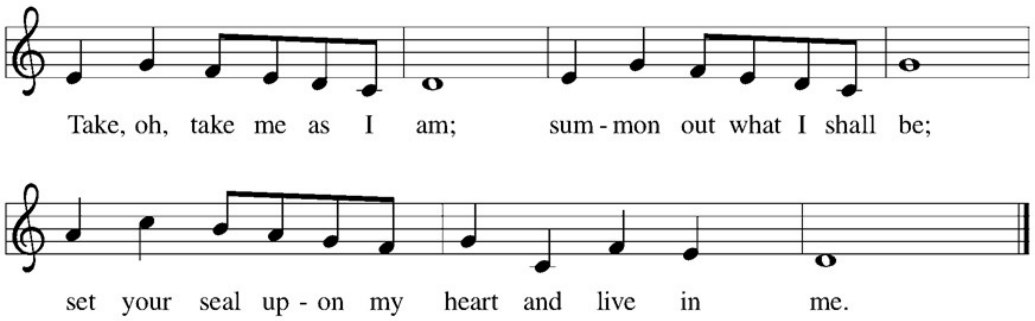
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

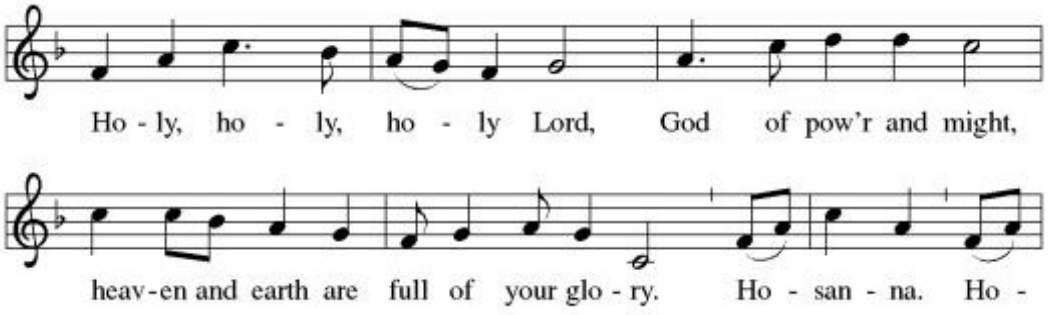
P: Lift up your hearts.

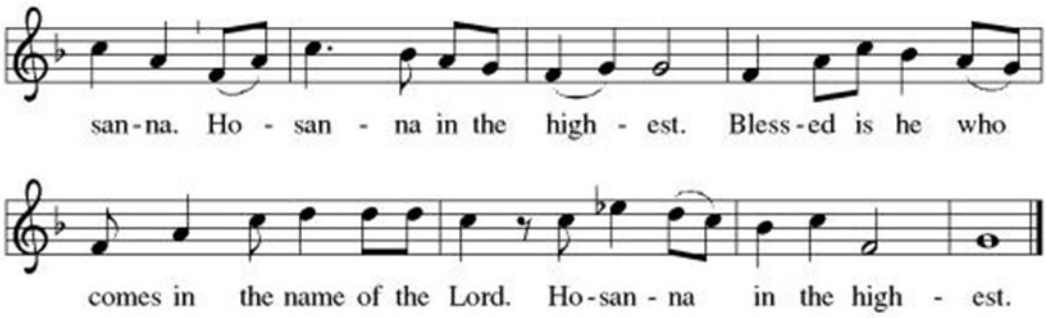
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

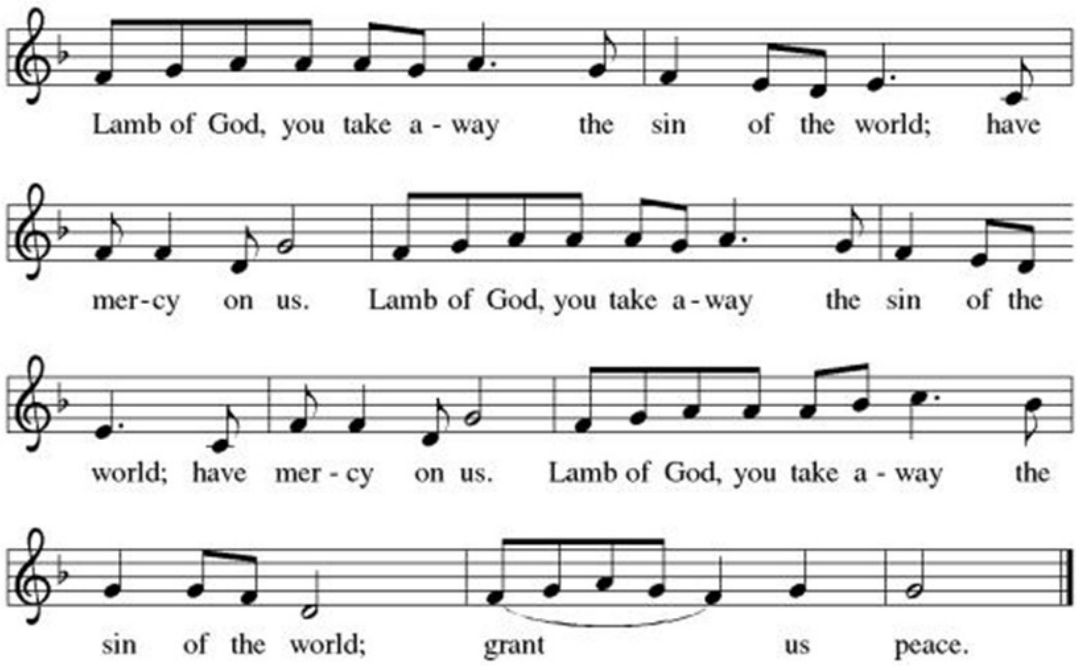
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
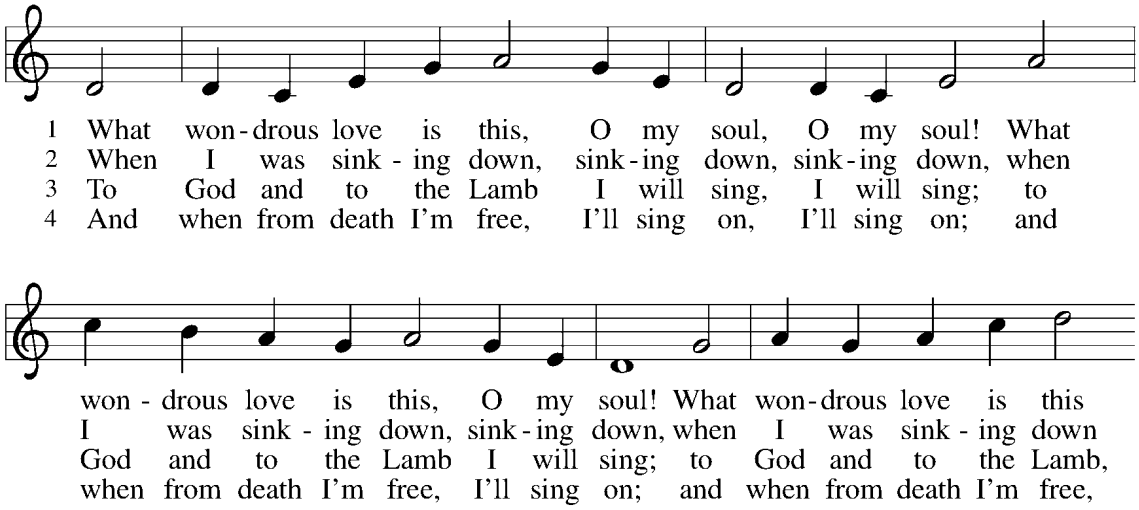
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



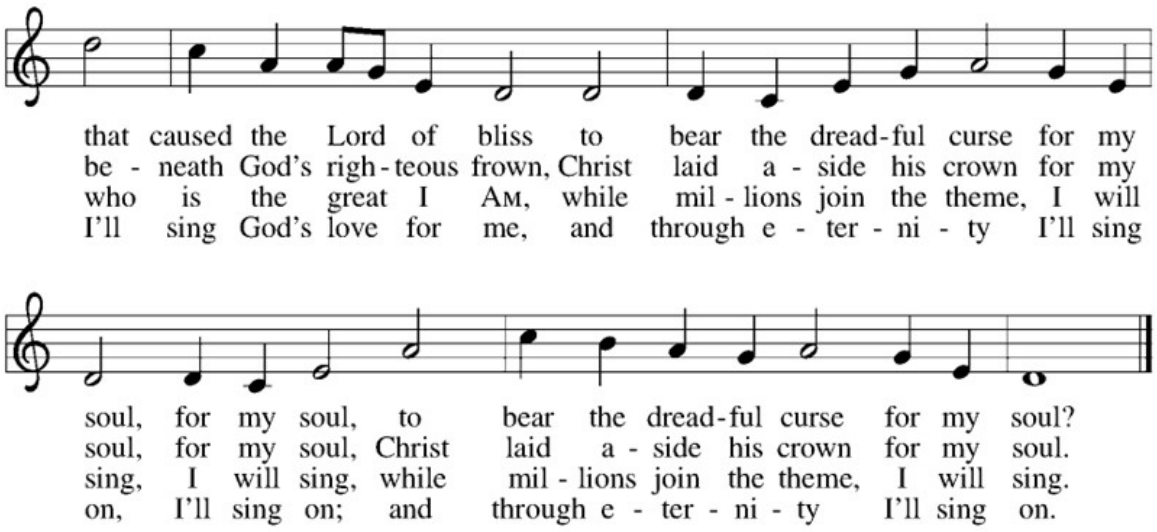
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

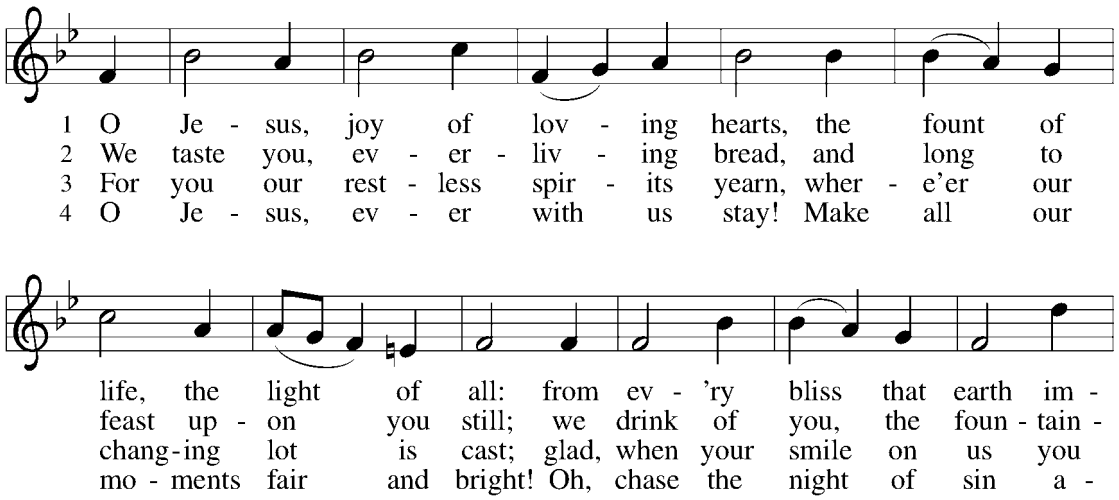
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
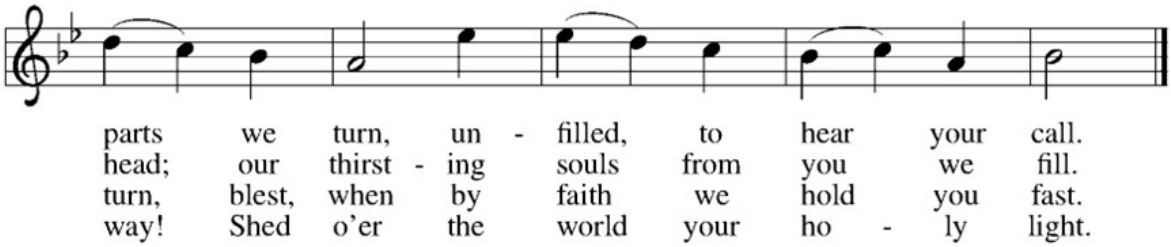
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

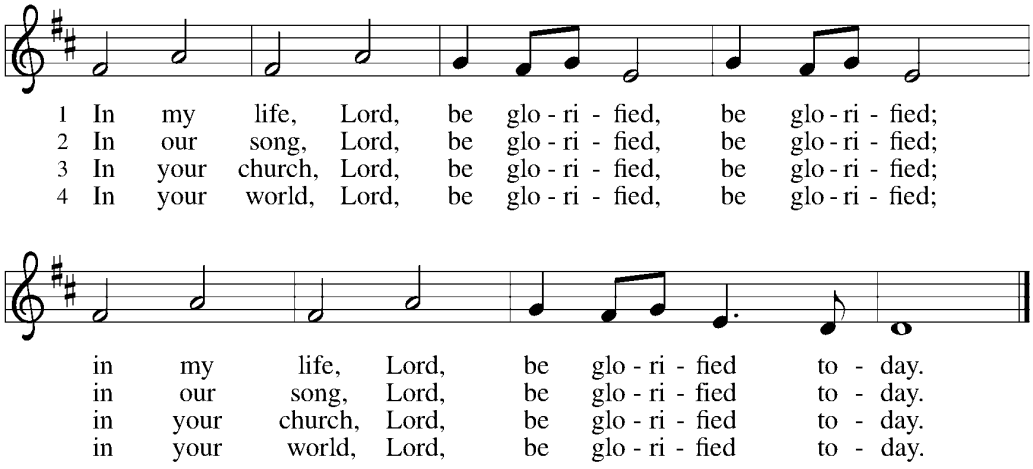
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

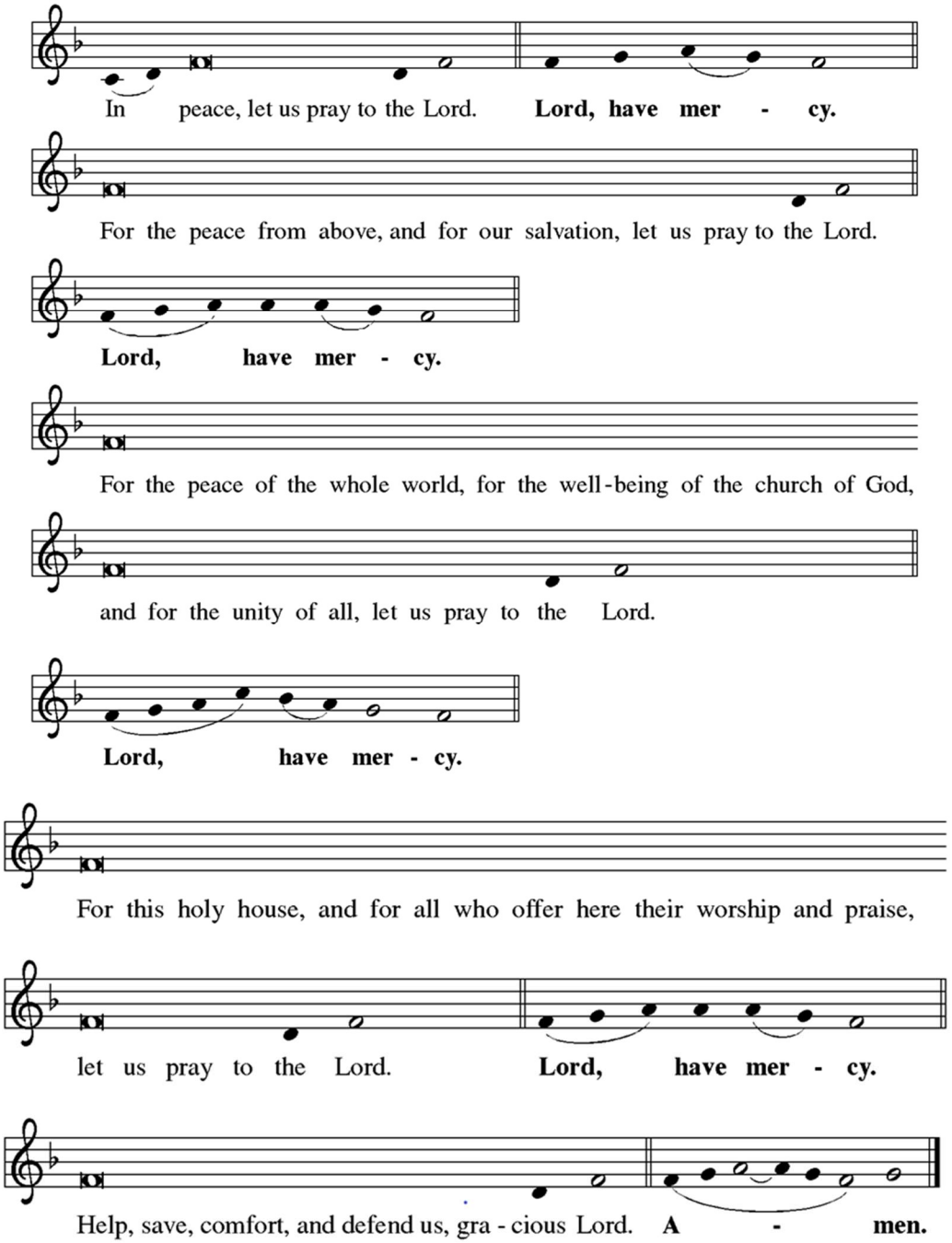
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

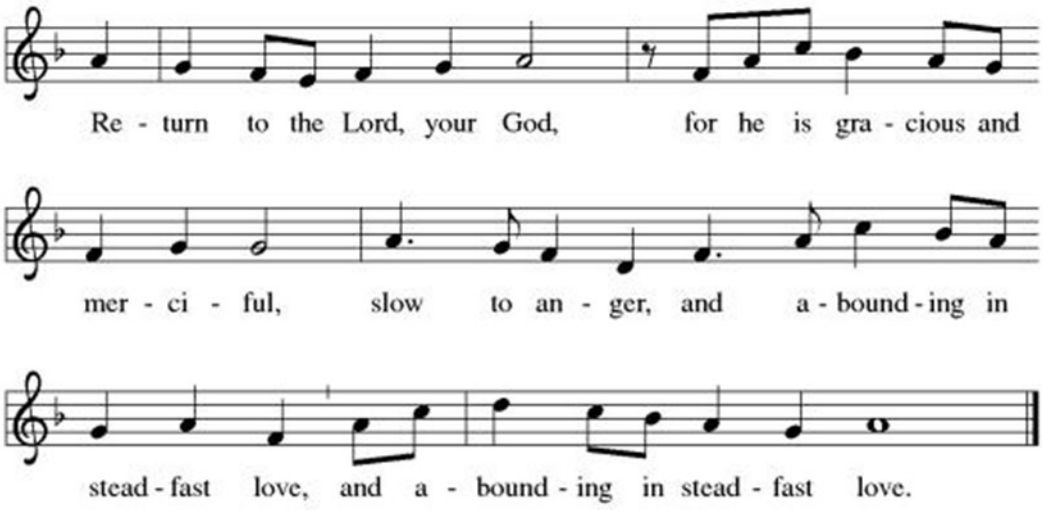
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

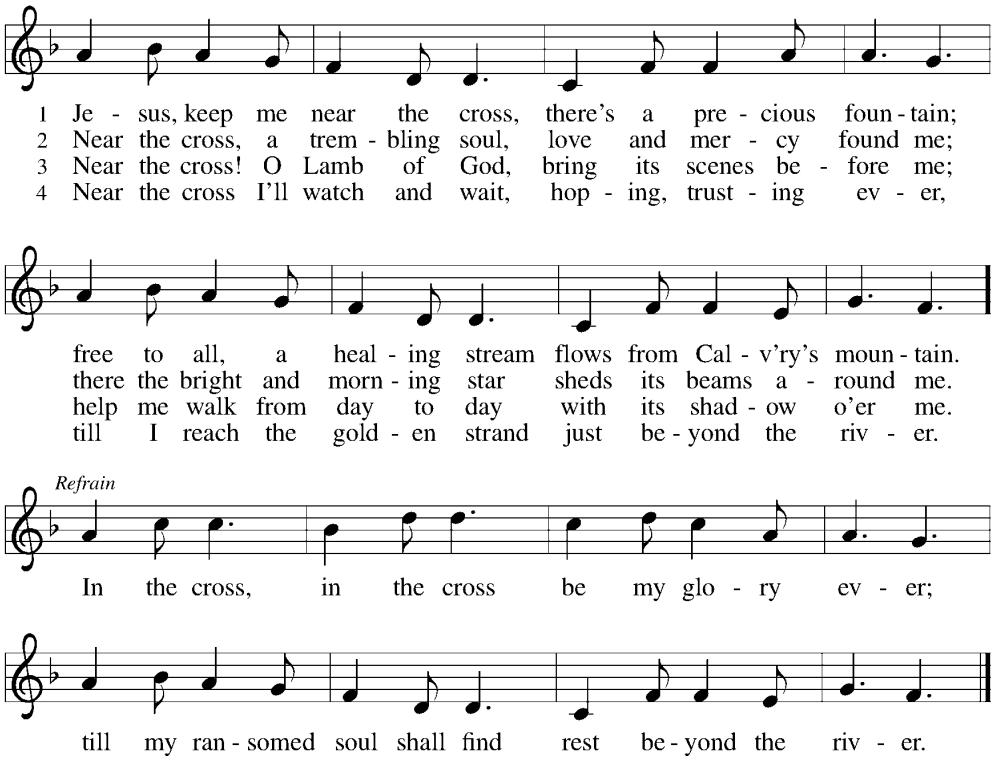
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

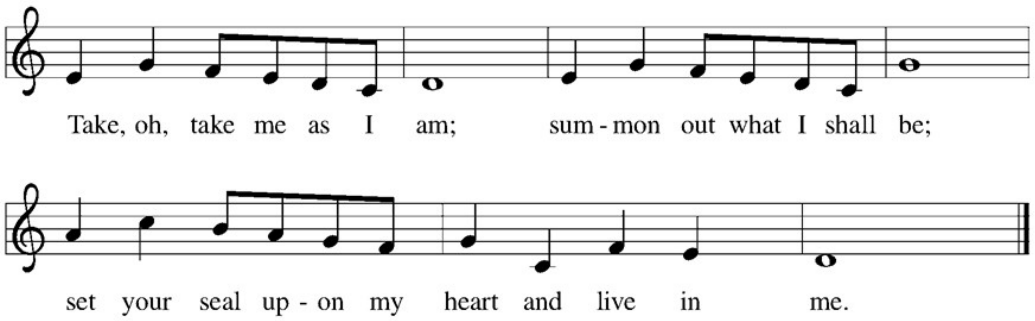
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

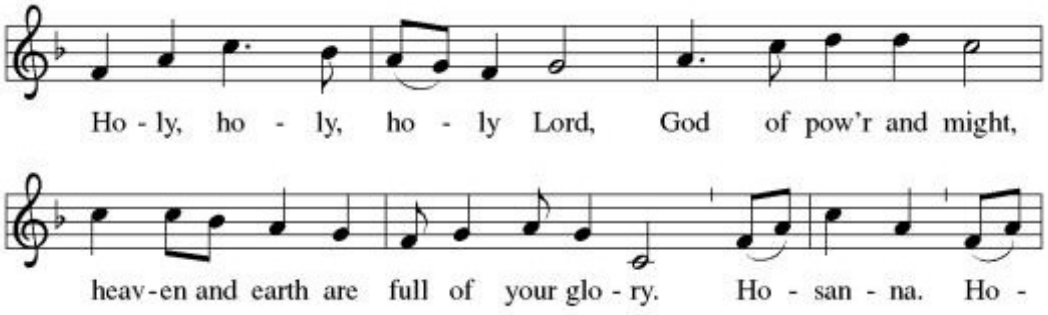
P: Lift up your hearts.

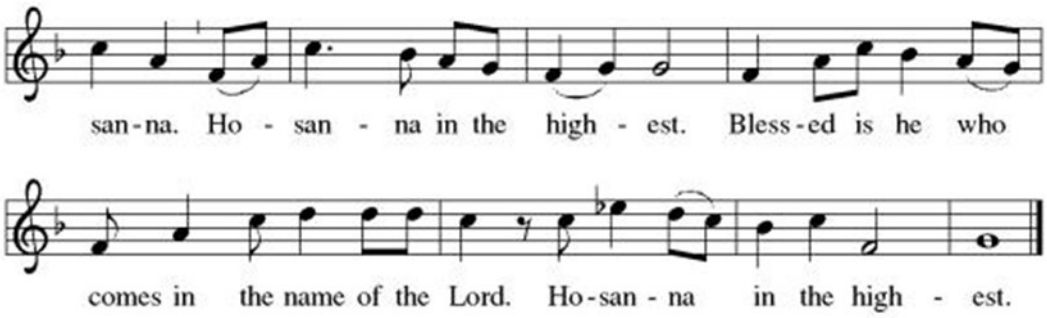
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

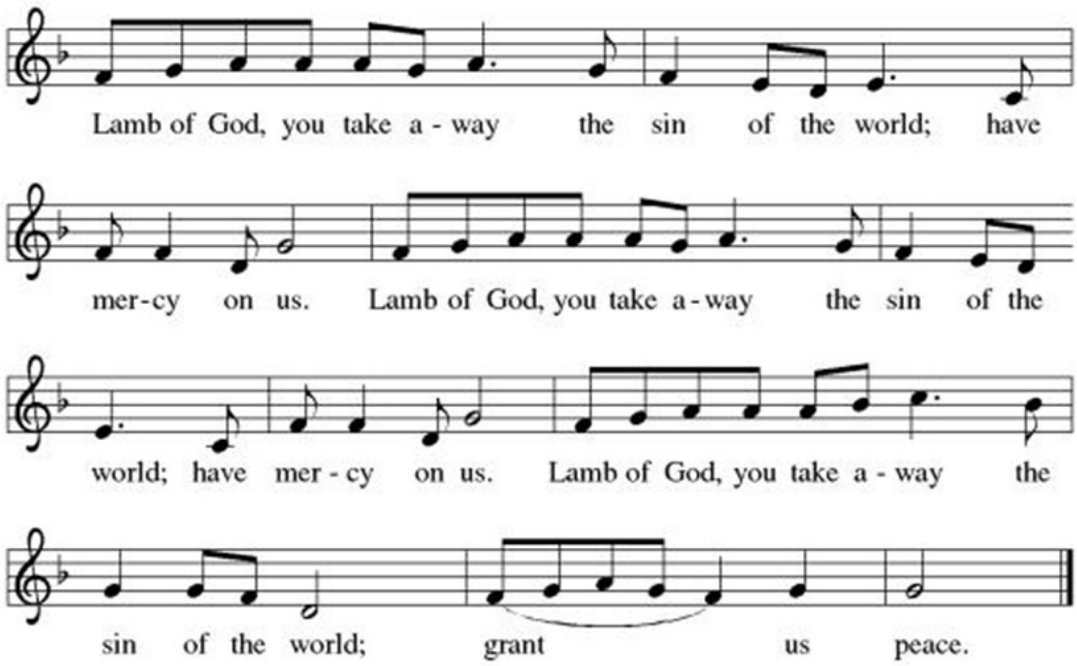
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
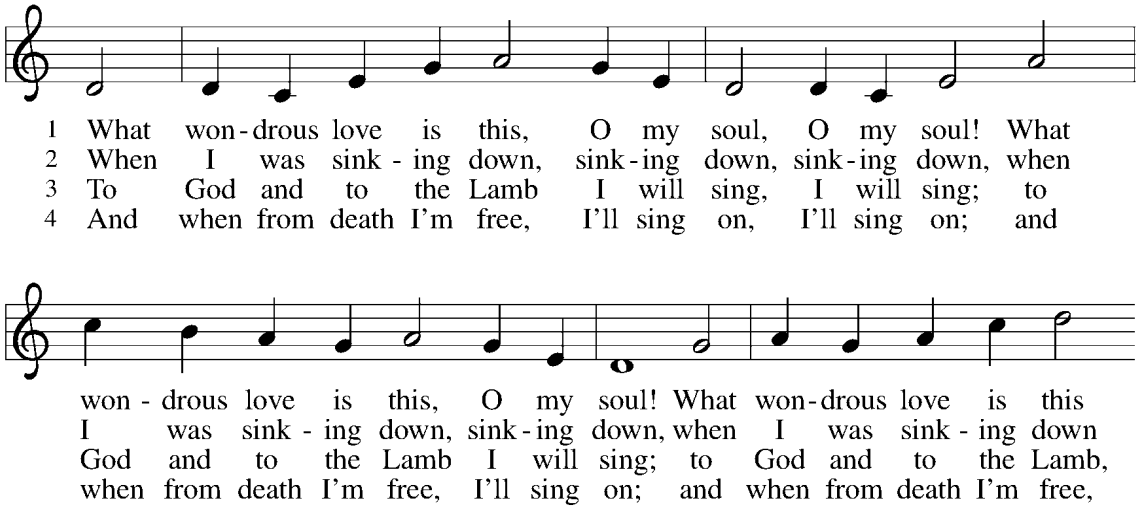
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



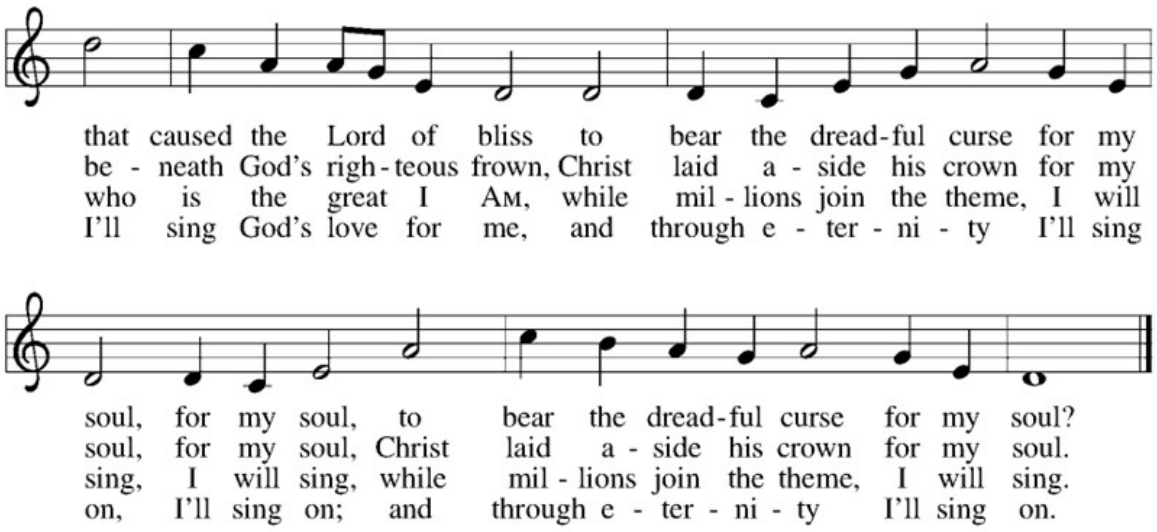
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

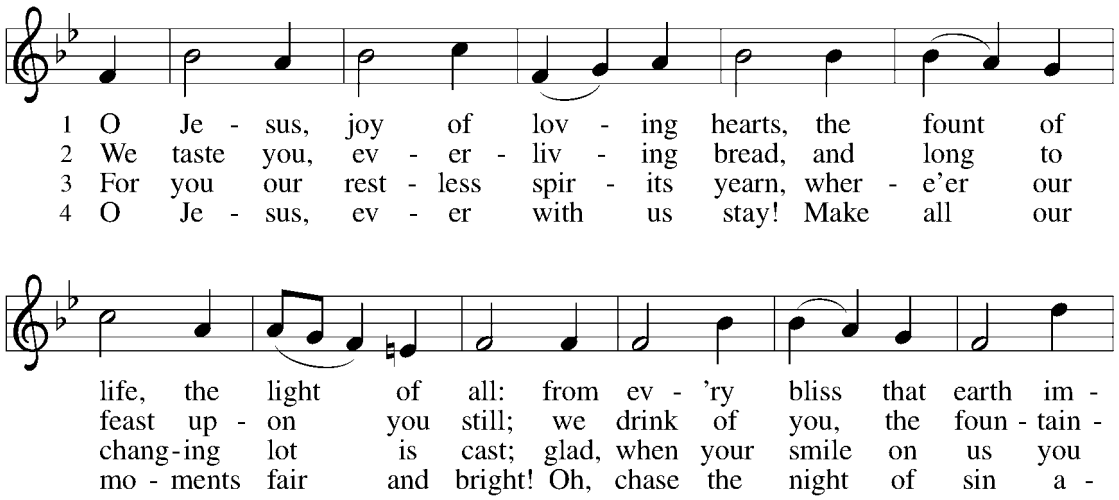
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
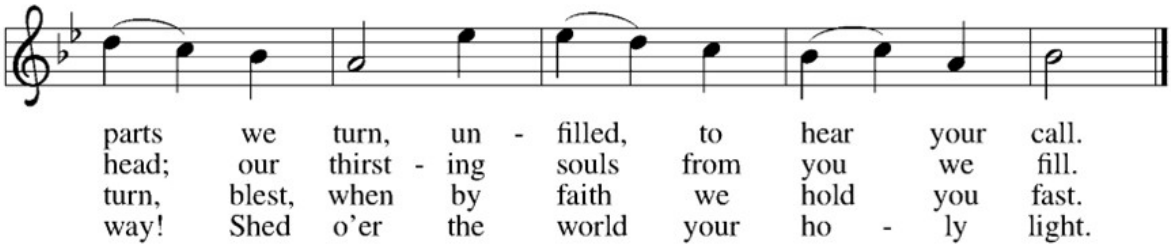
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

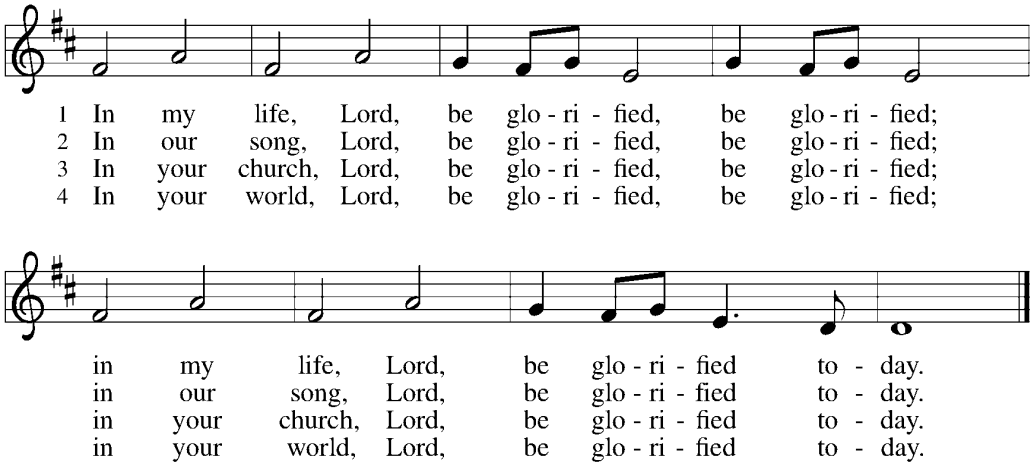
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

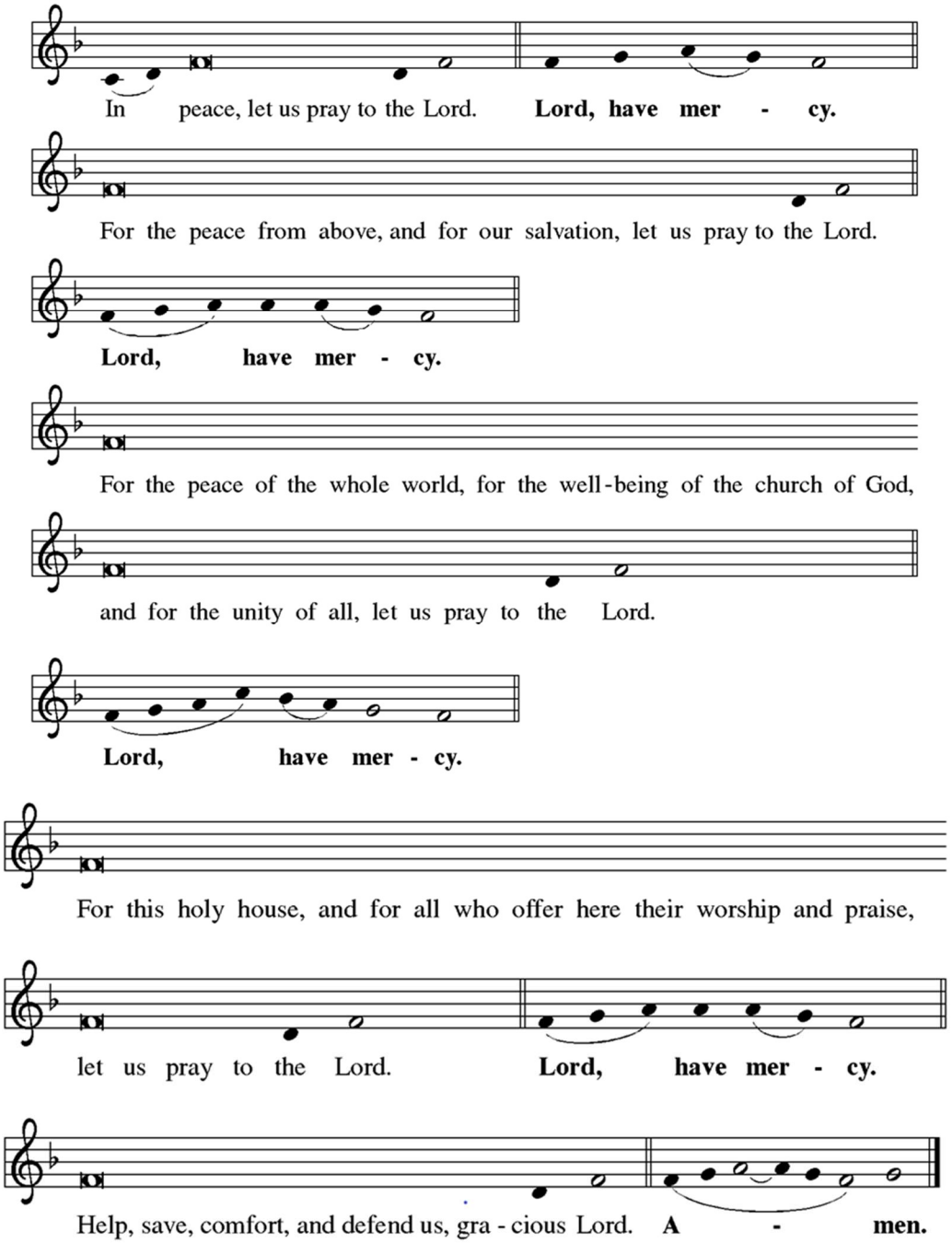
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

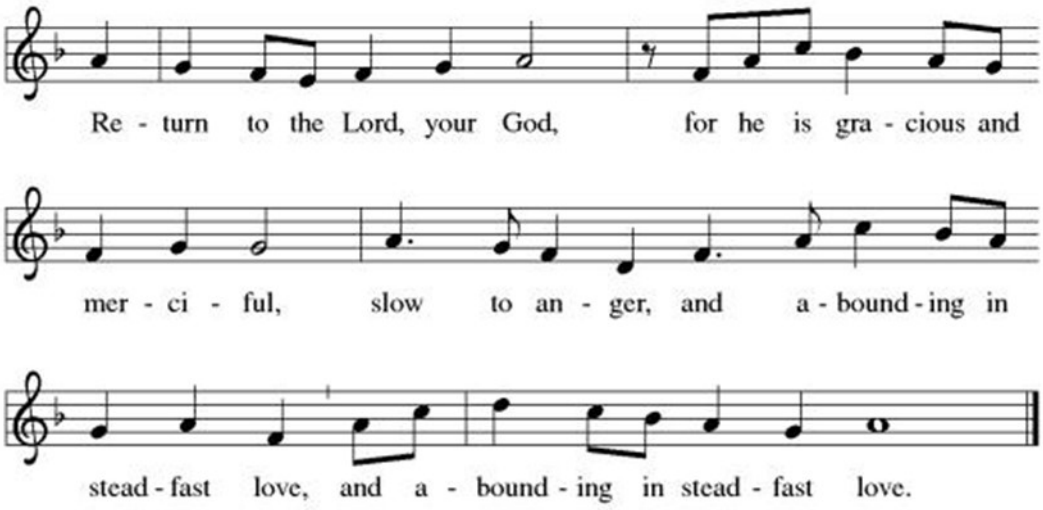
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

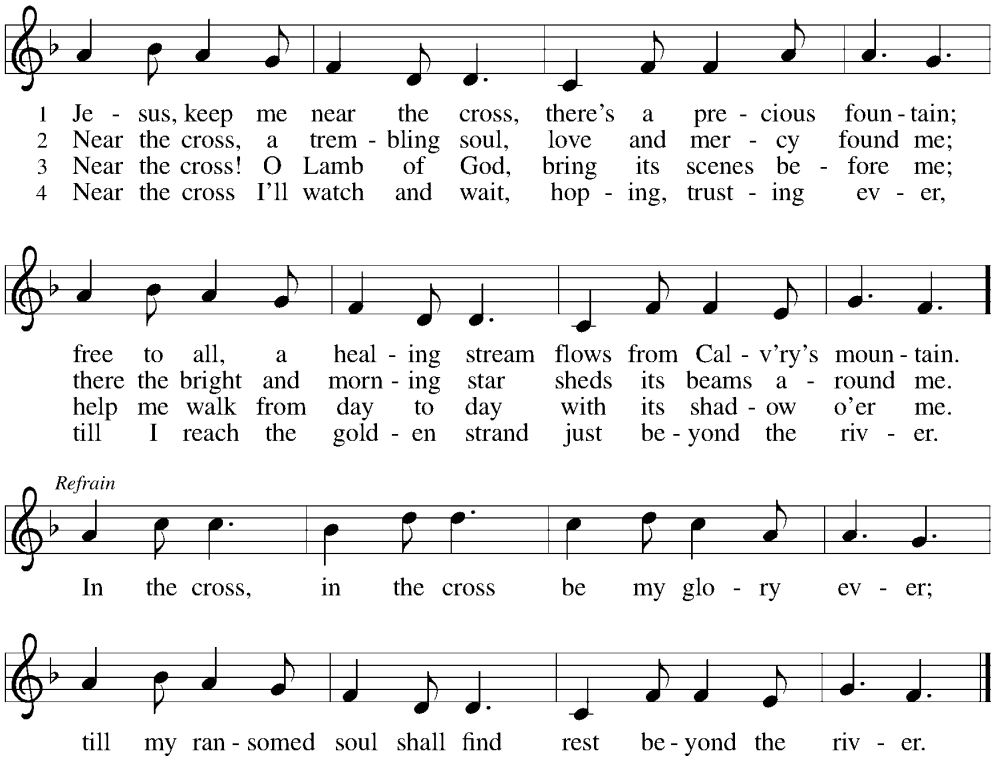
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

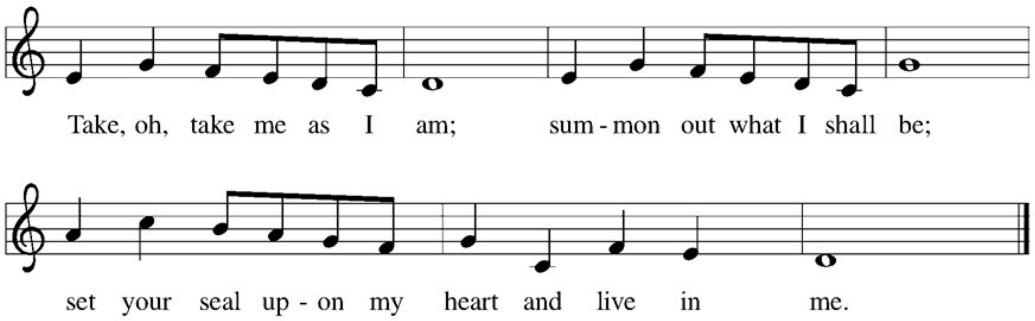
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

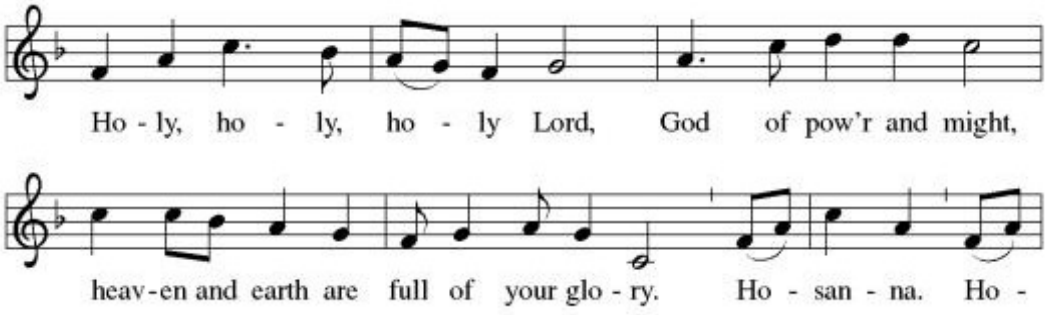
P: Lift up your hearts.

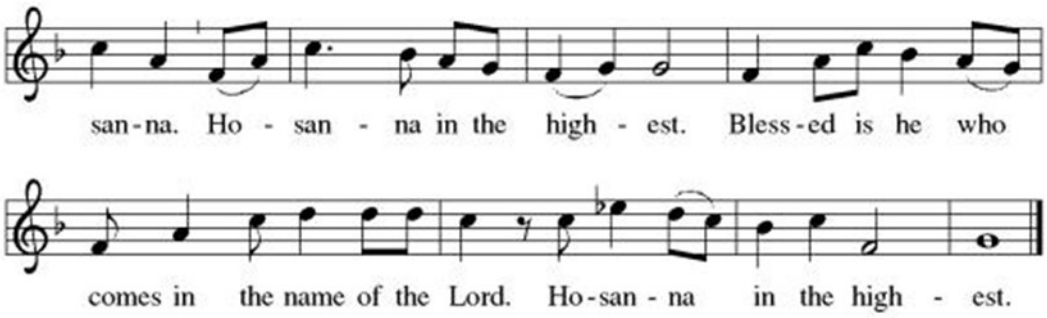
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

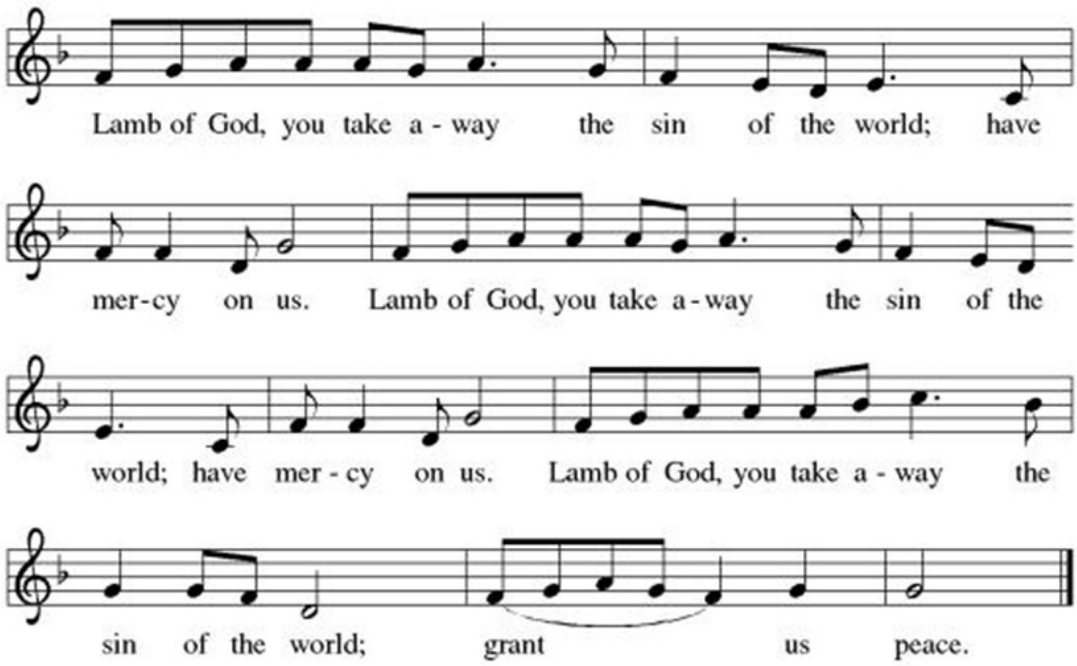
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
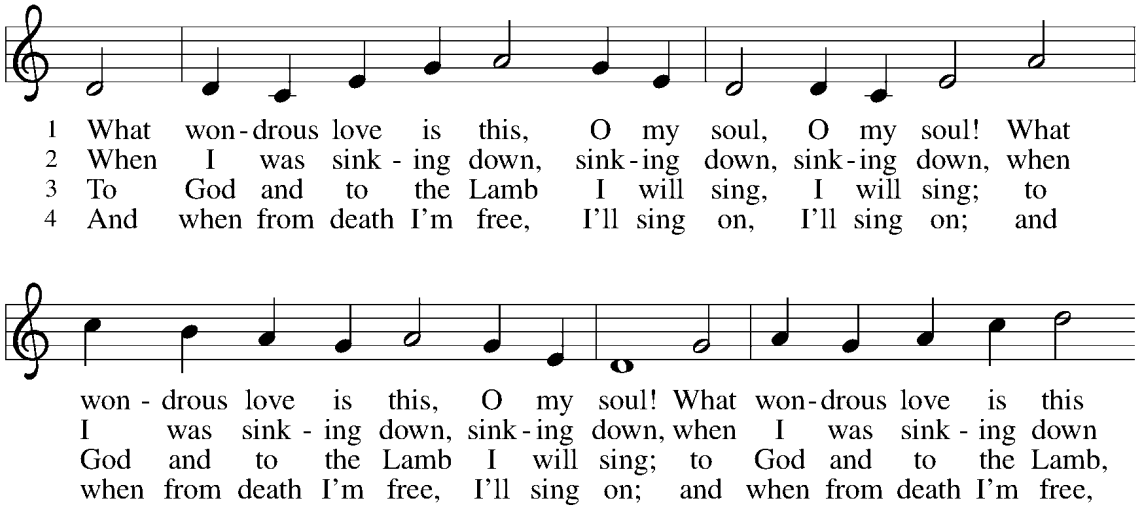
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



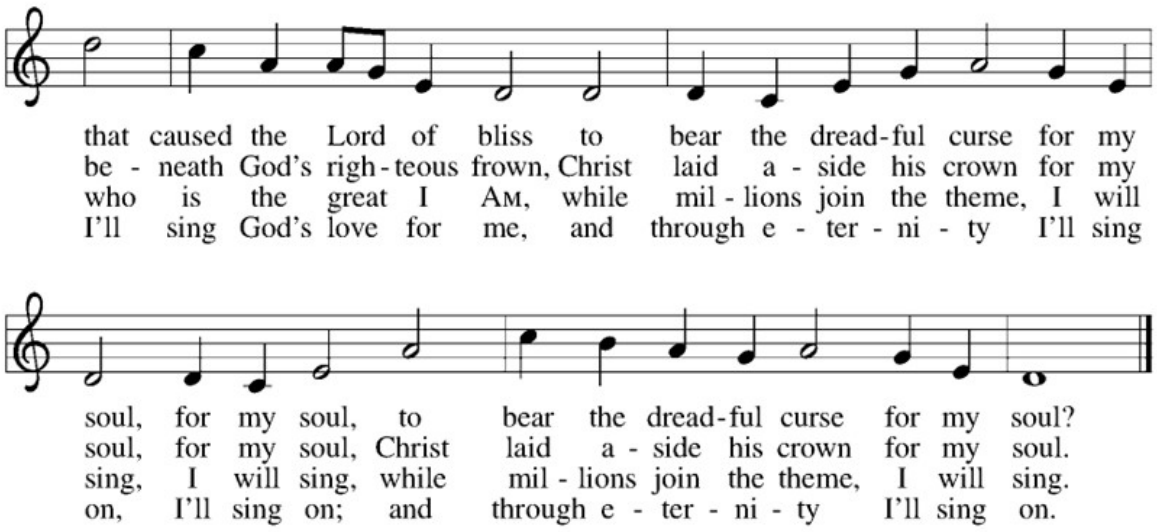
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

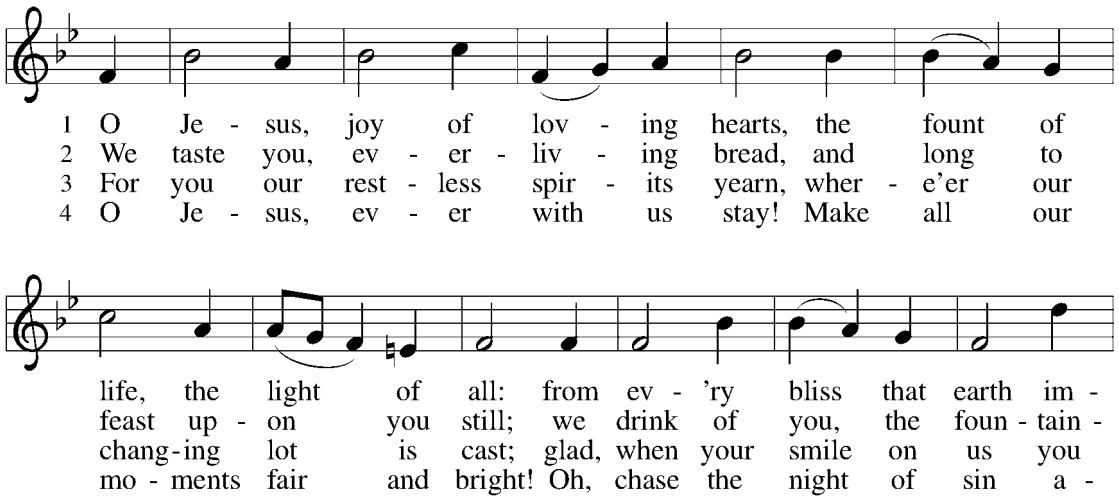
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
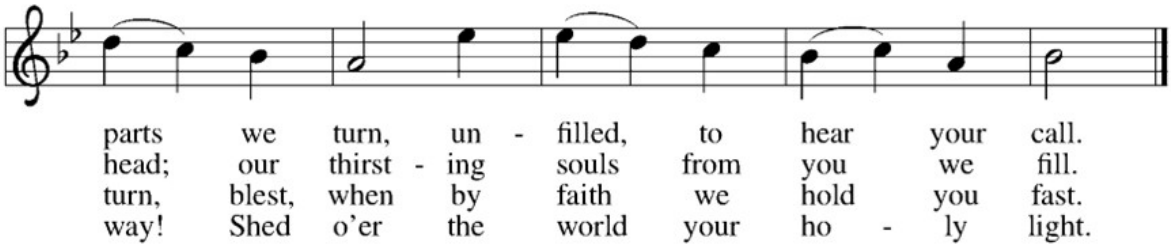
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

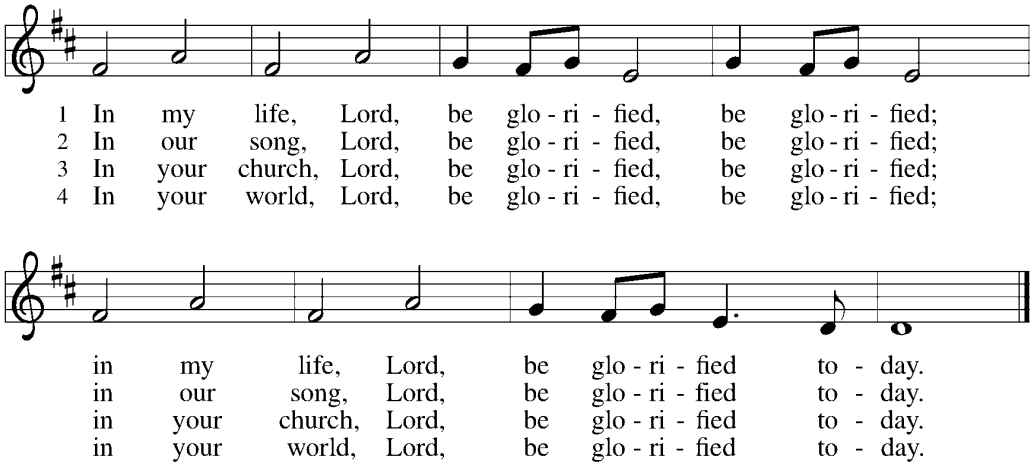
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

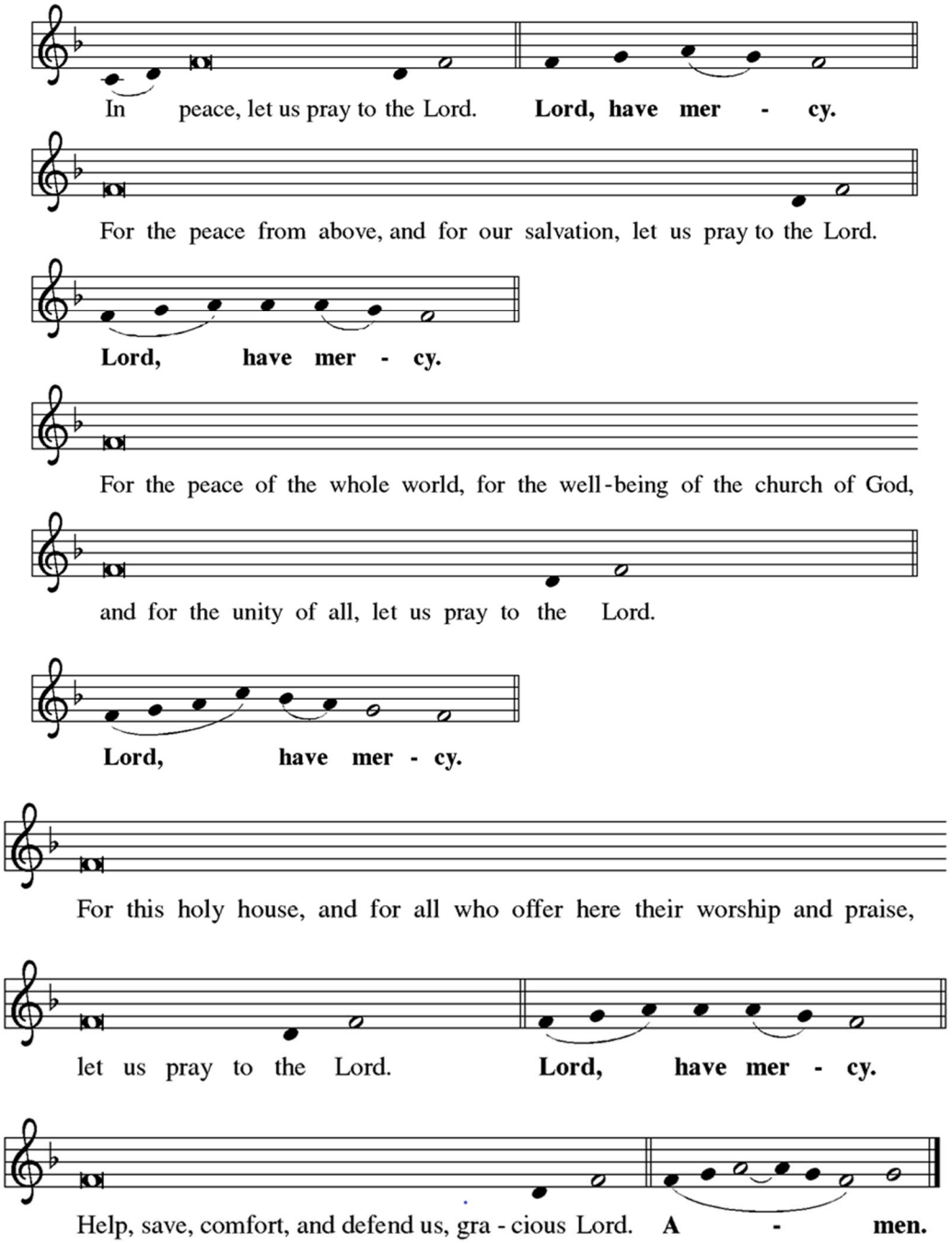
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

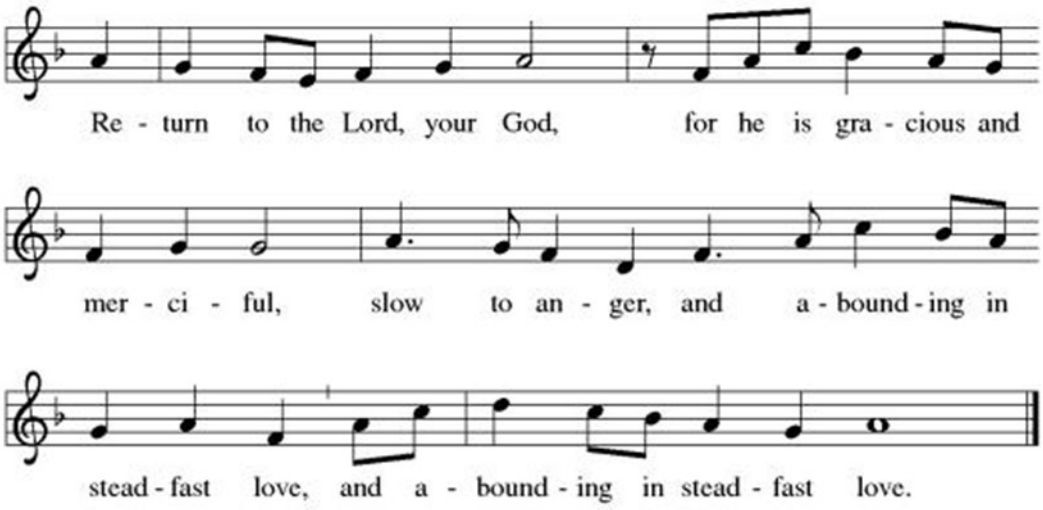
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

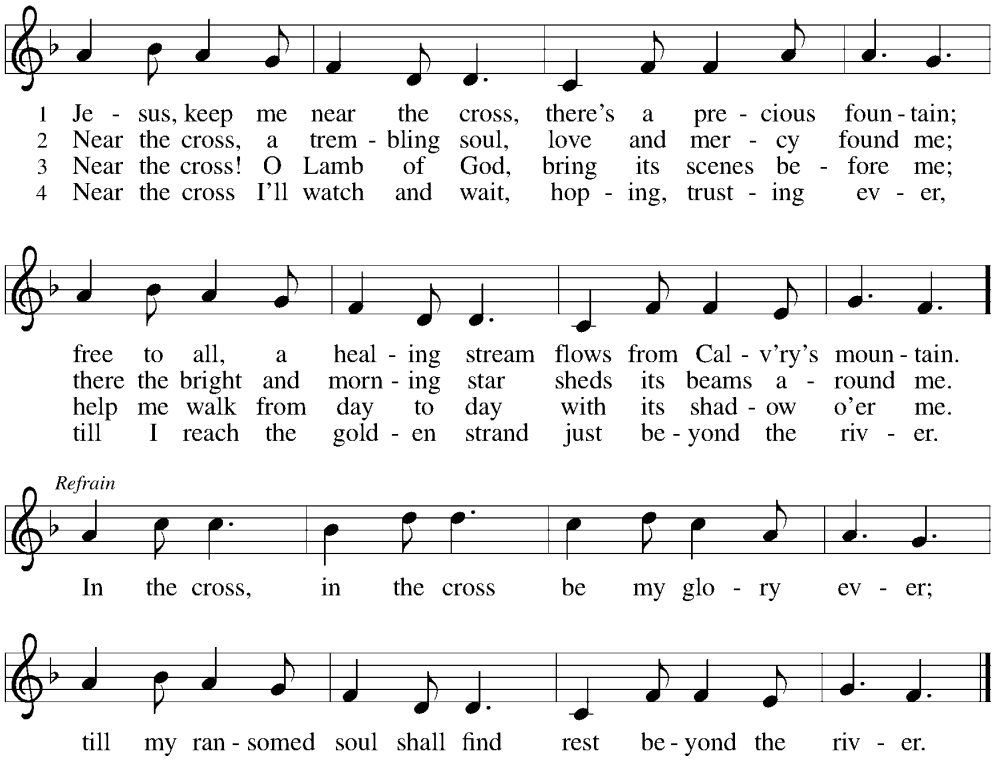
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

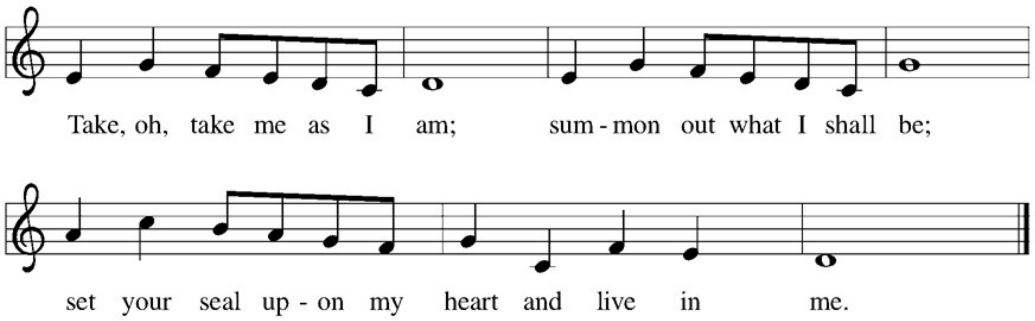
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

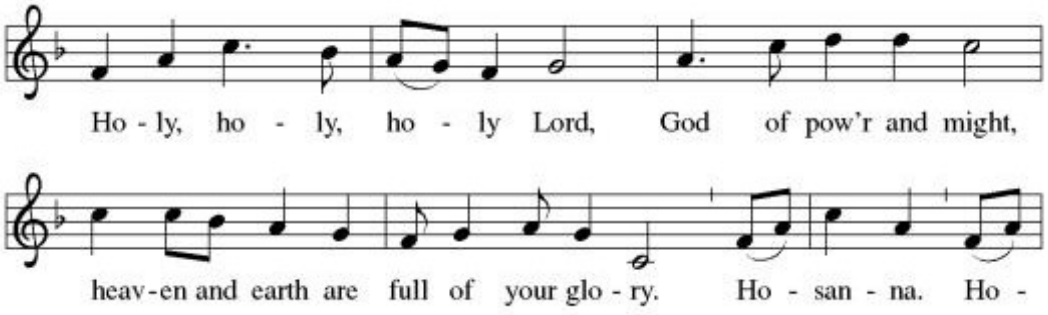
P: Lift up your hearts.

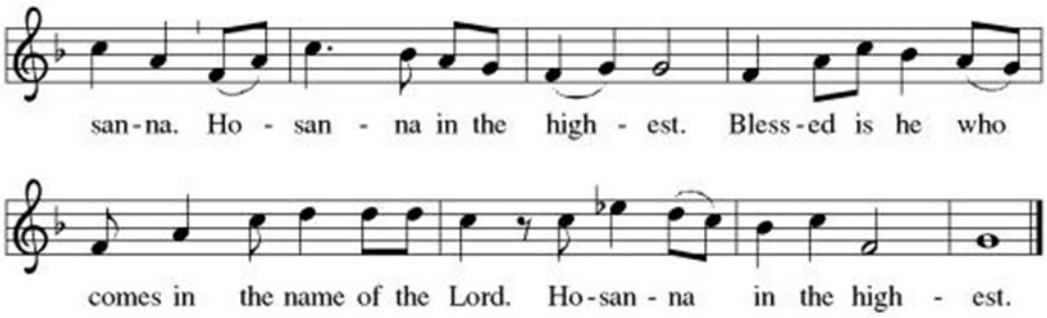
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

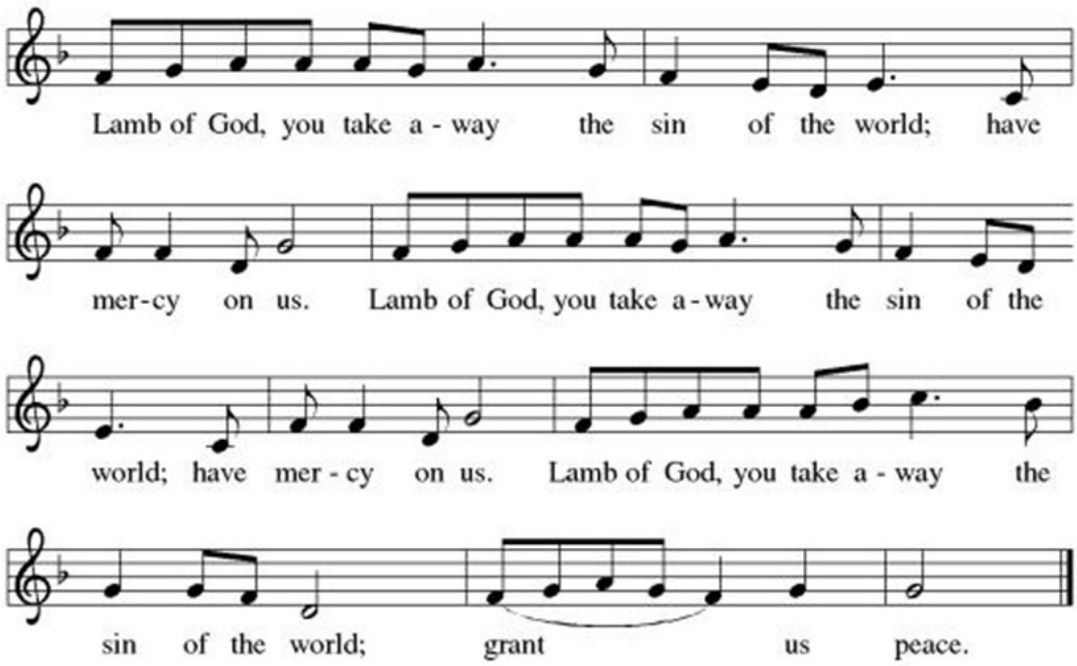
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
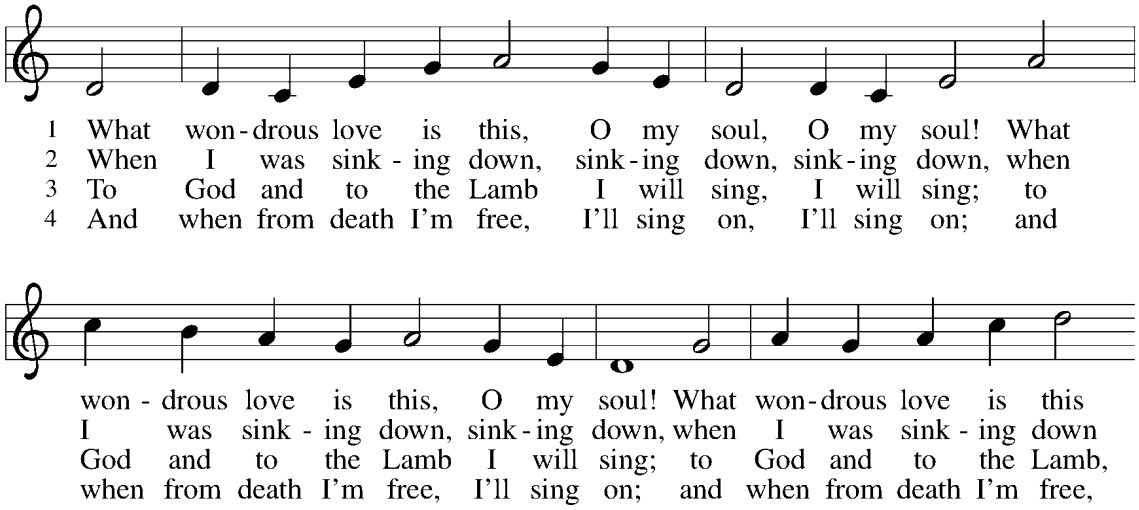
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



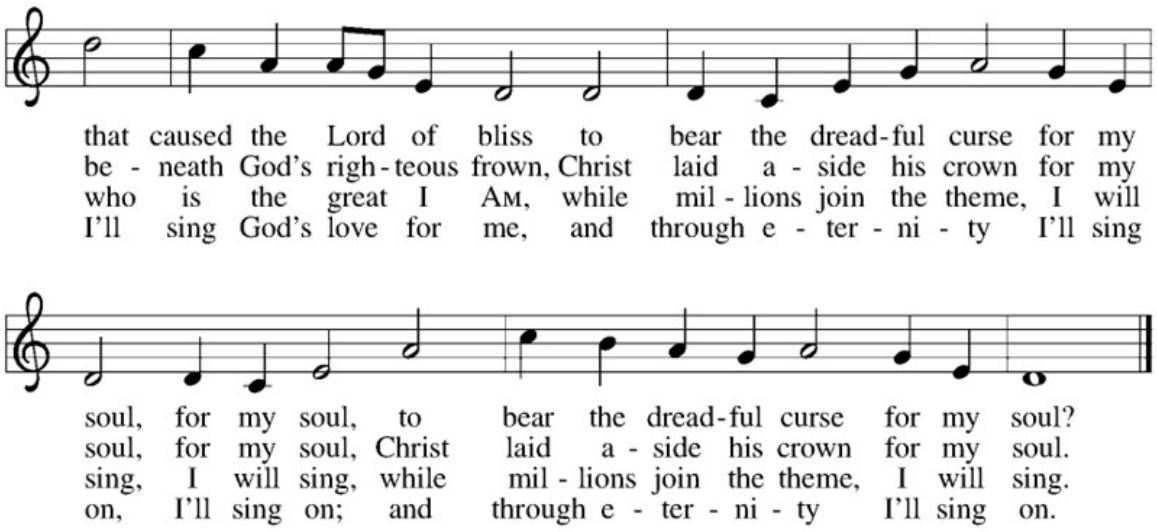
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

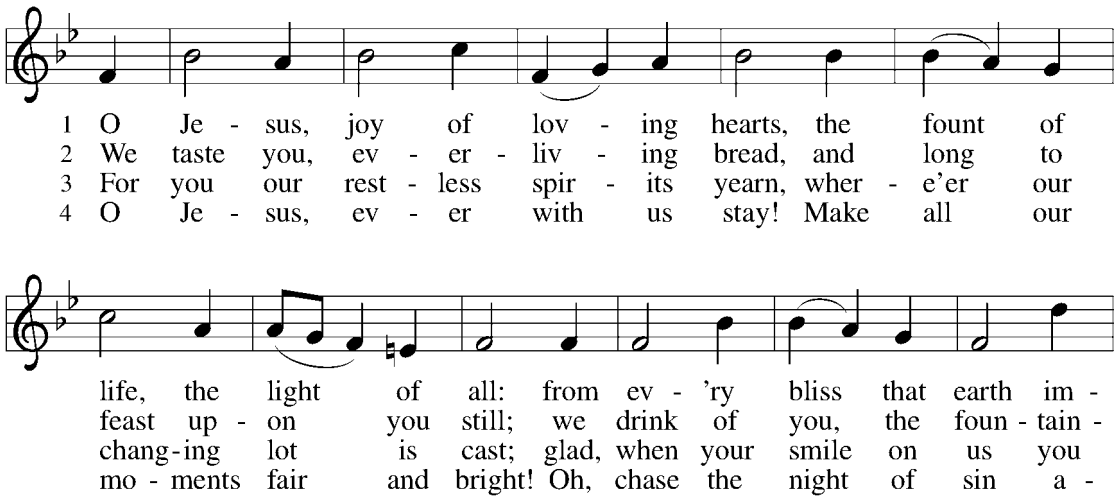
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
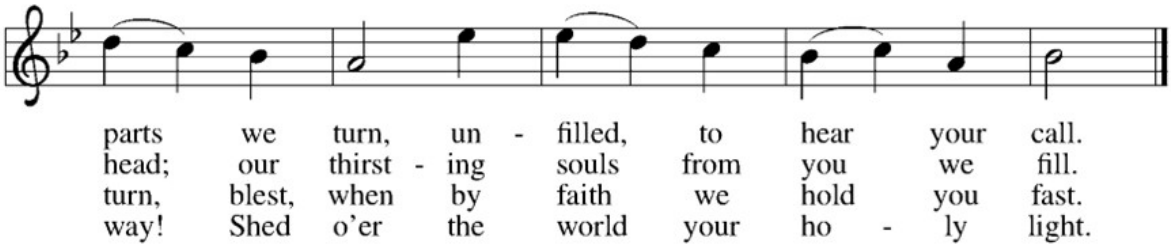
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

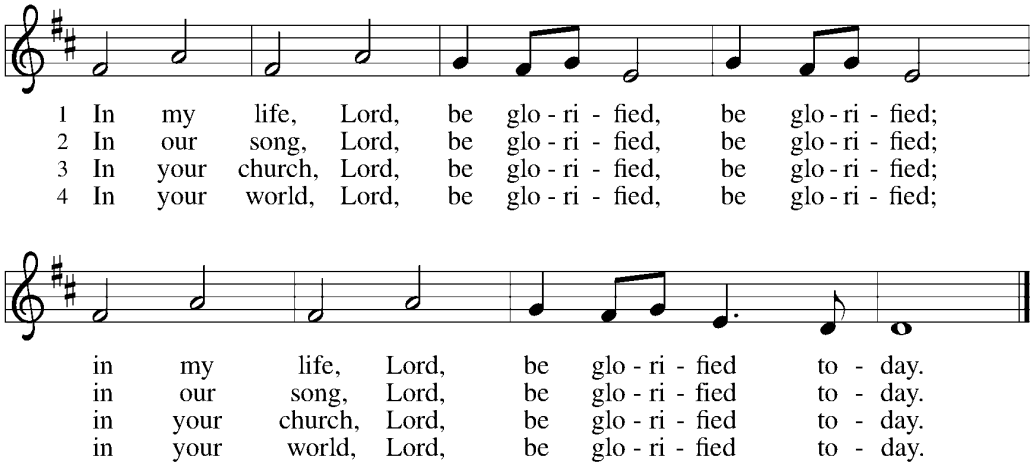
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

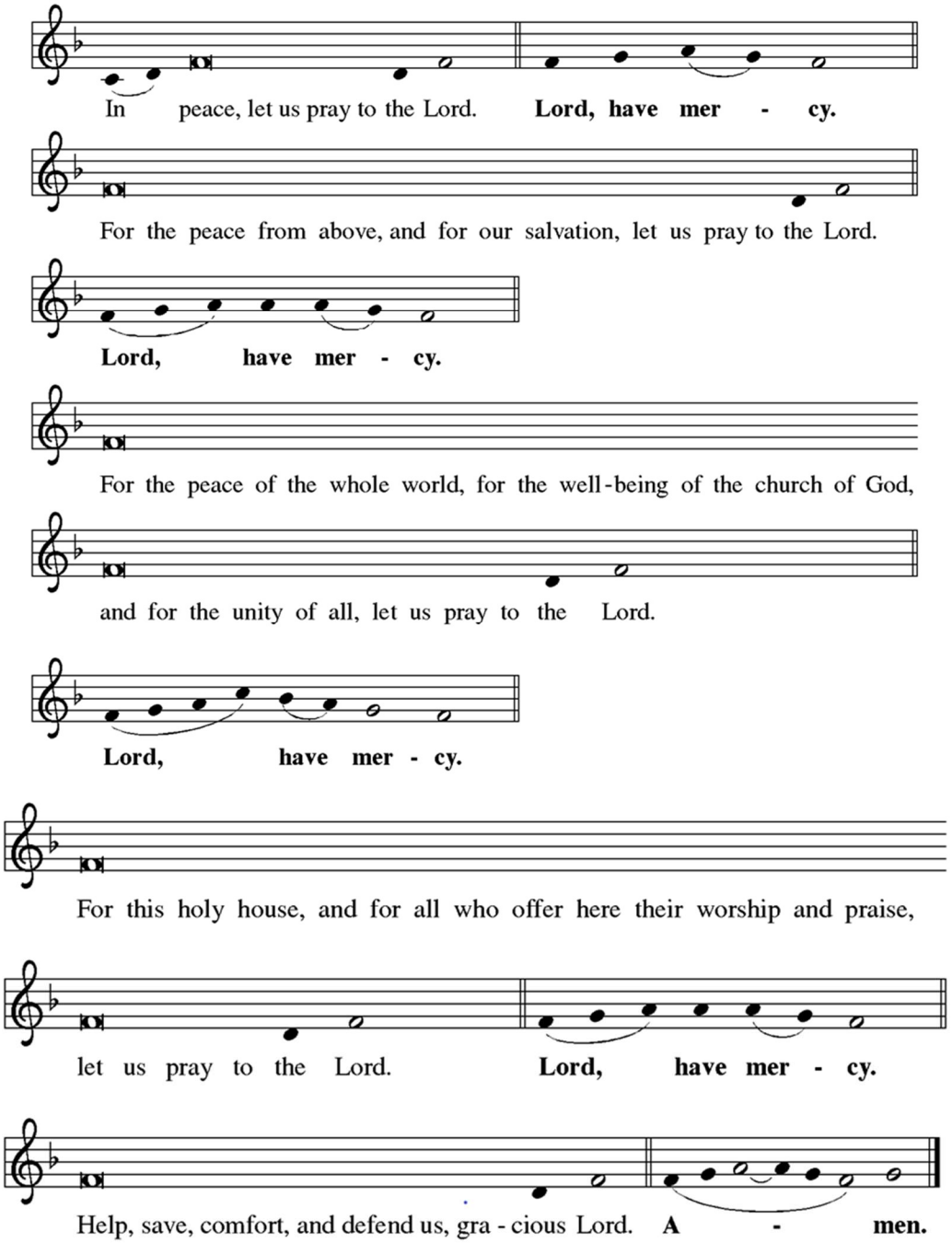
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

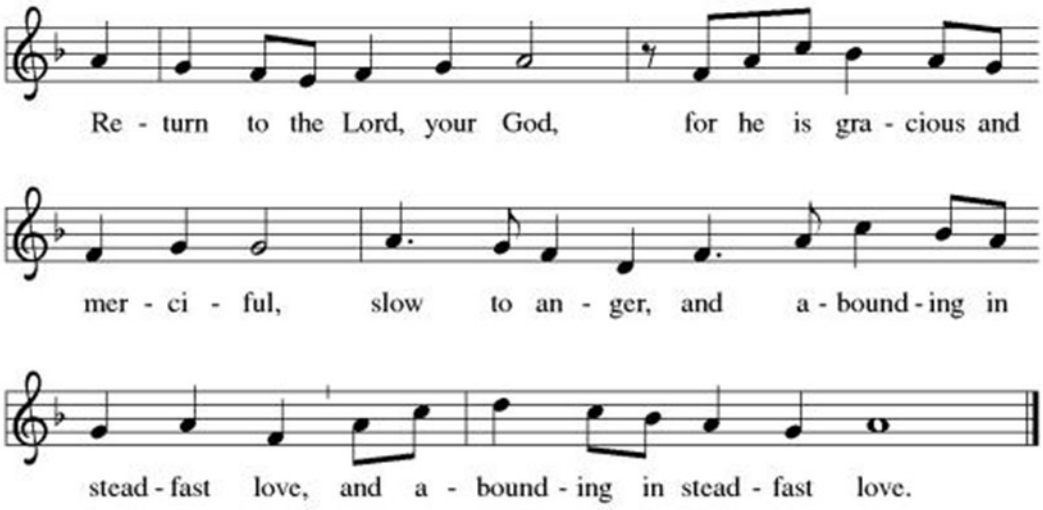
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

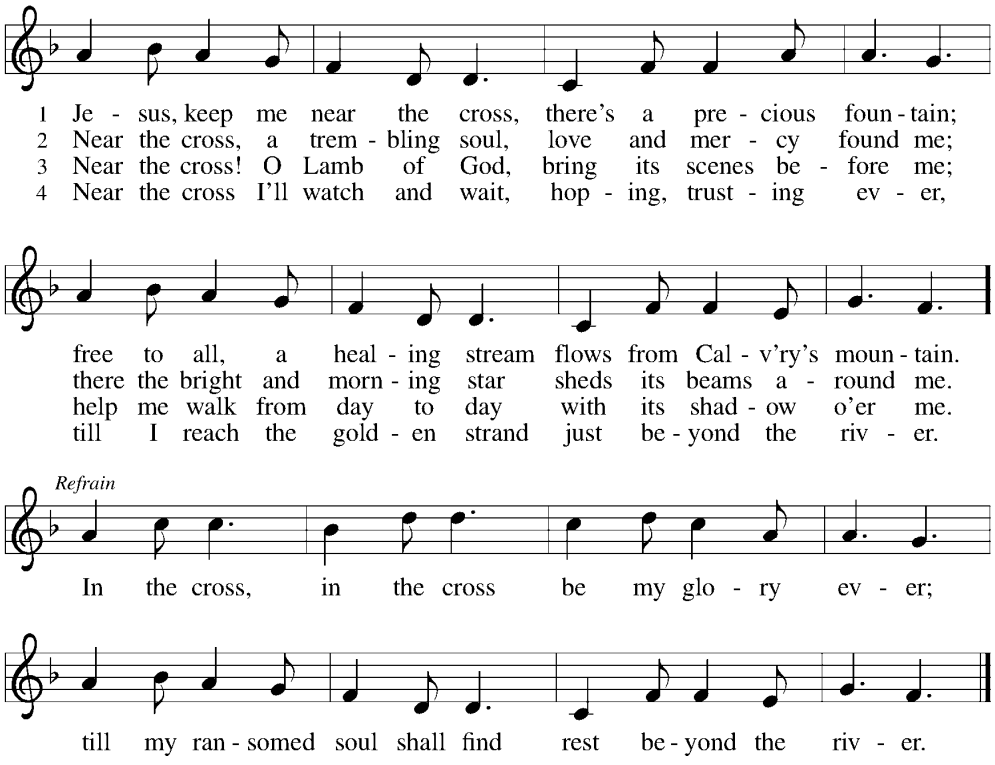
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

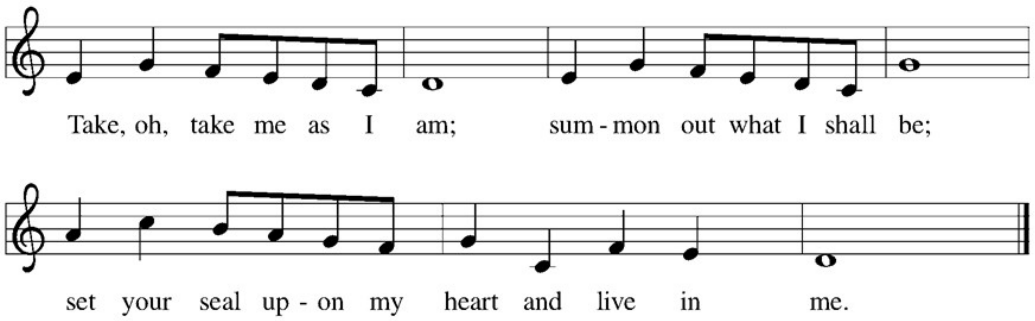
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

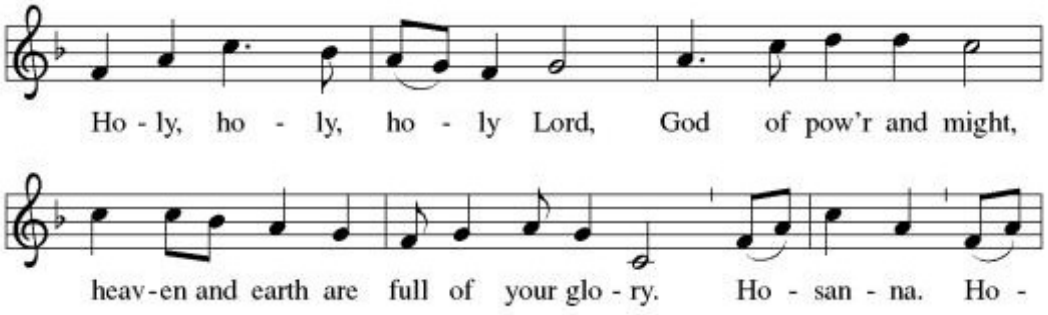
P: Lift up your hearts.

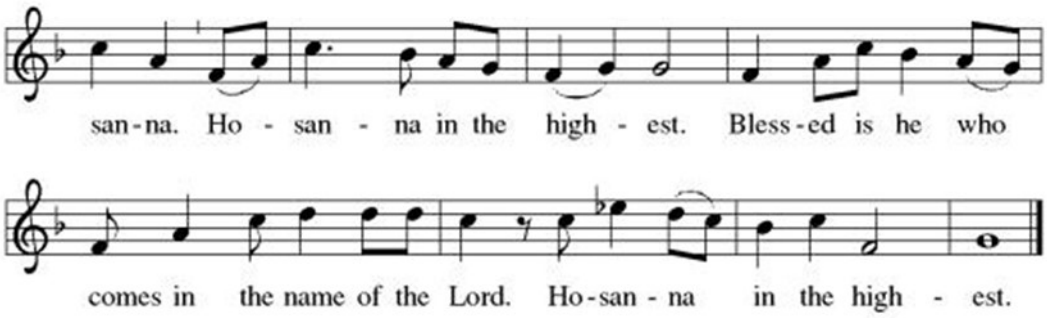
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

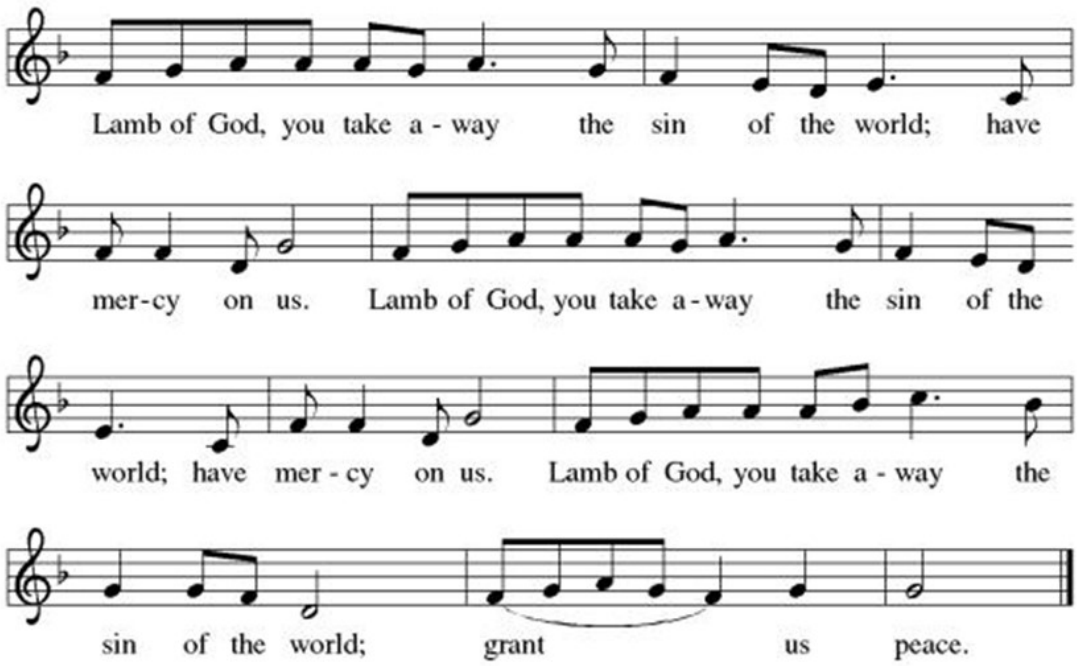
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
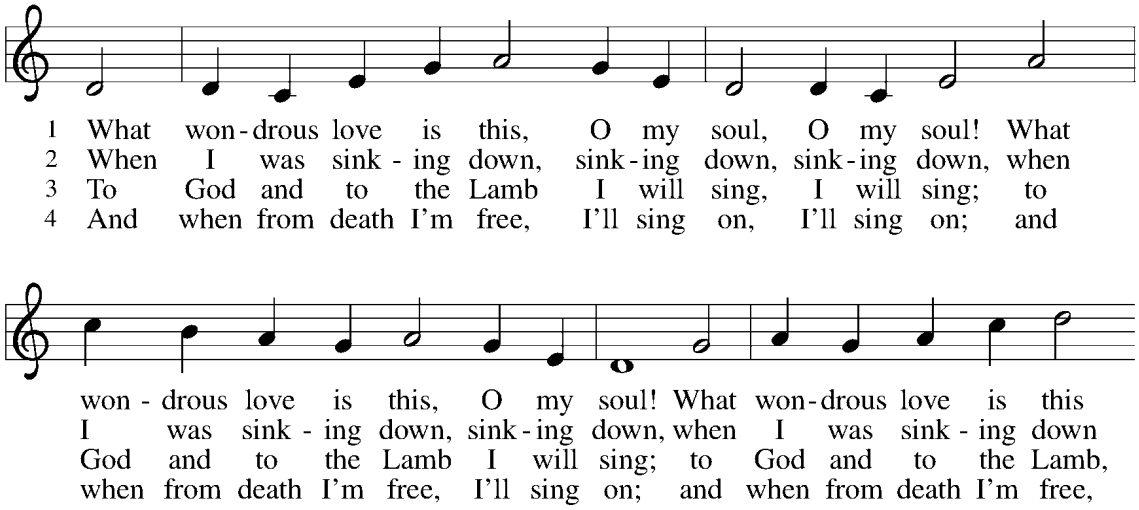
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



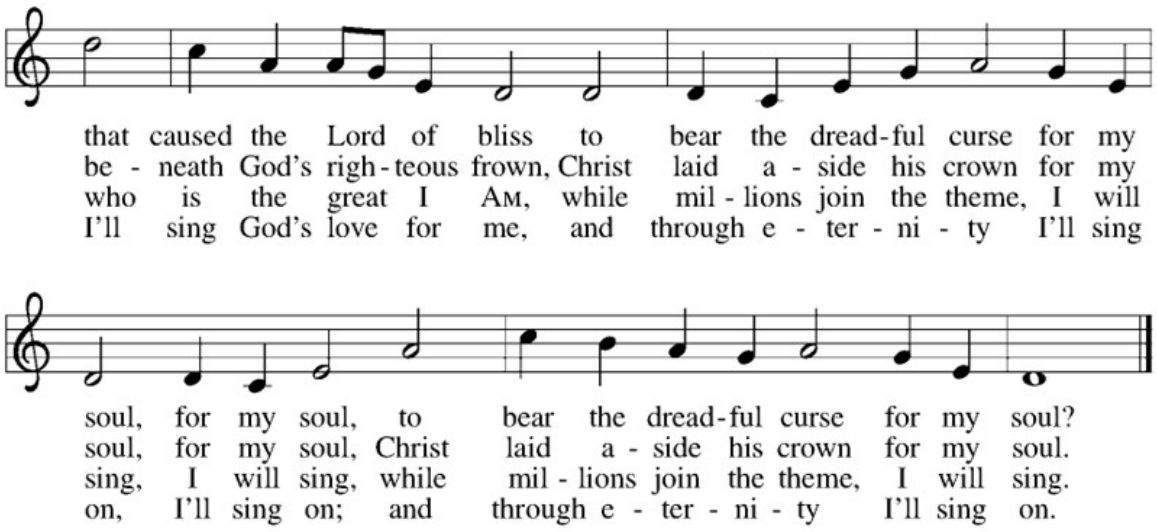
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

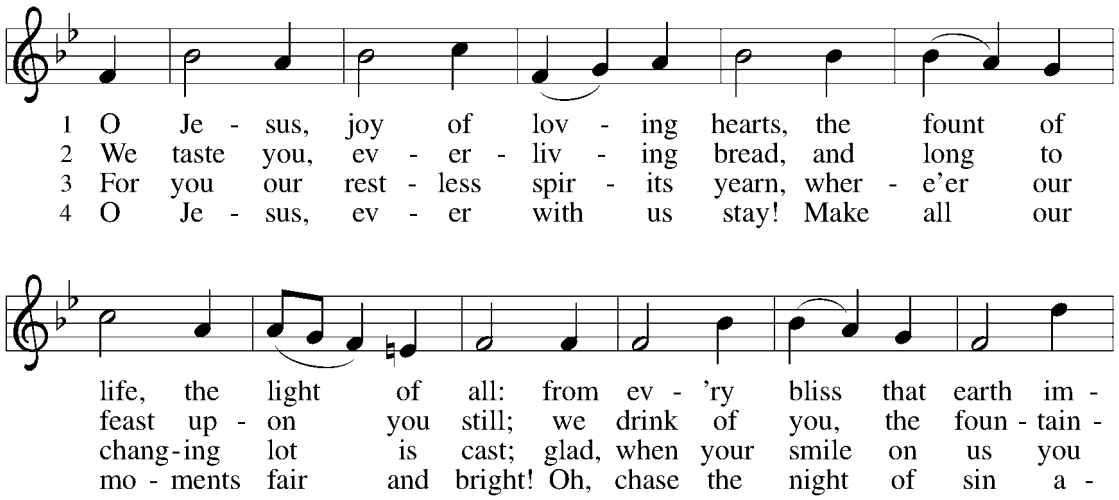
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
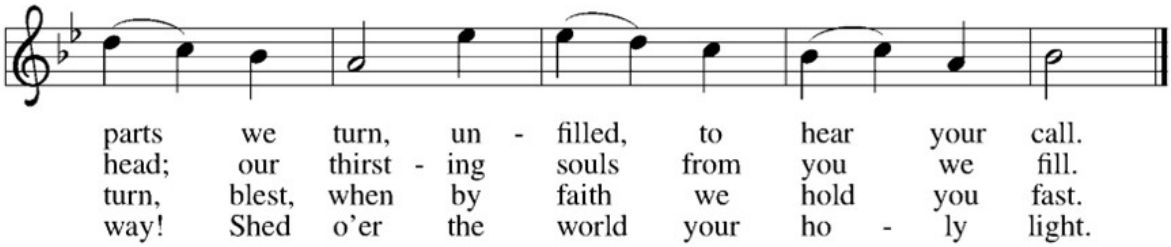
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

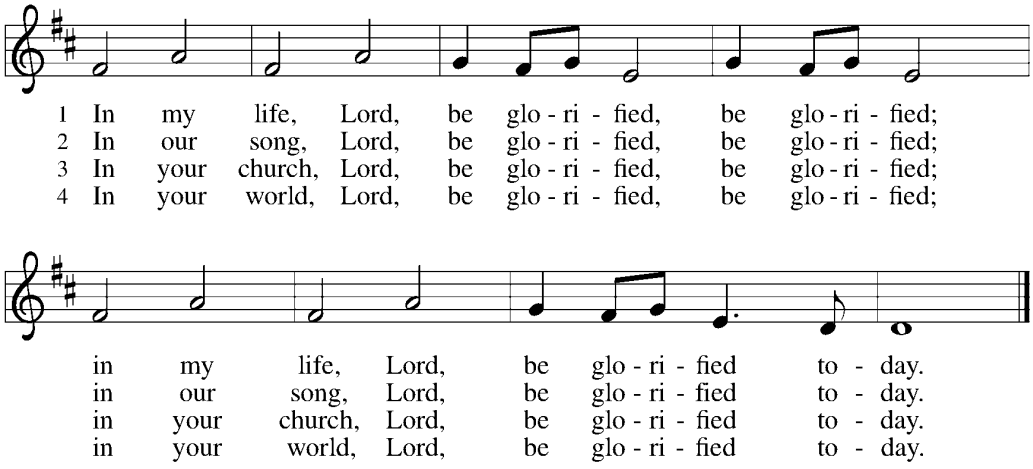
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

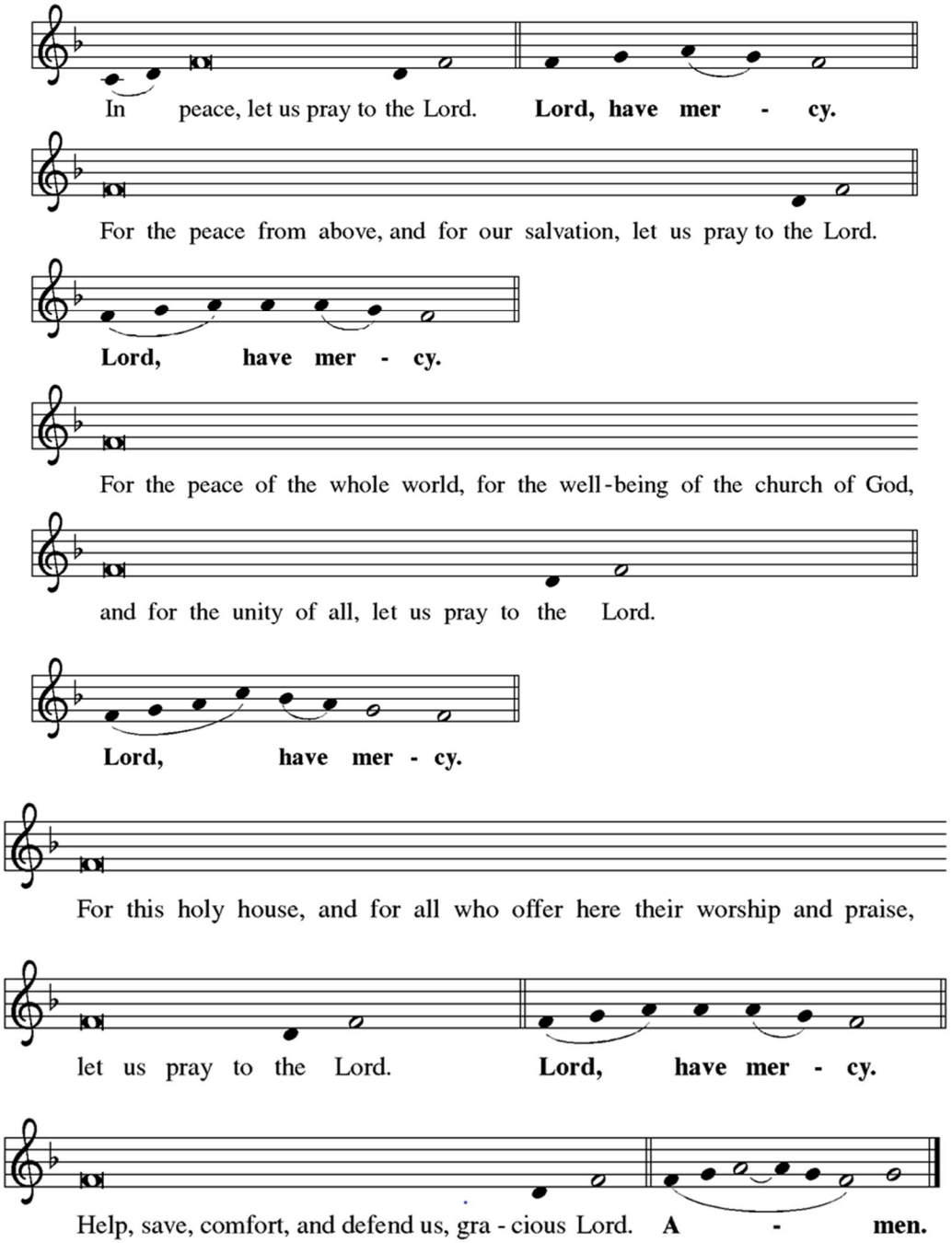
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

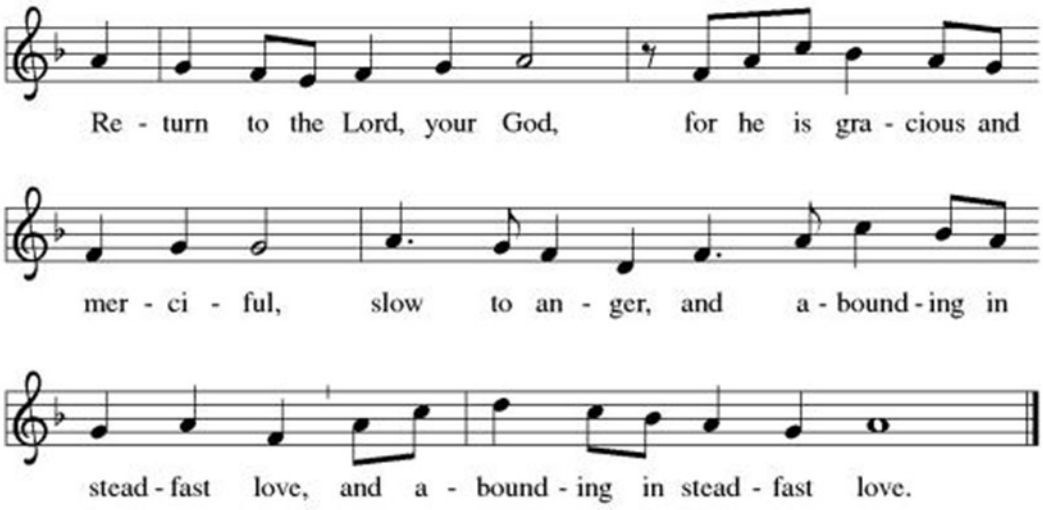
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

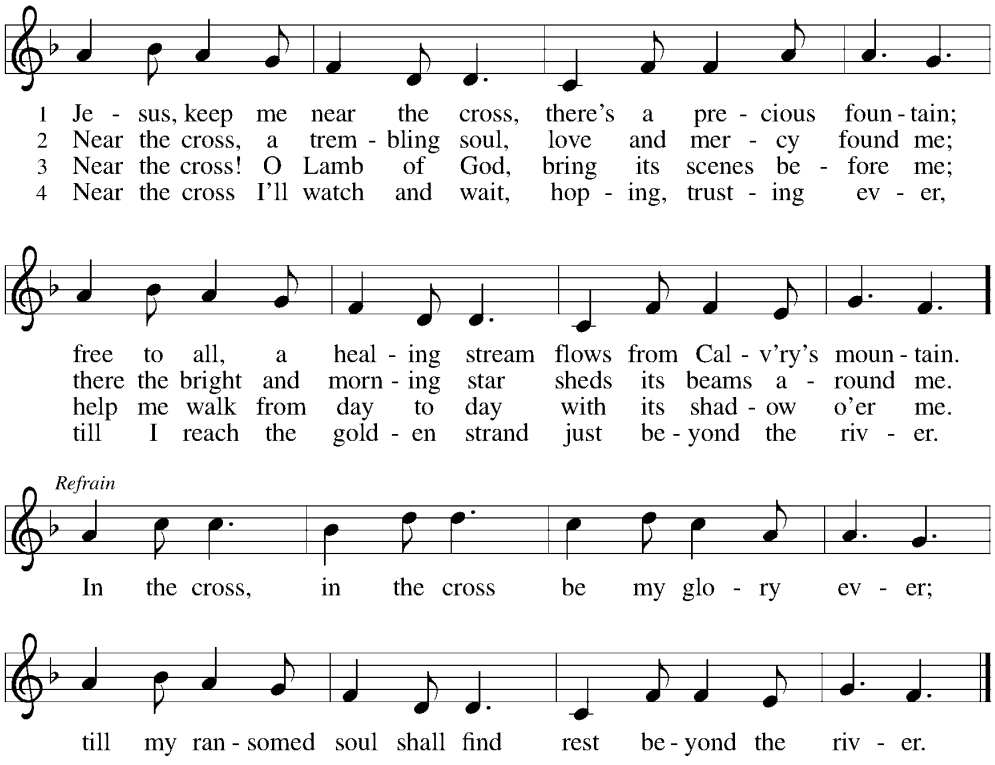
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

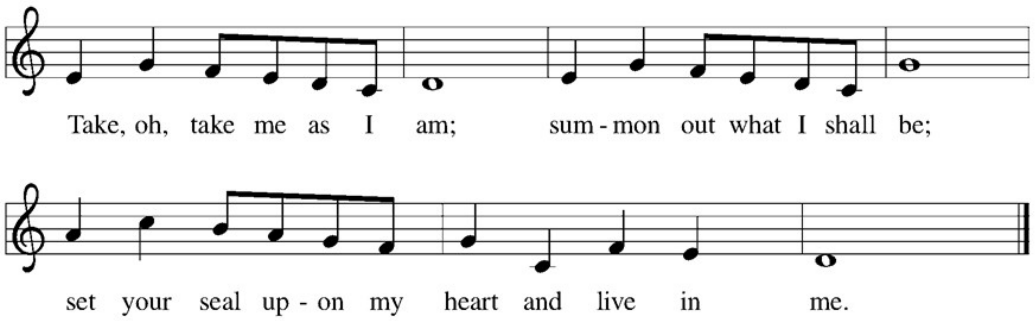
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

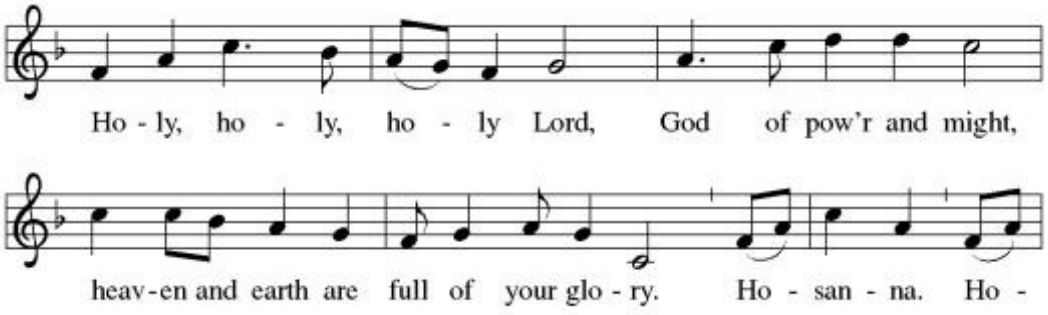
P: Lift up your hearts.

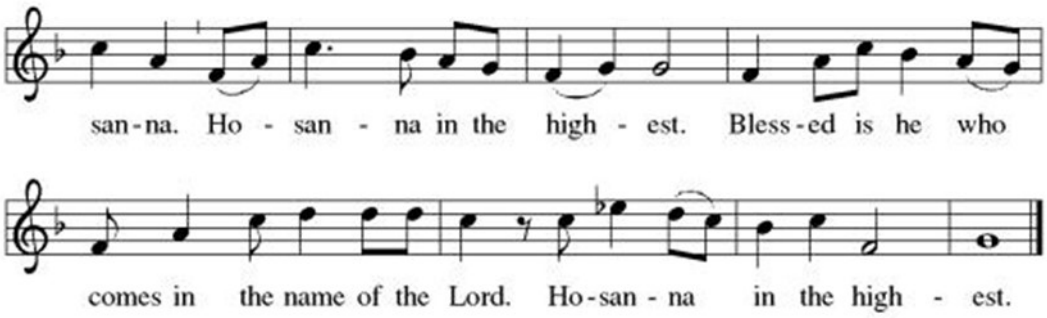
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

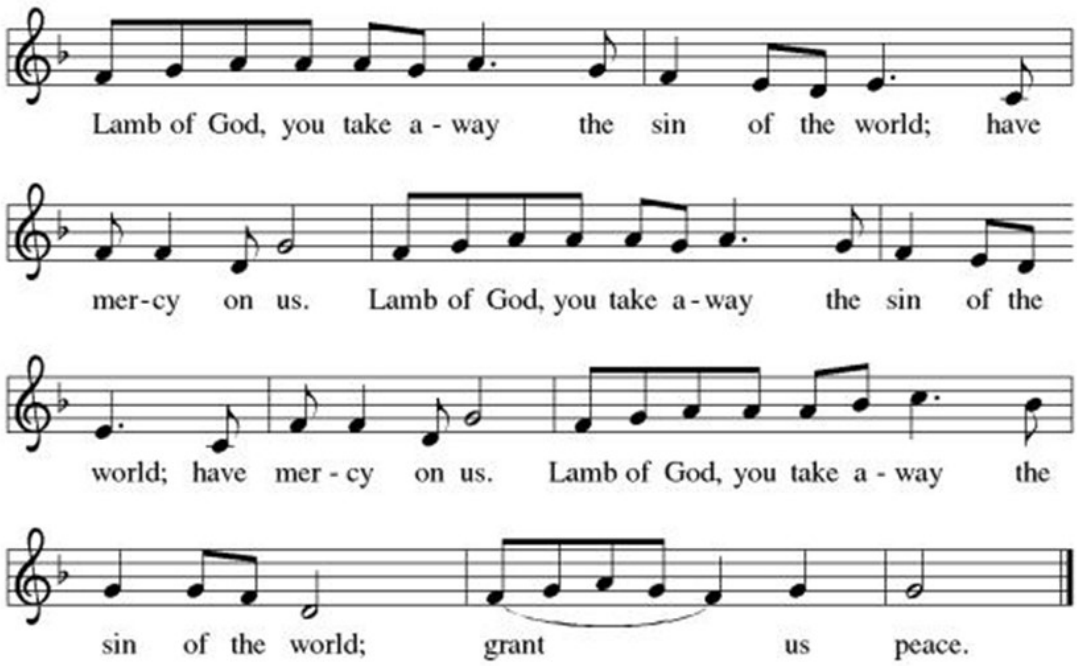
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
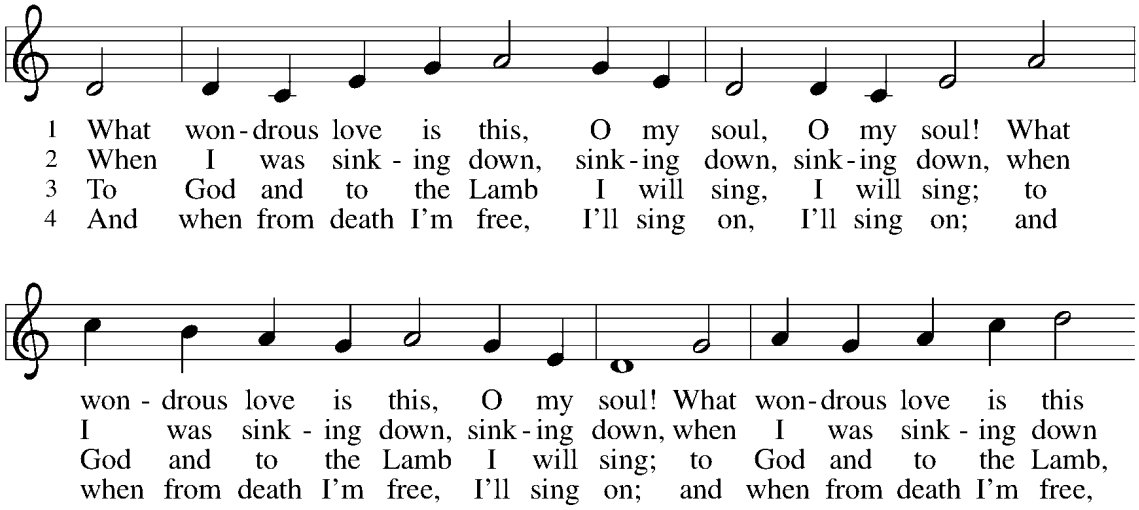
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



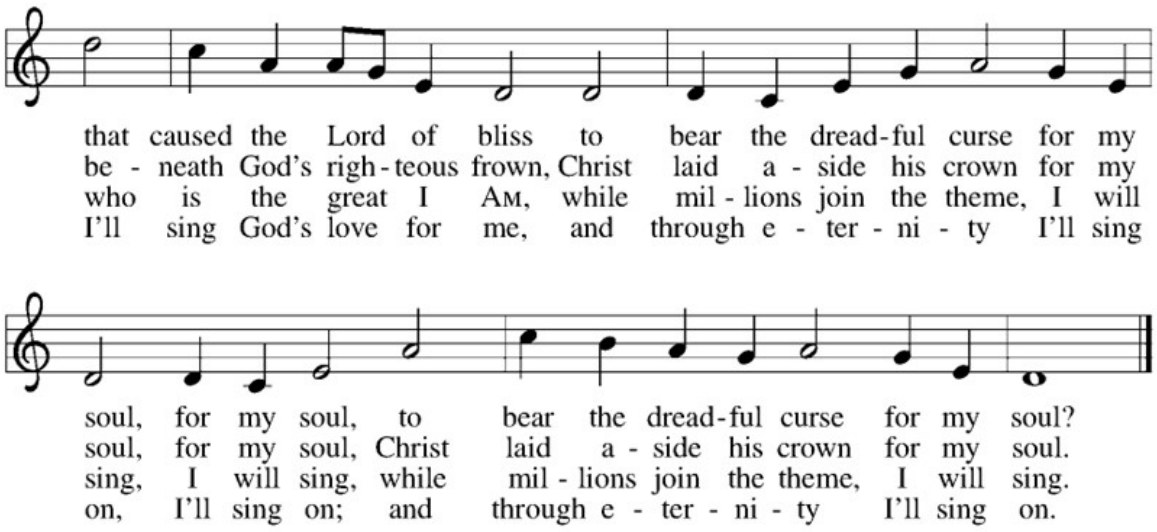
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

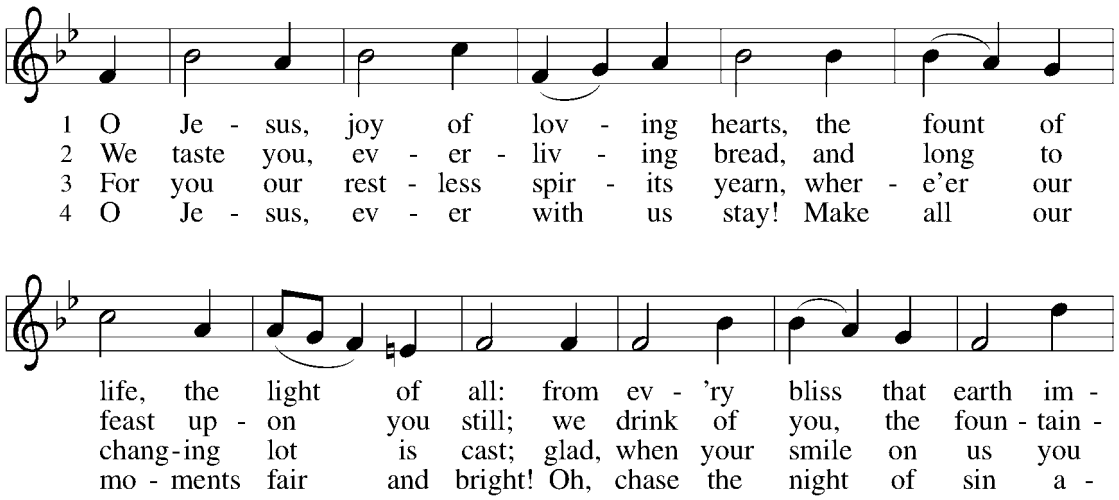
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
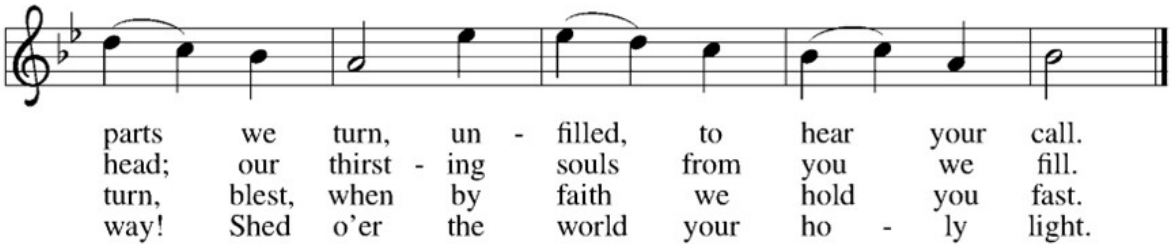
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

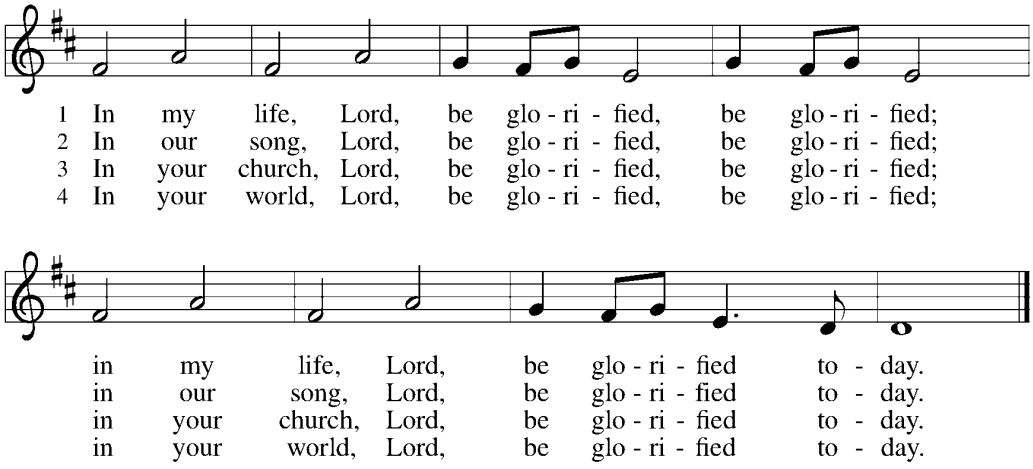
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

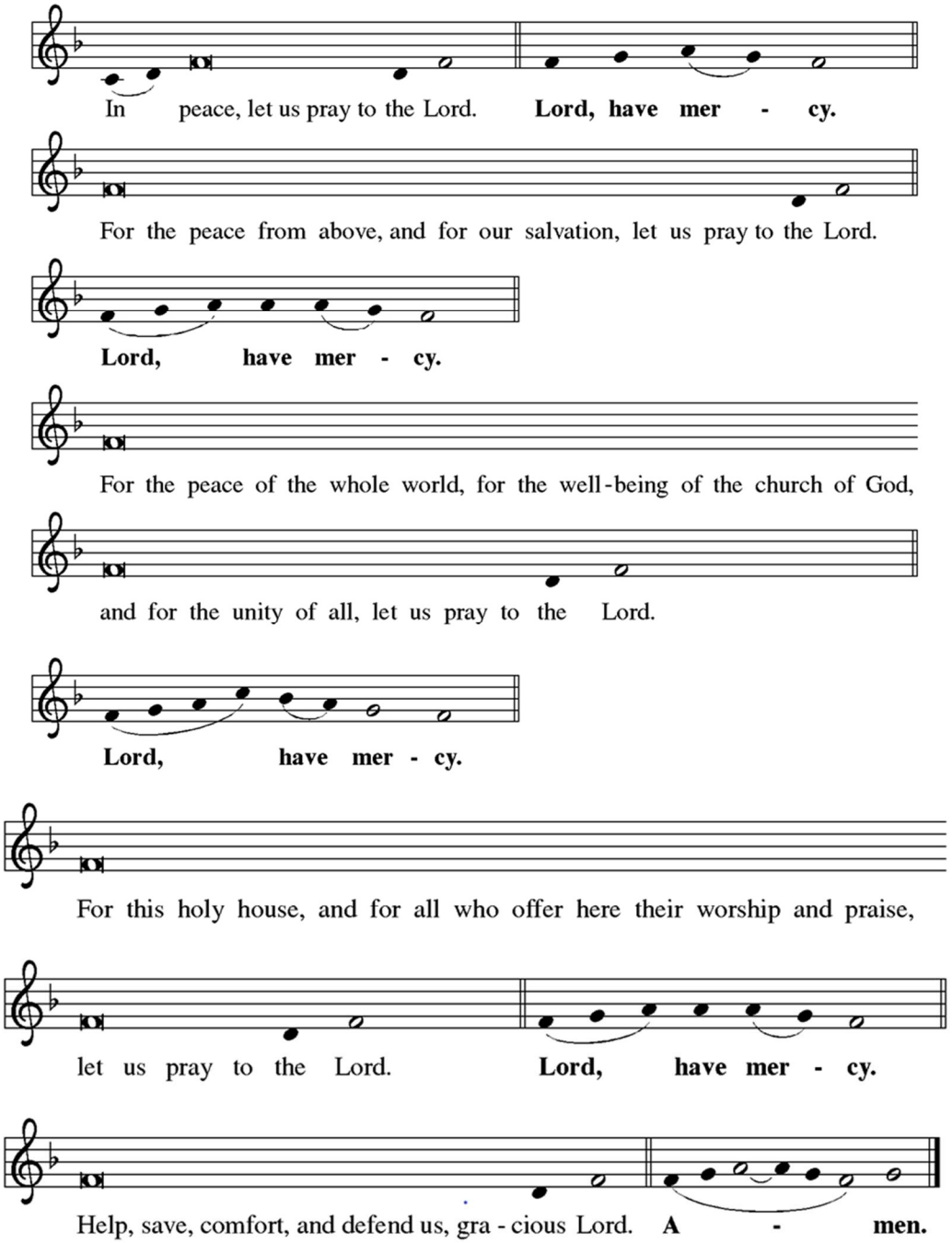
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

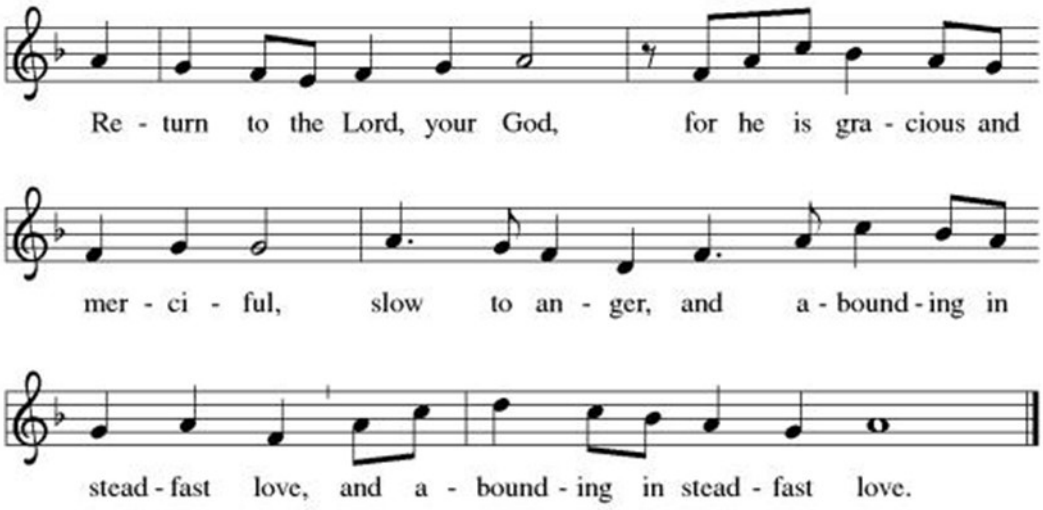
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

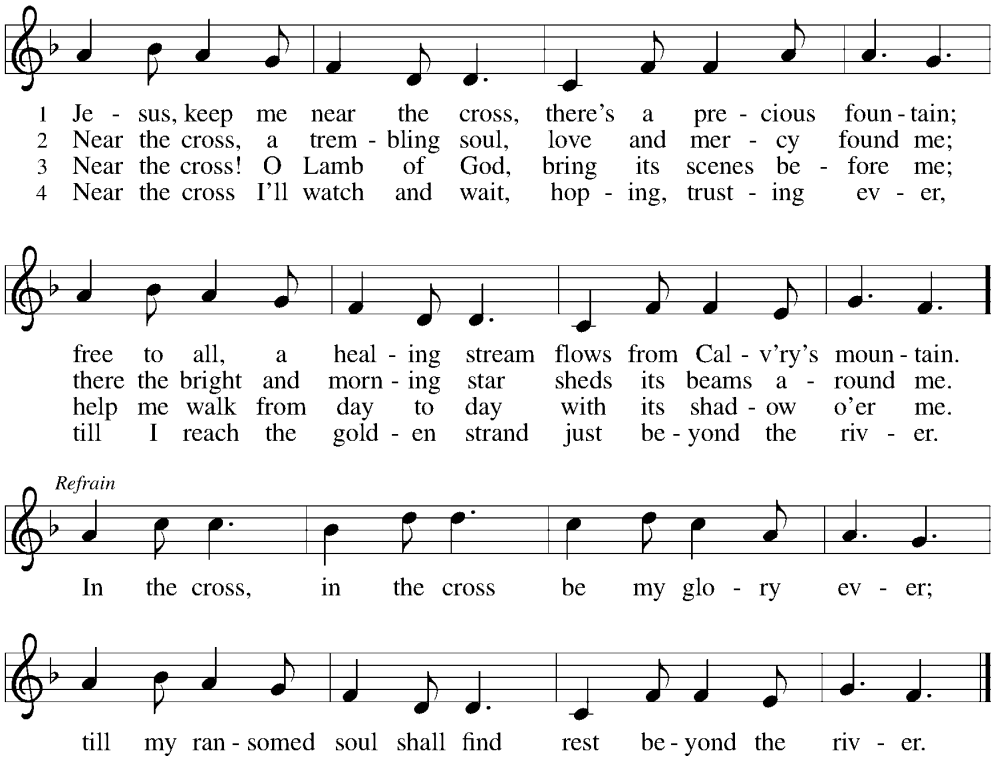
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

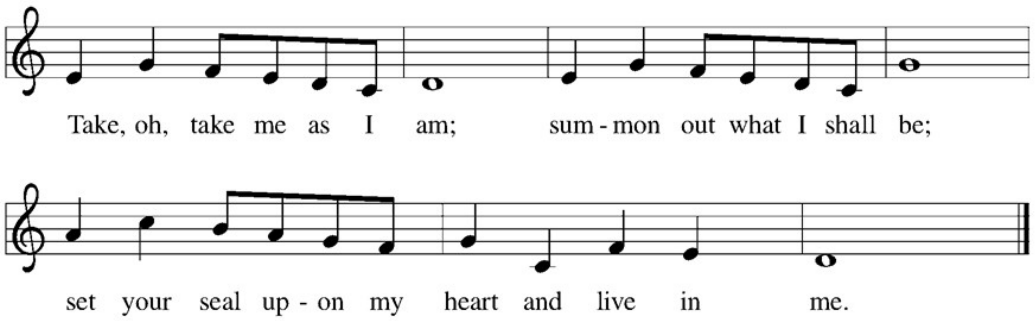
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

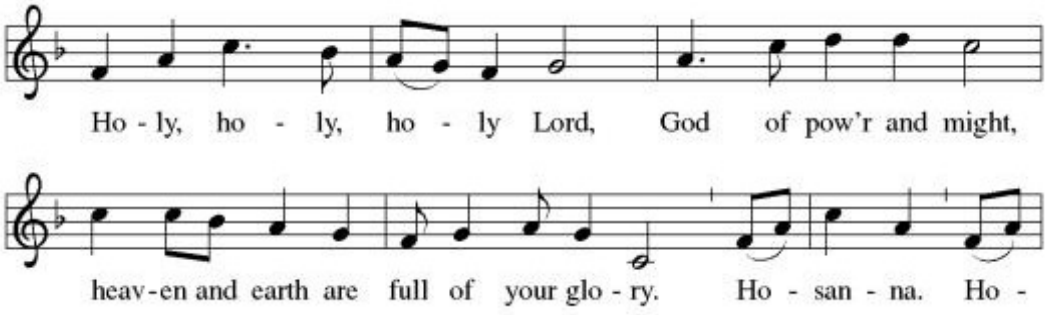
P: Lift up your hearts.

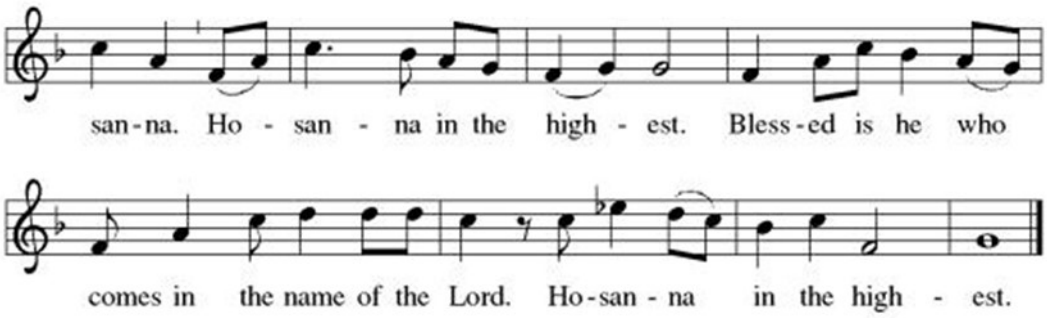
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

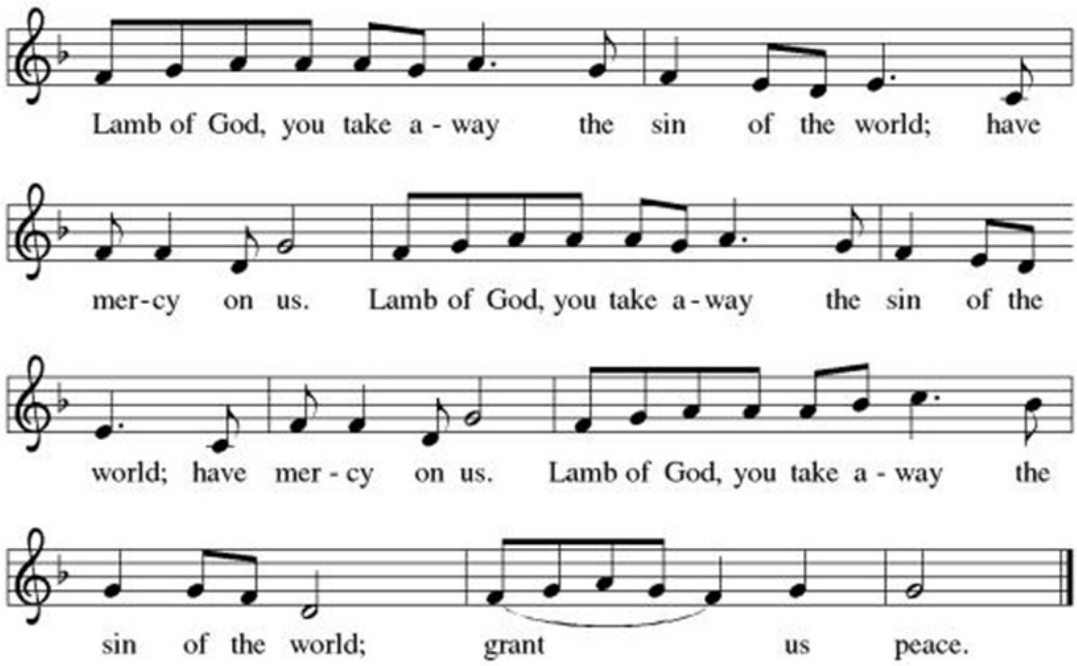
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
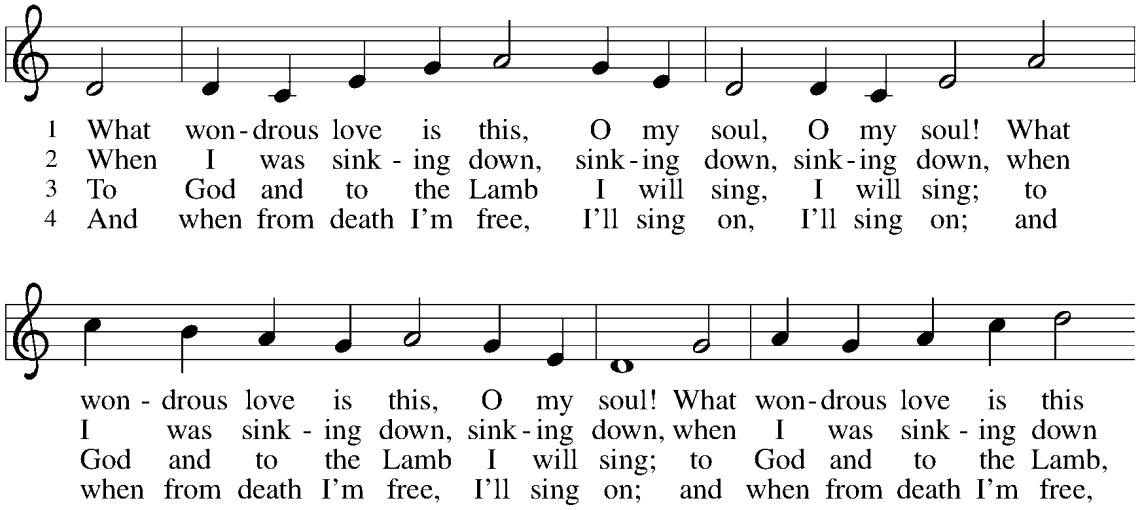
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



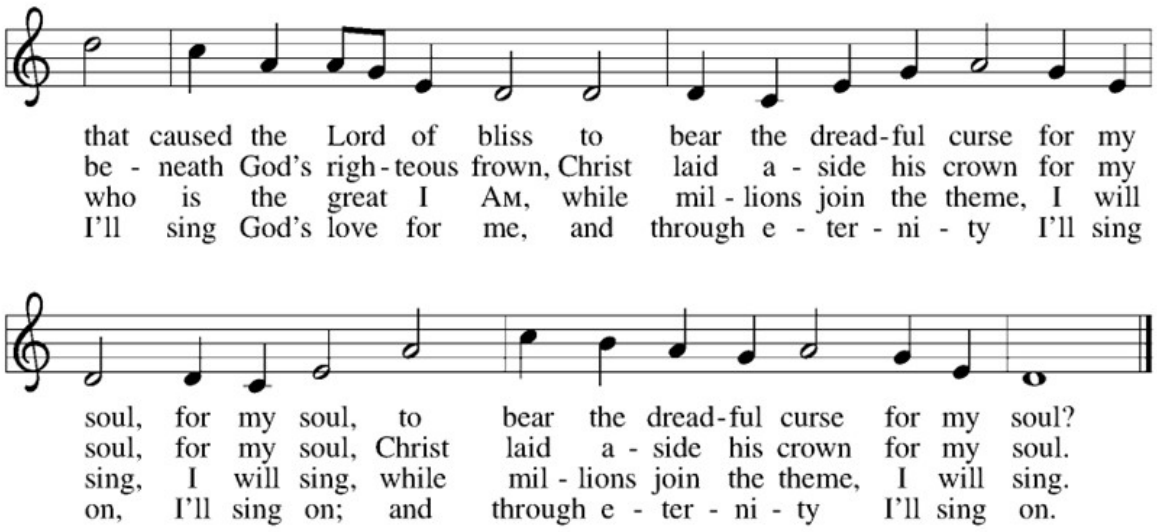
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

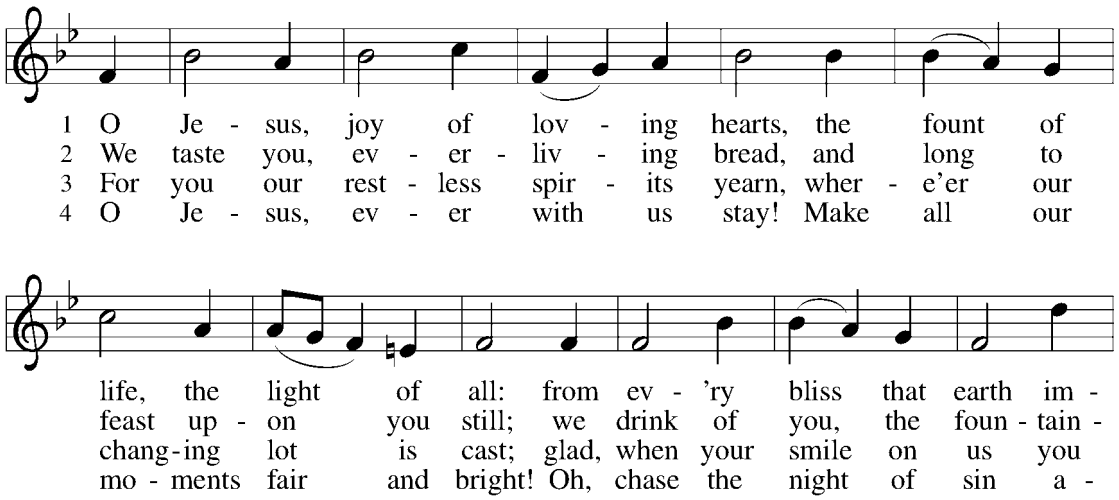
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
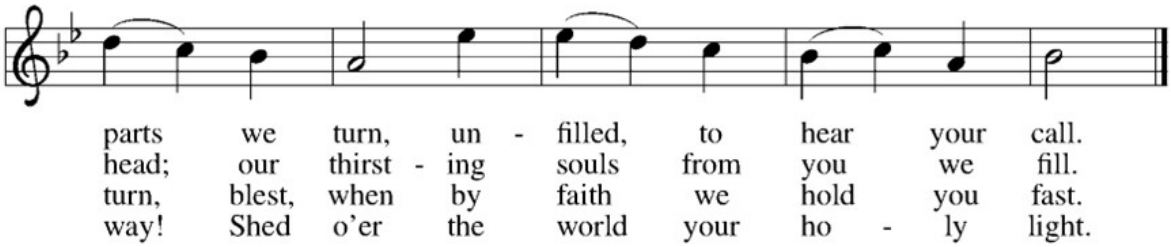
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

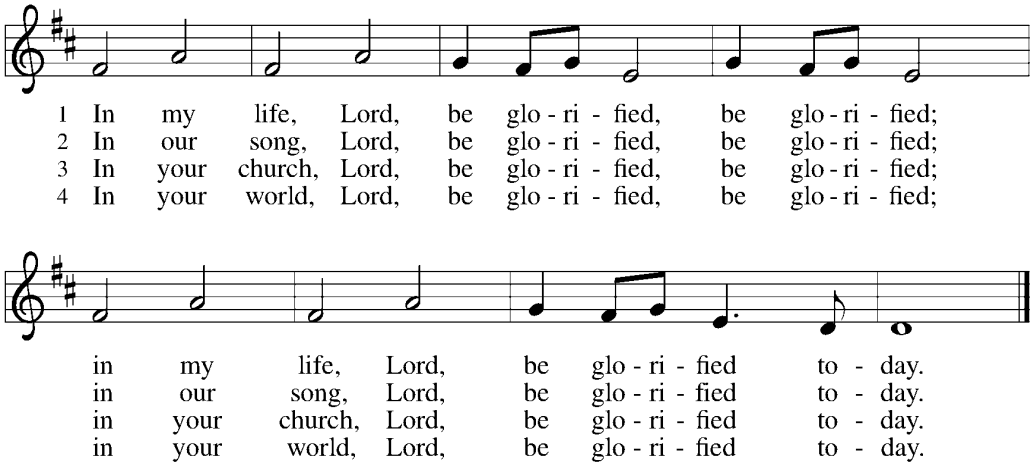
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

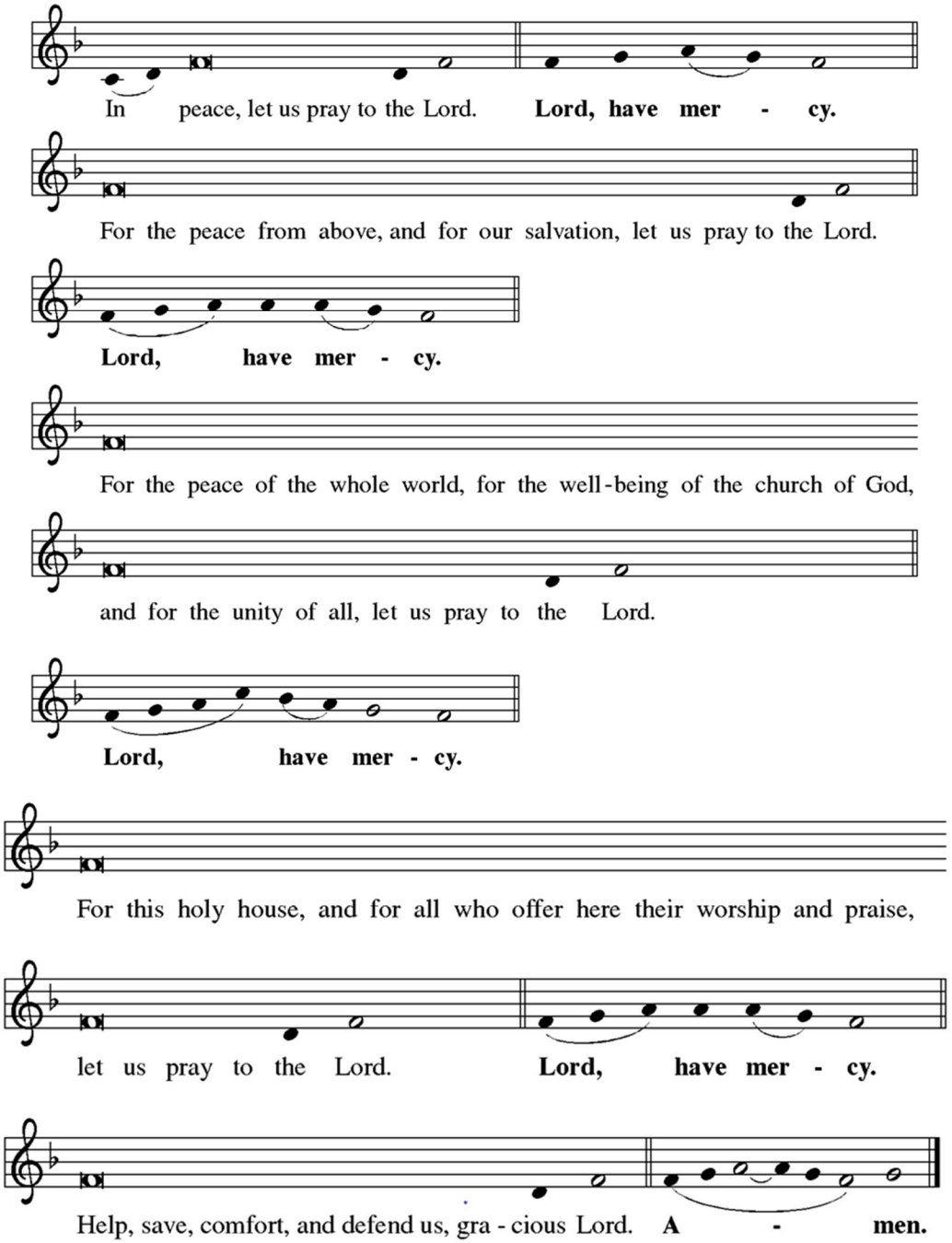
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

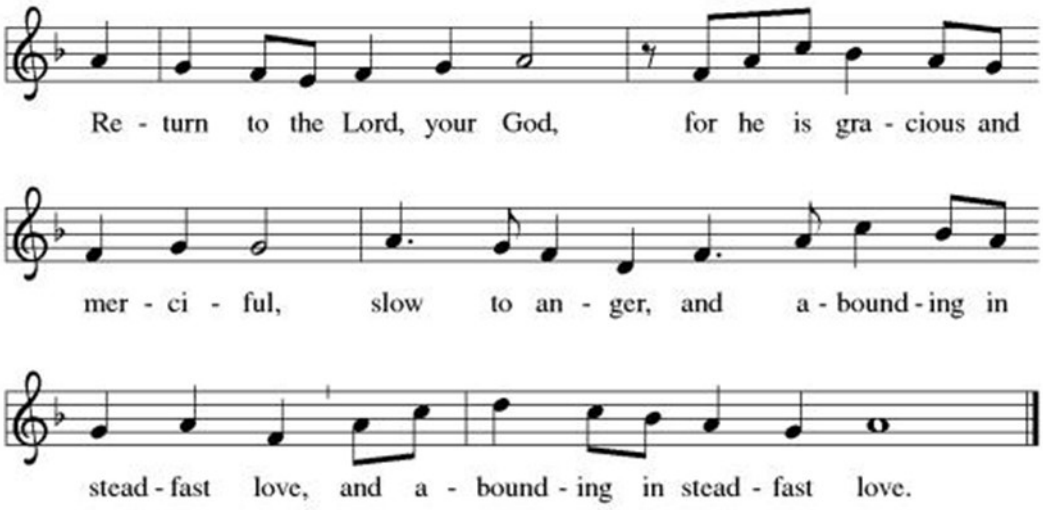
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

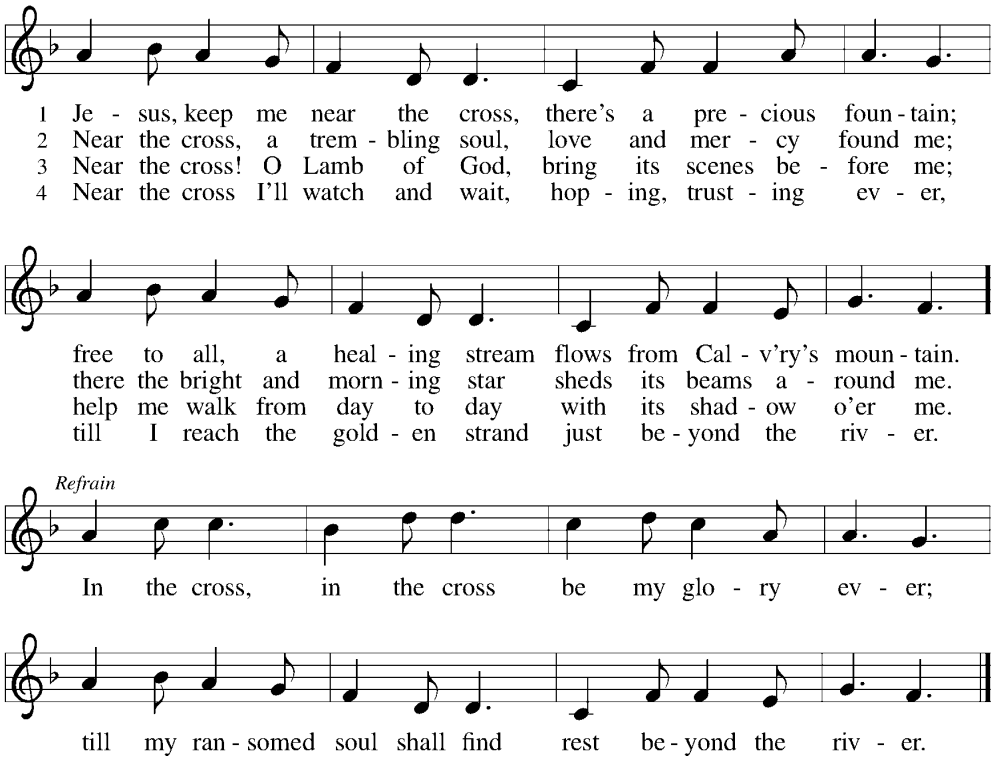
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

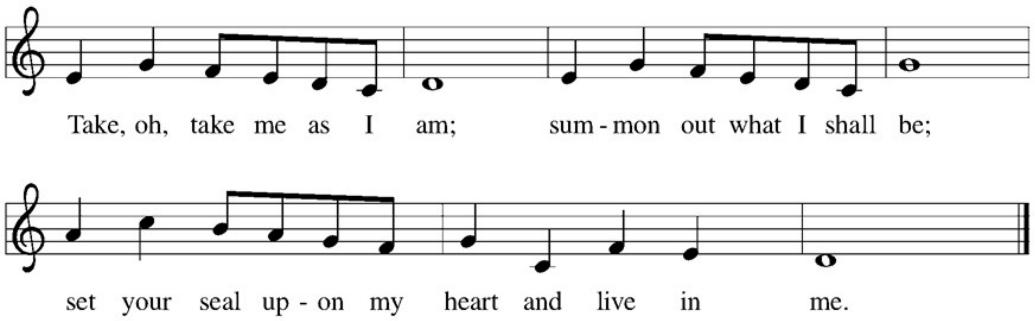
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

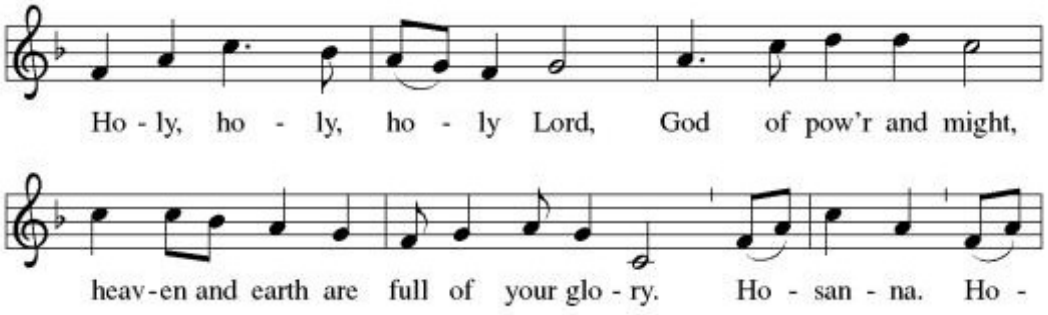
P: Lift up your hearts.

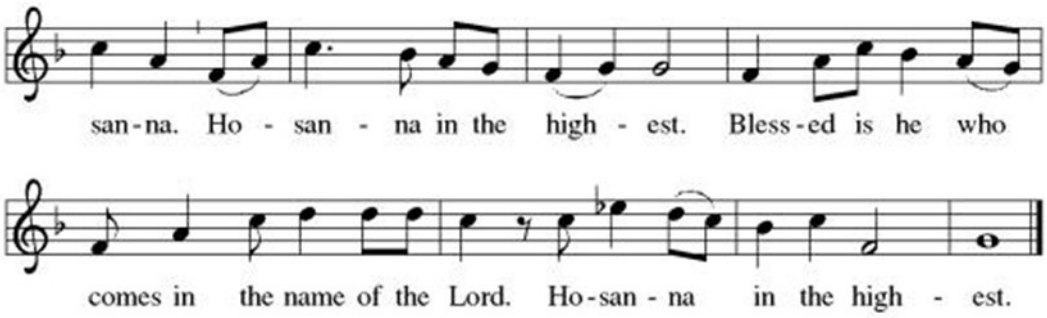
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

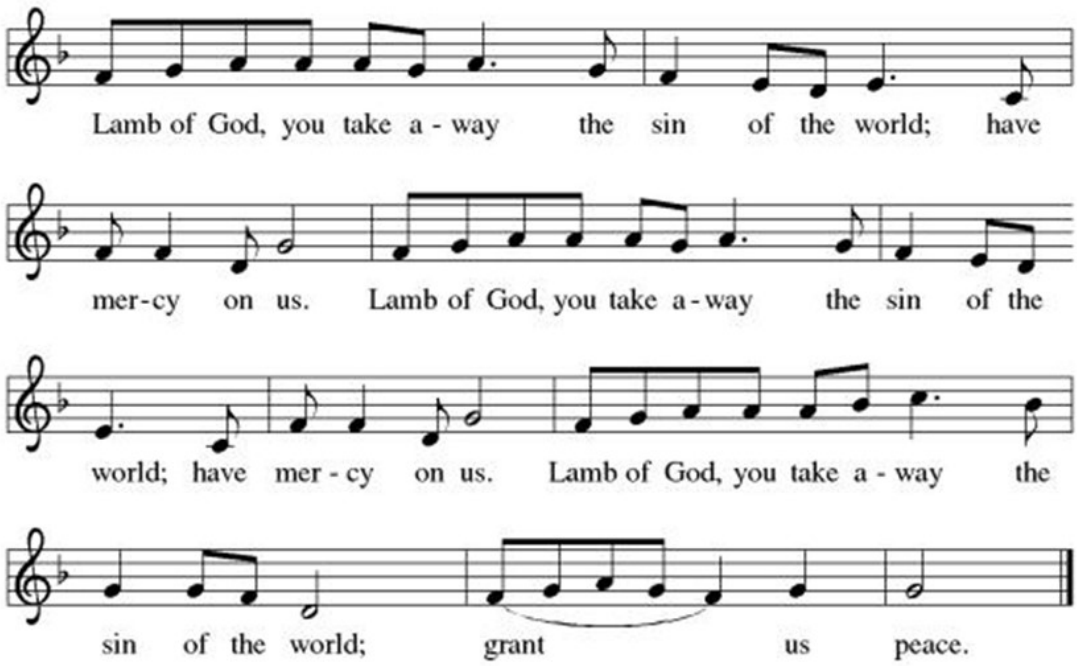
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
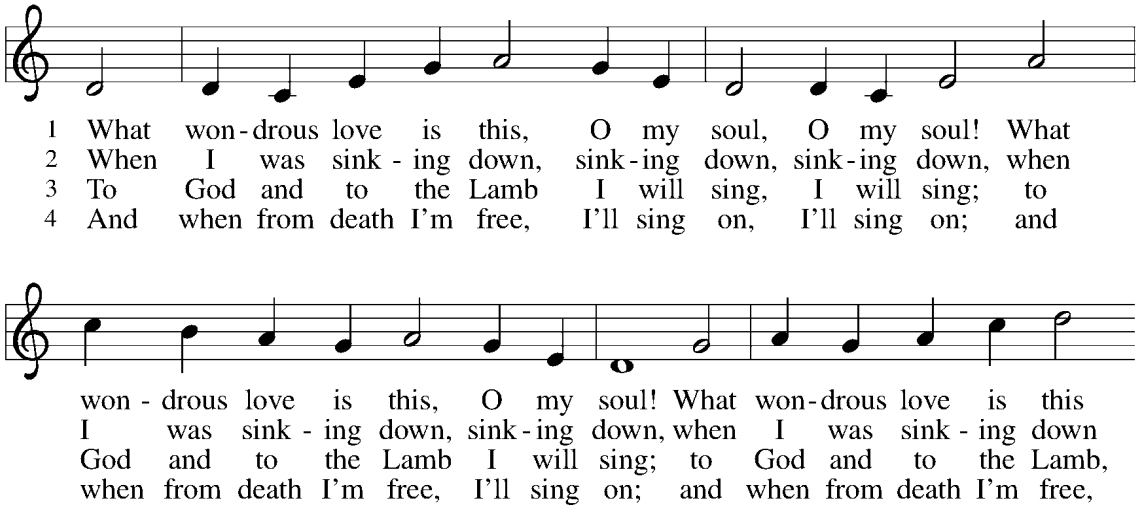
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



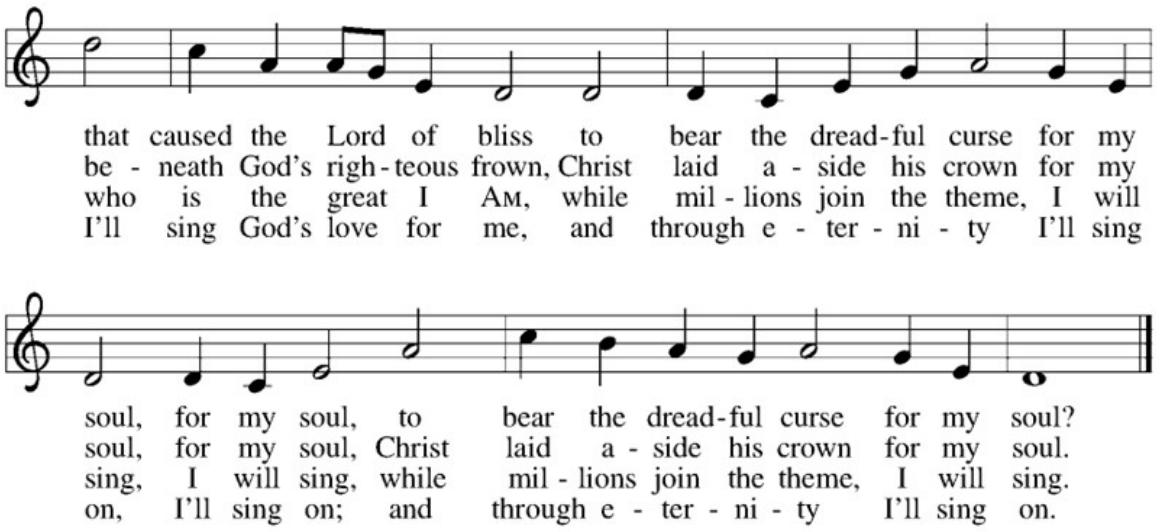
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

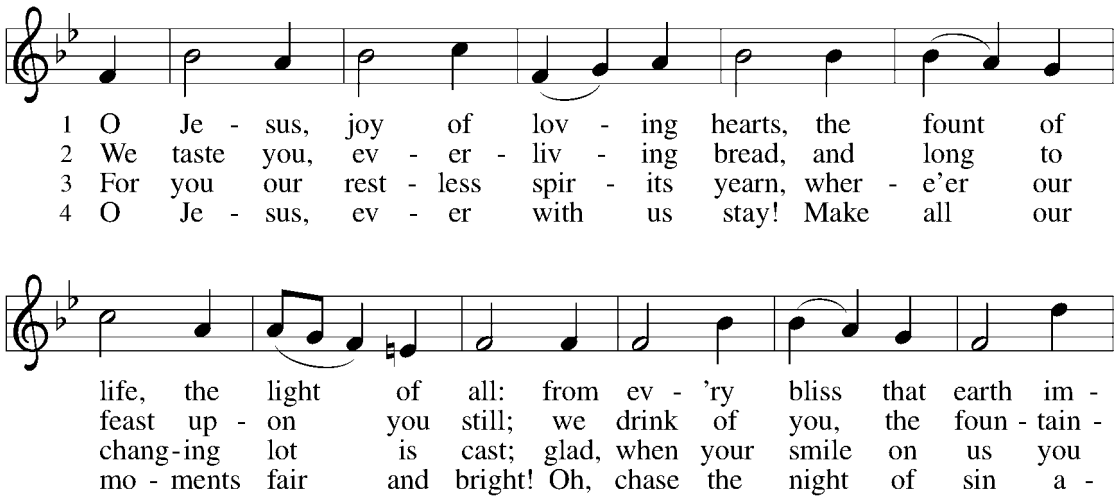
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
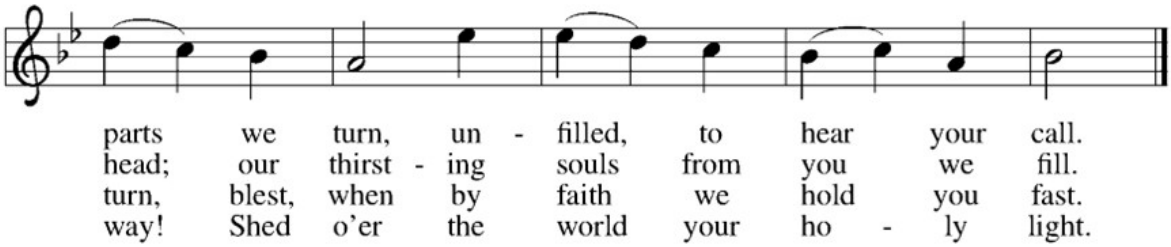
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

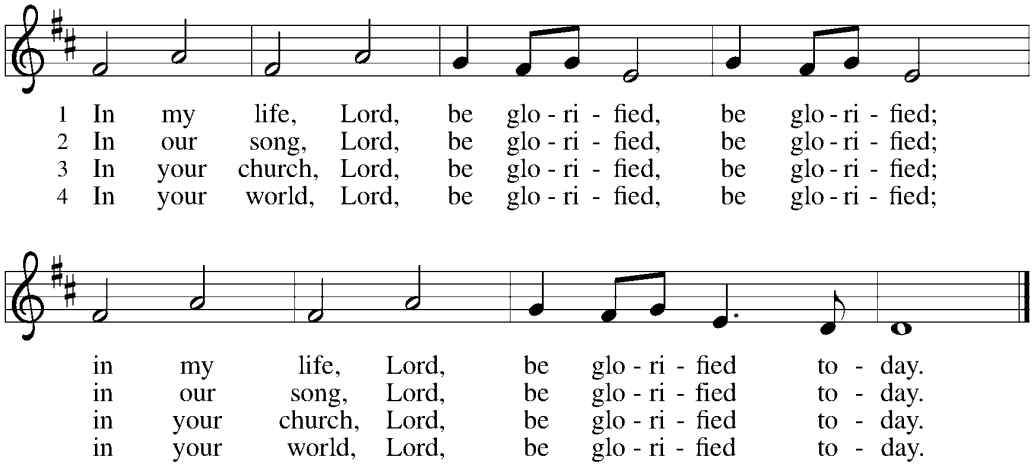
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

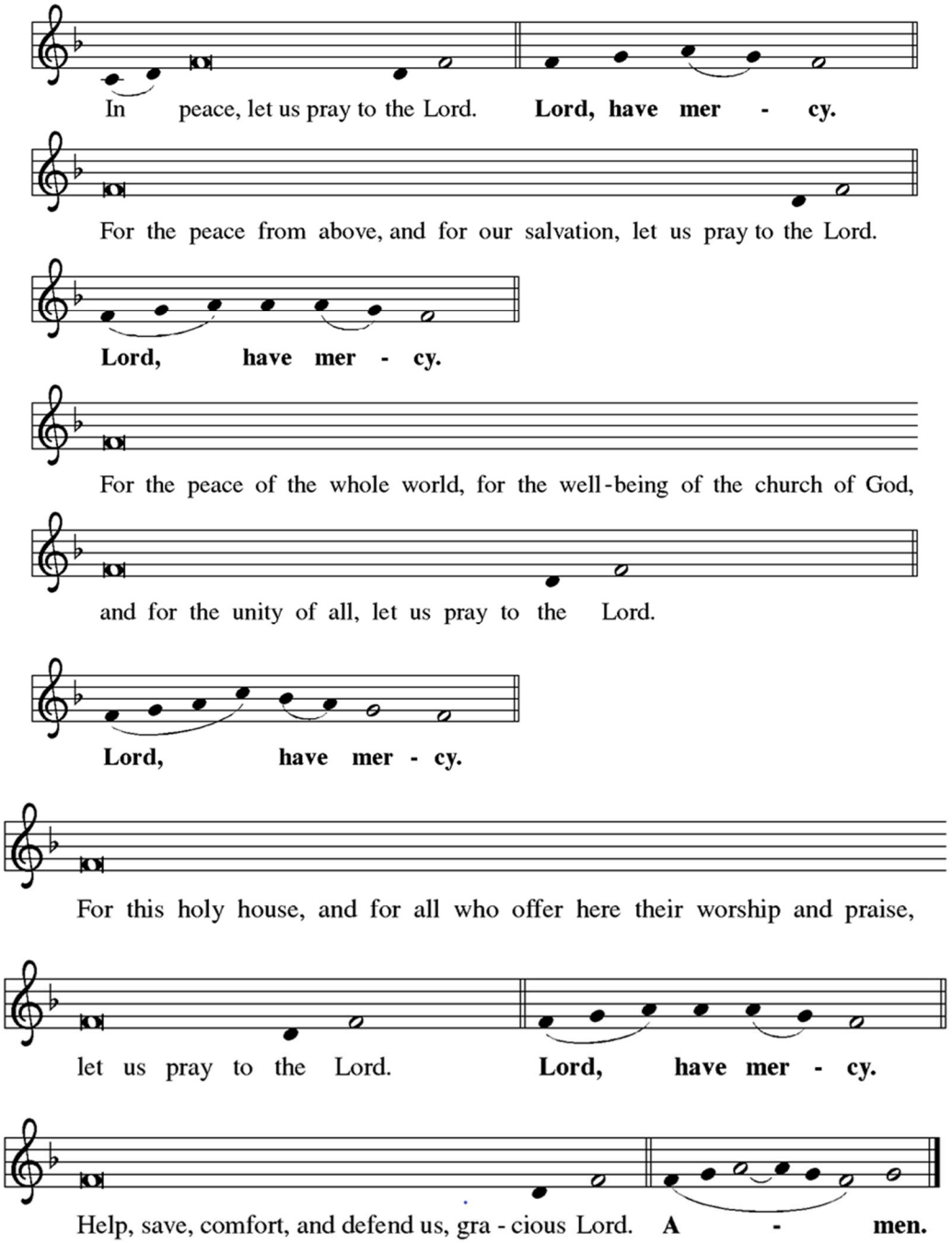
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

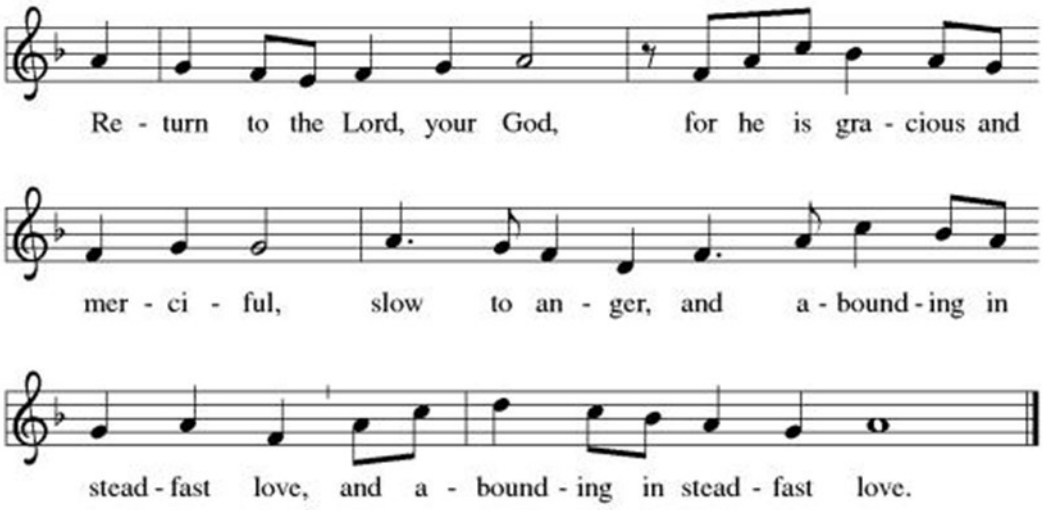
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

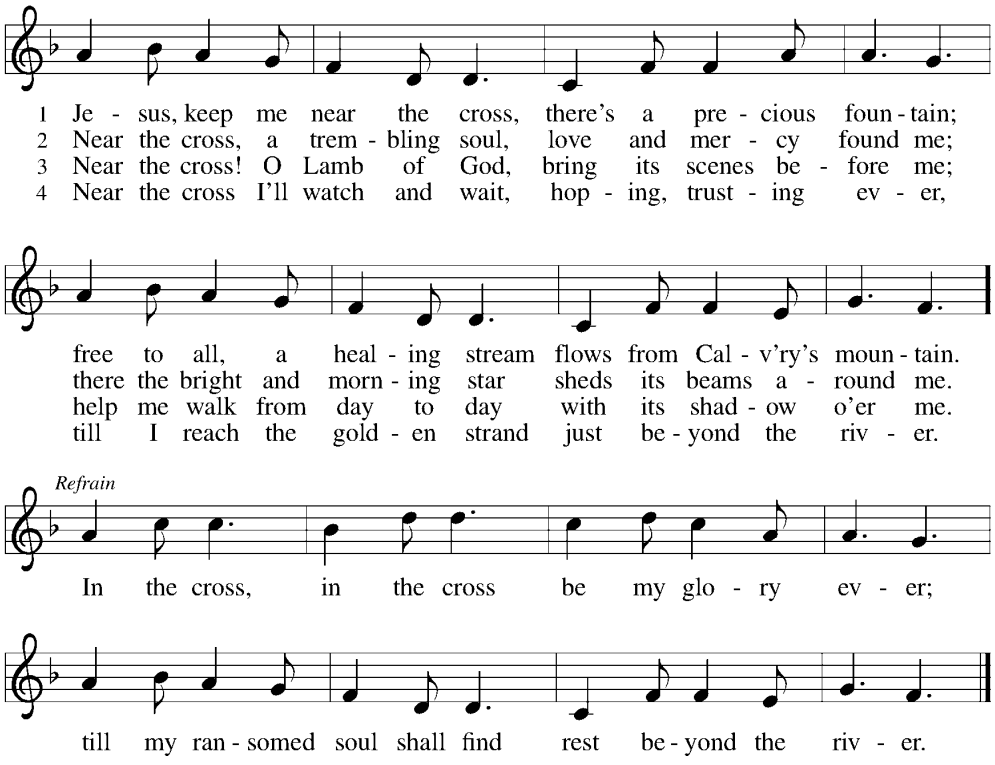
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

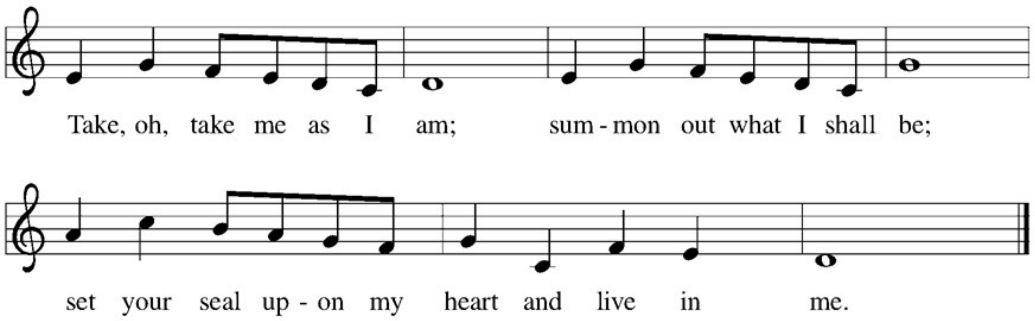
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

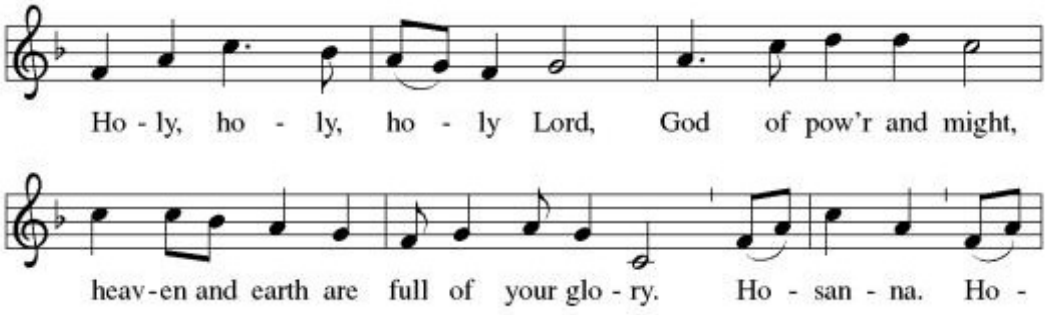
P: Lift up your hearts.

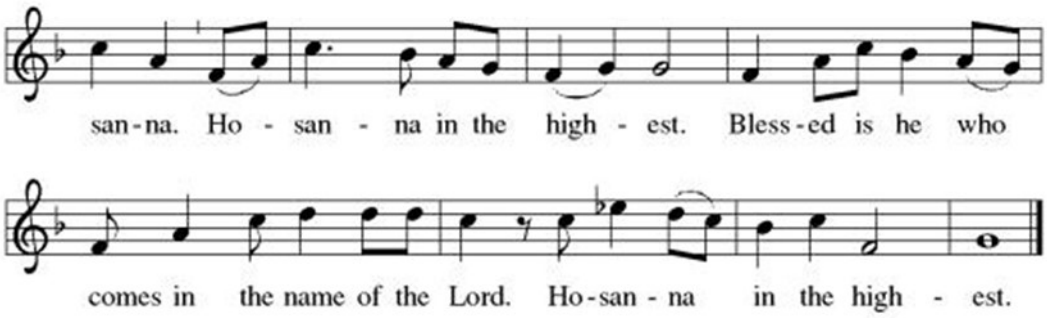
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

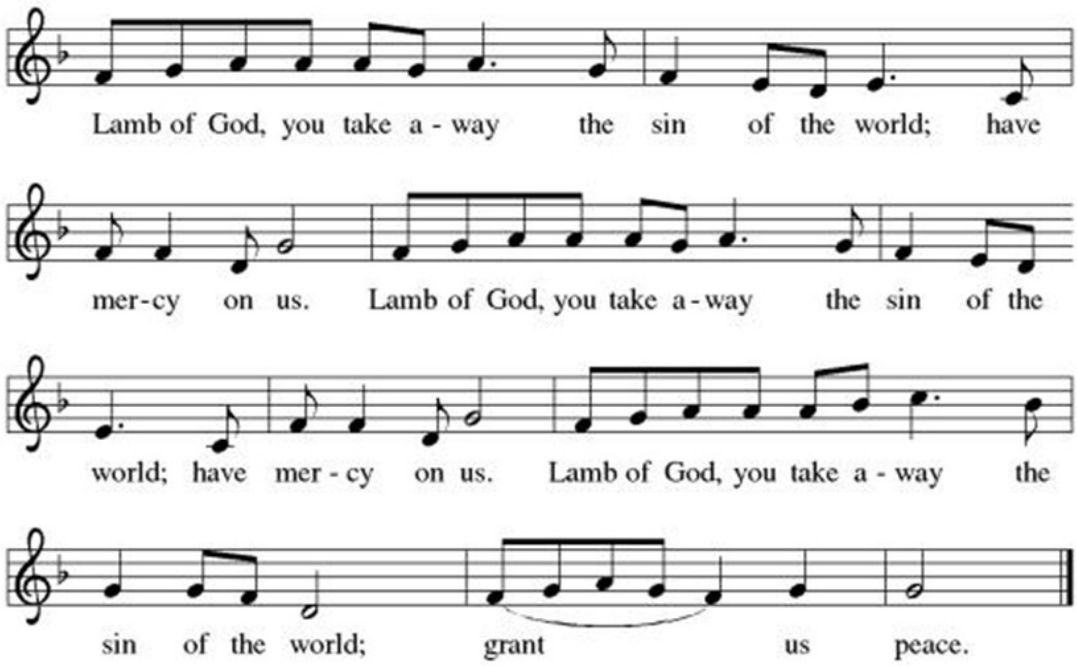
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
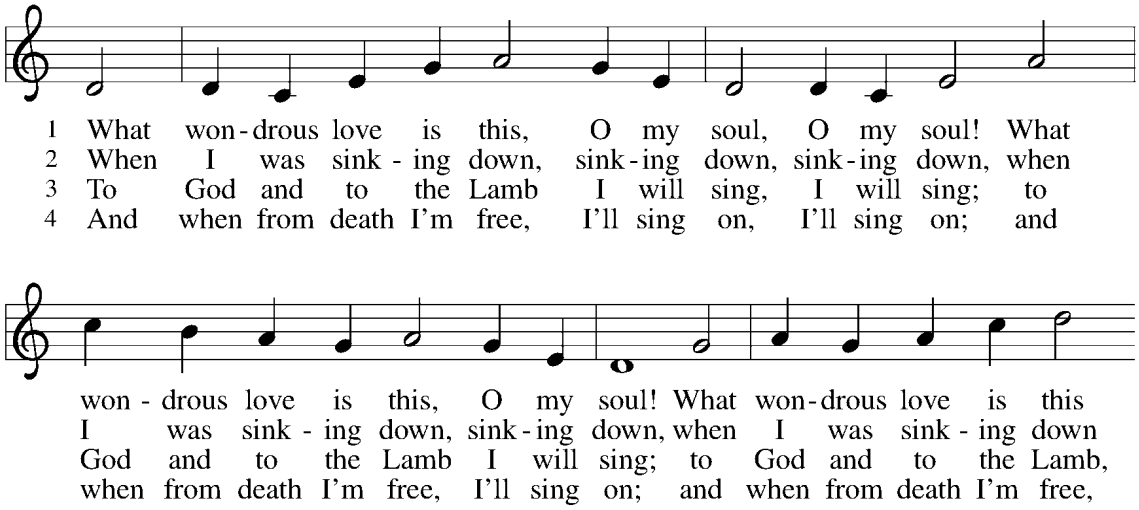
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



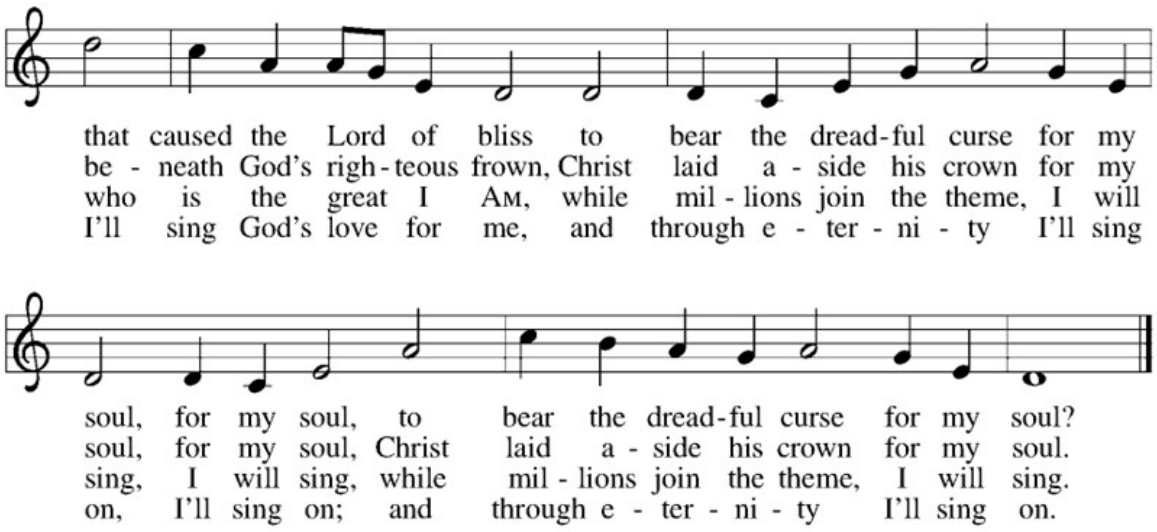
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

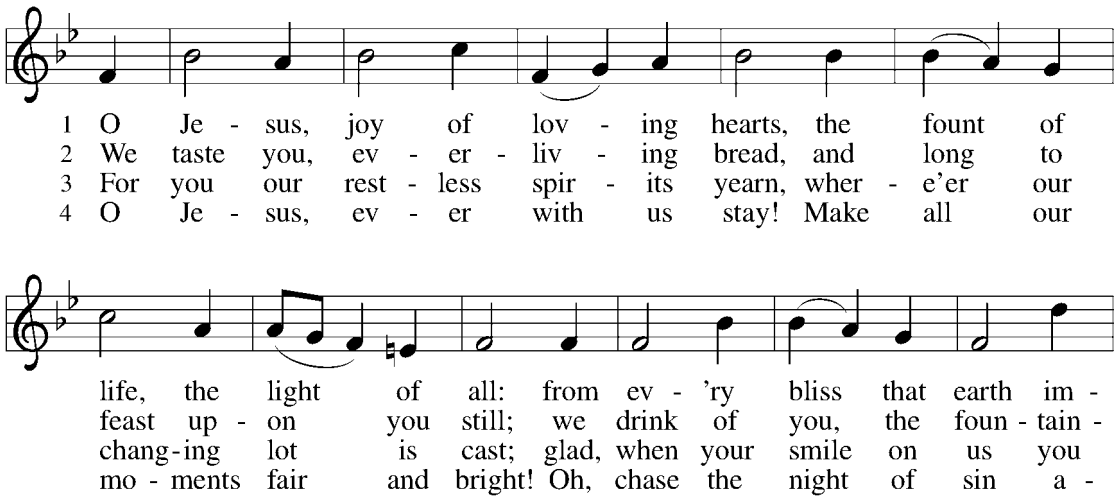
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
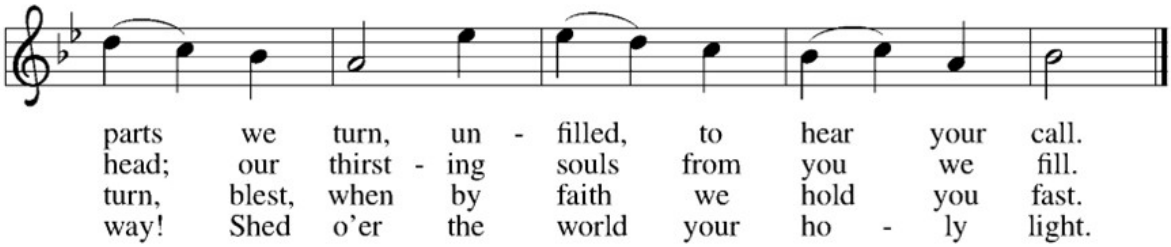
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

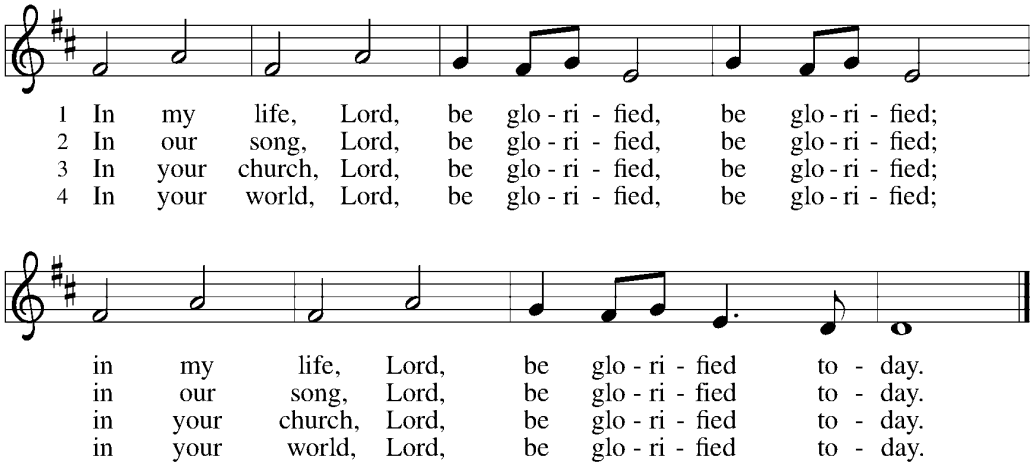
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

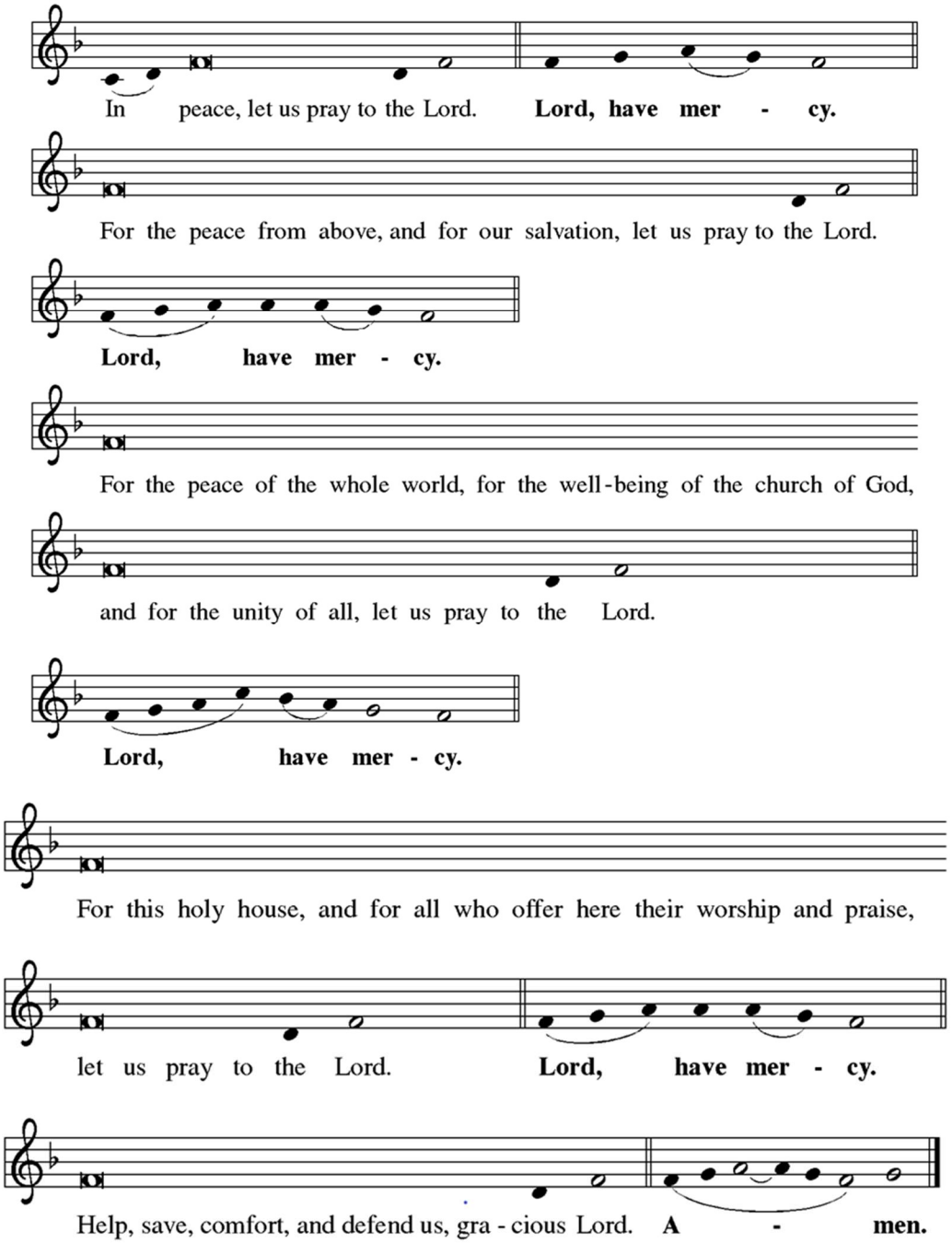
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

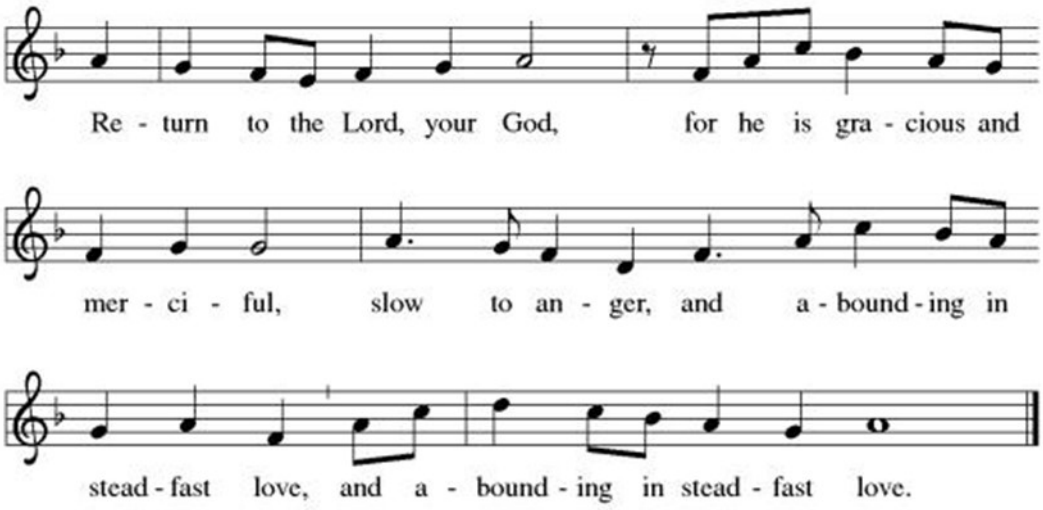
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

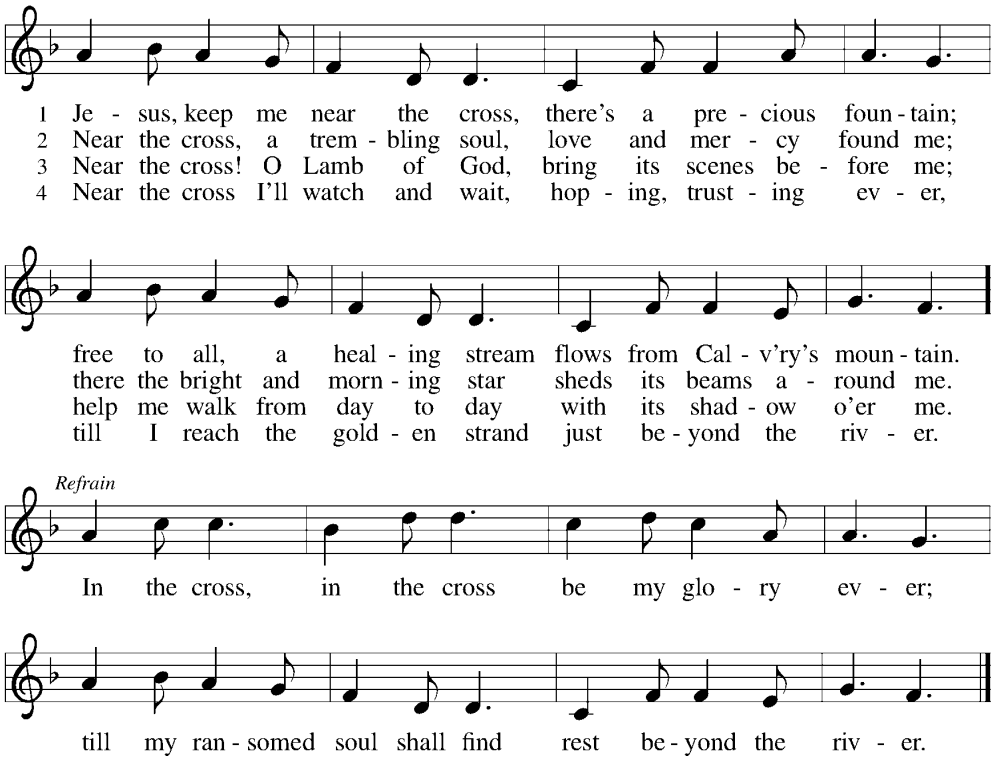
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

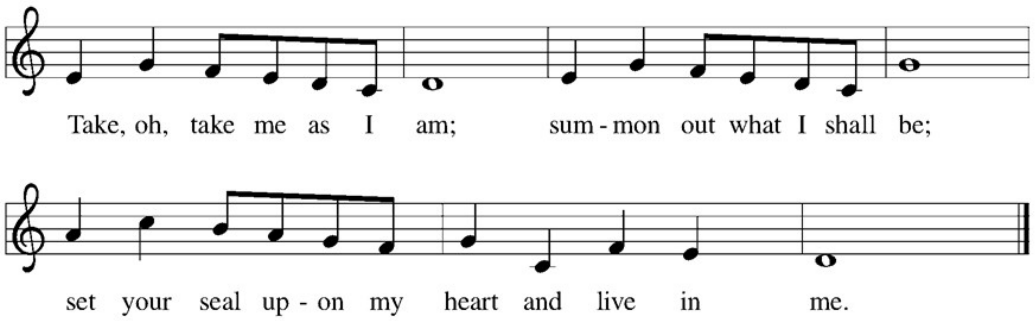
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

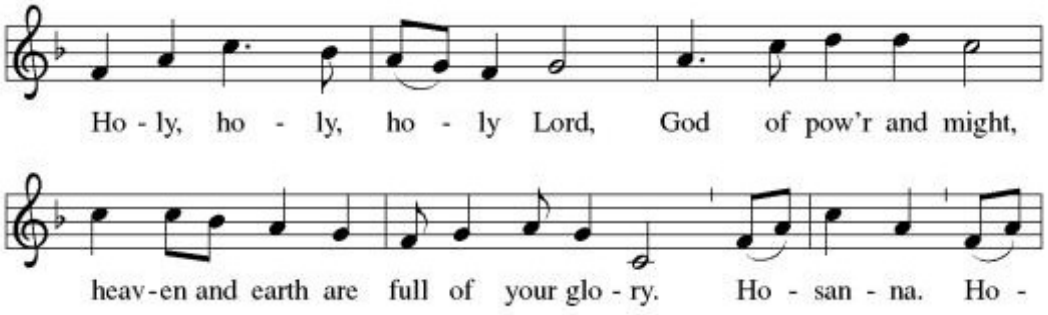
P: Lift up your hearts.

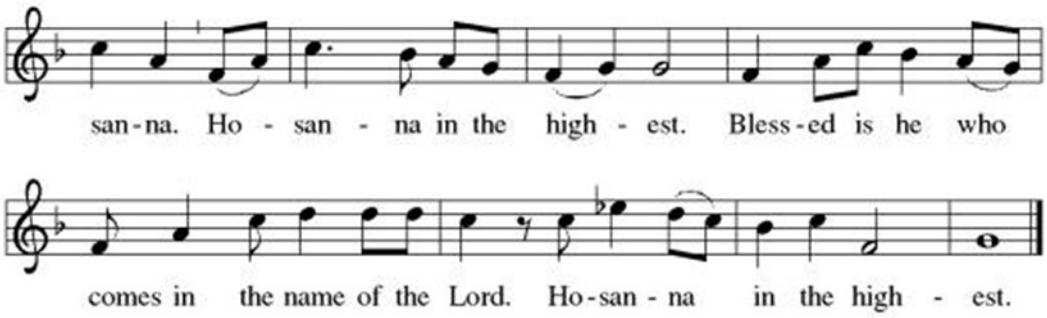
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

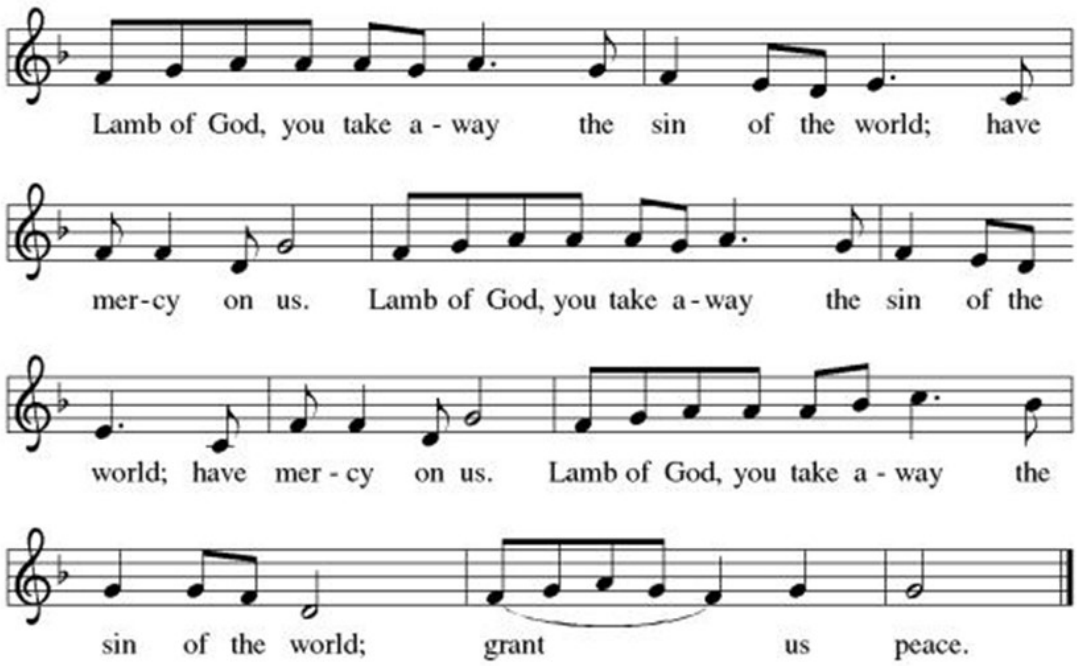
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
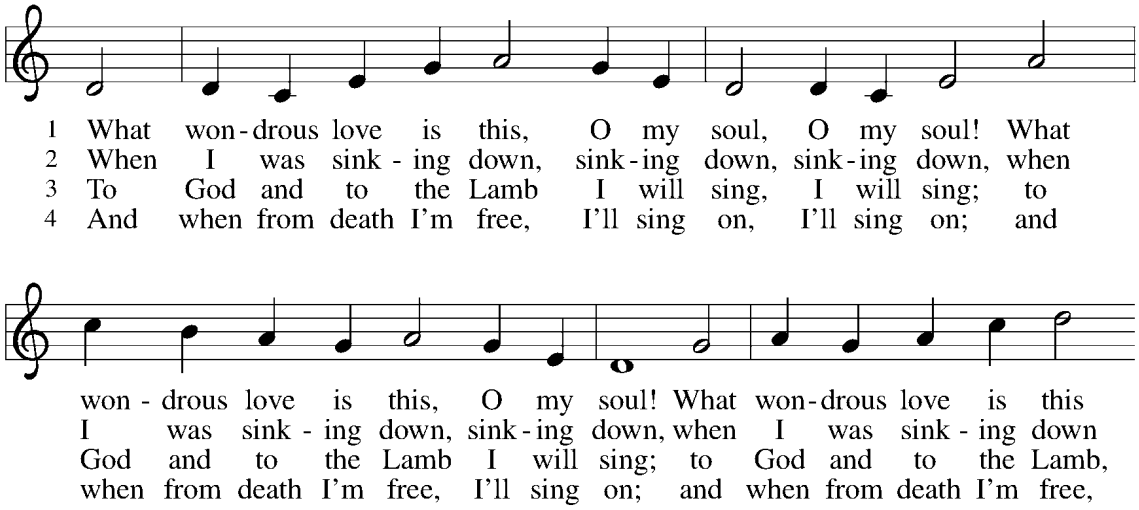
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



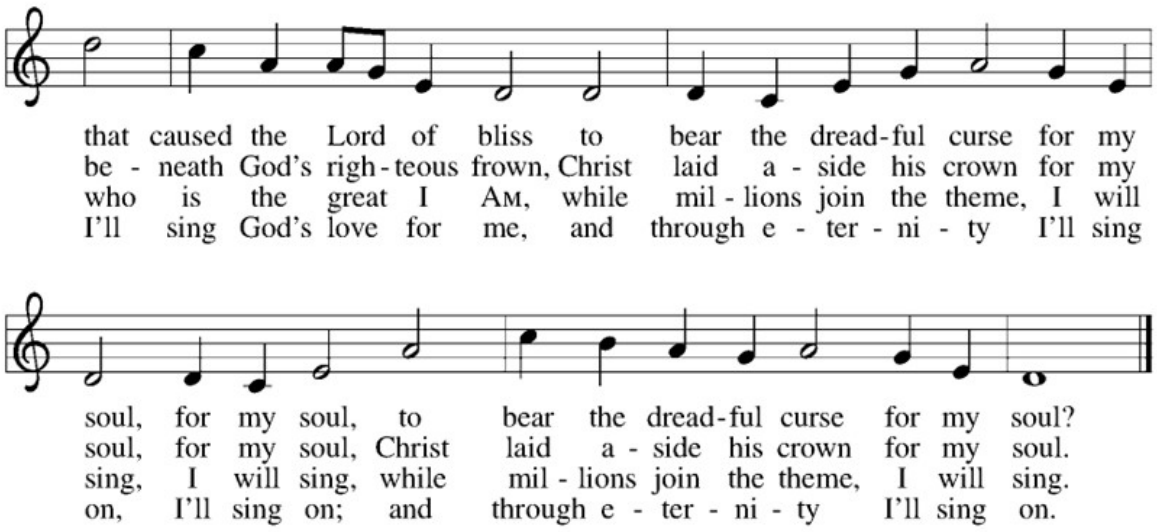
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

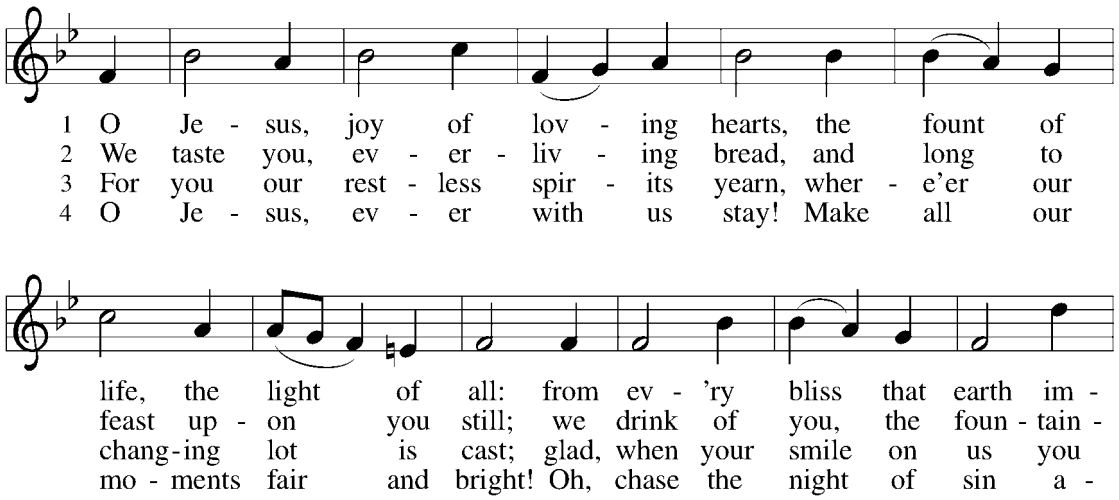
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
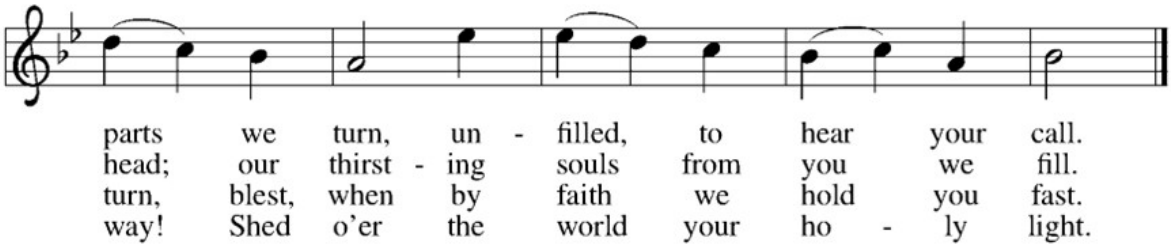
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

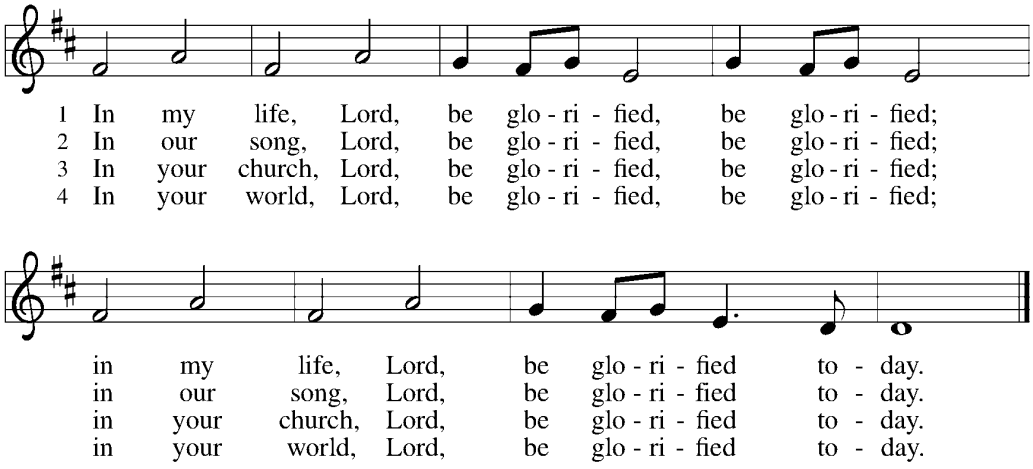
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

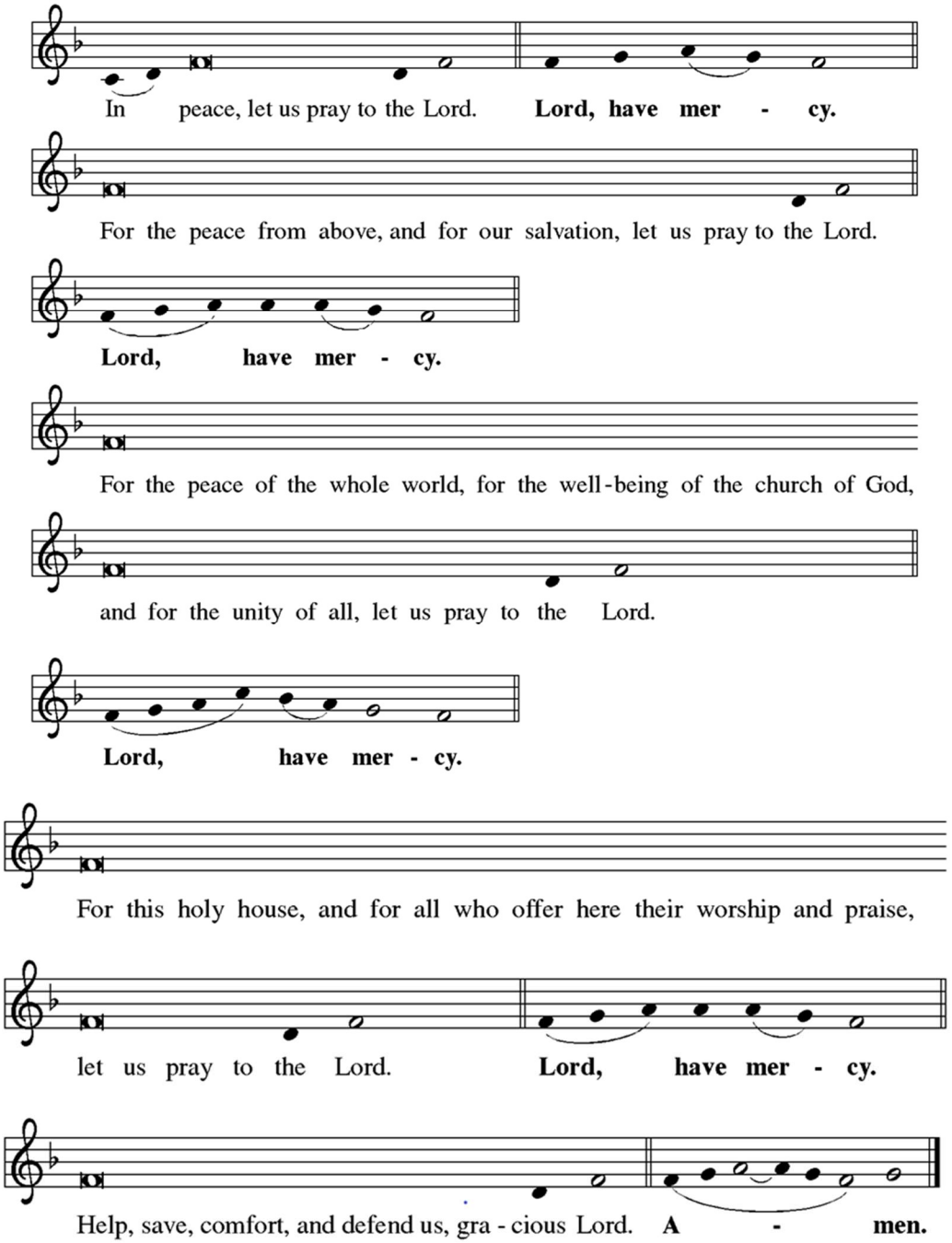
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

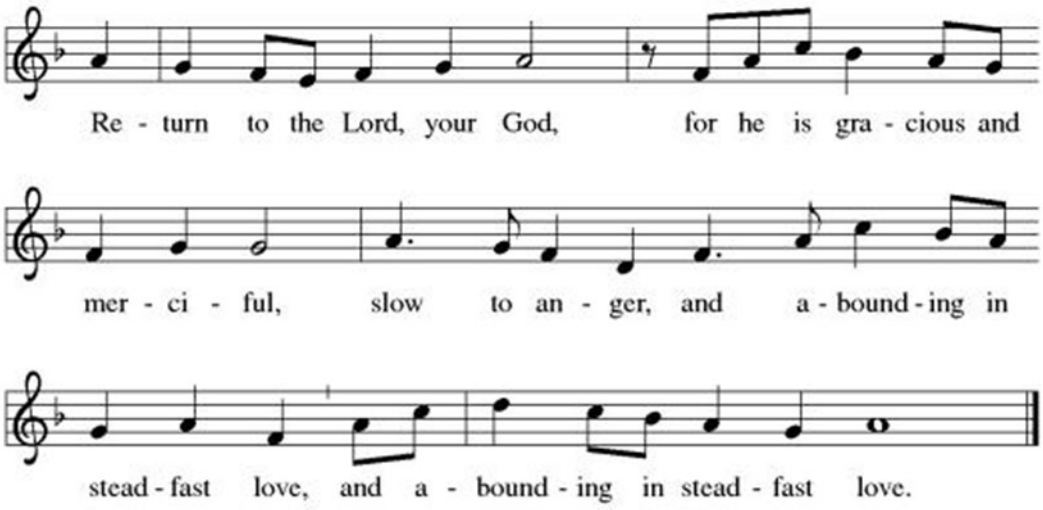
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

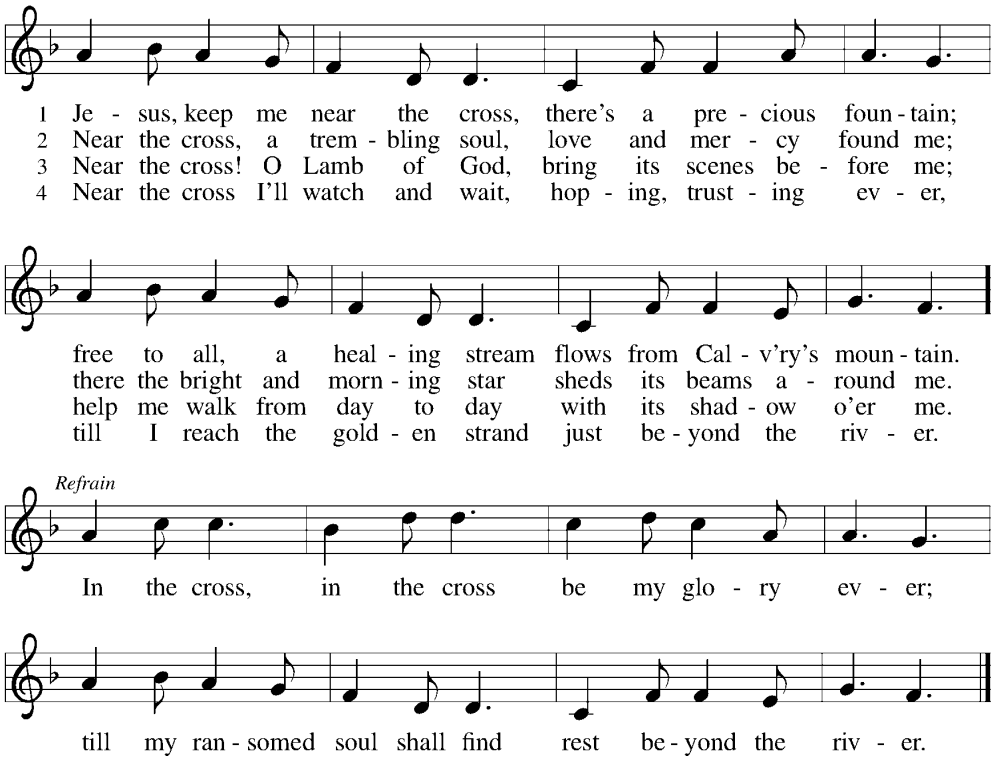
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

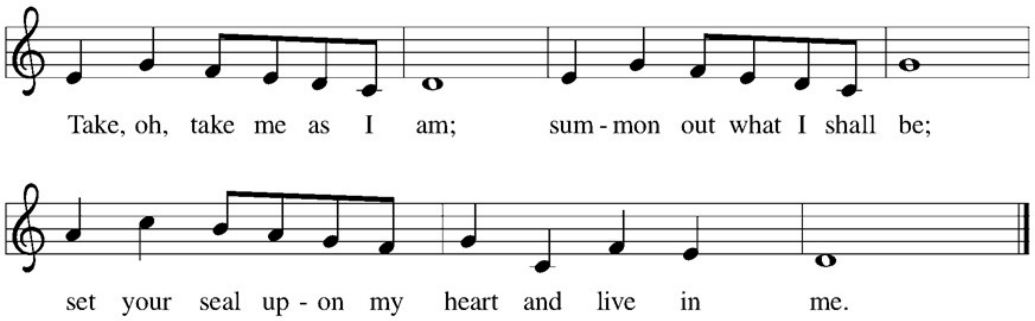
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

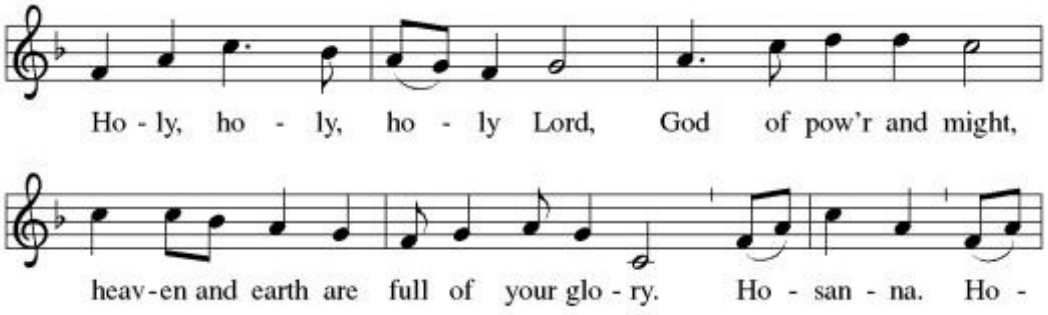
P: Lift up your hearts.

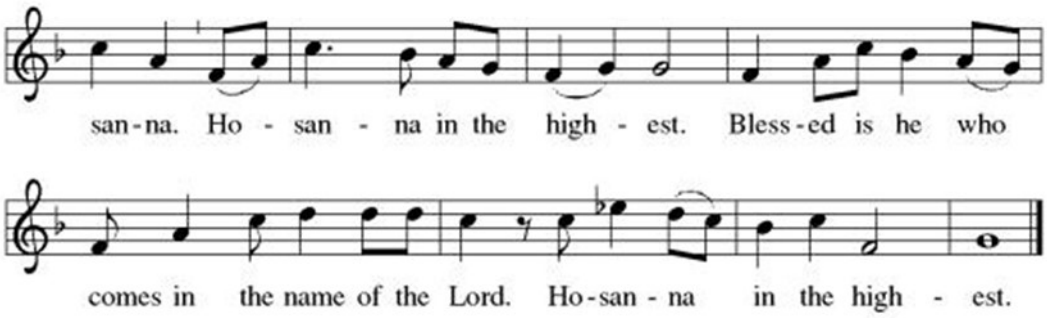
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

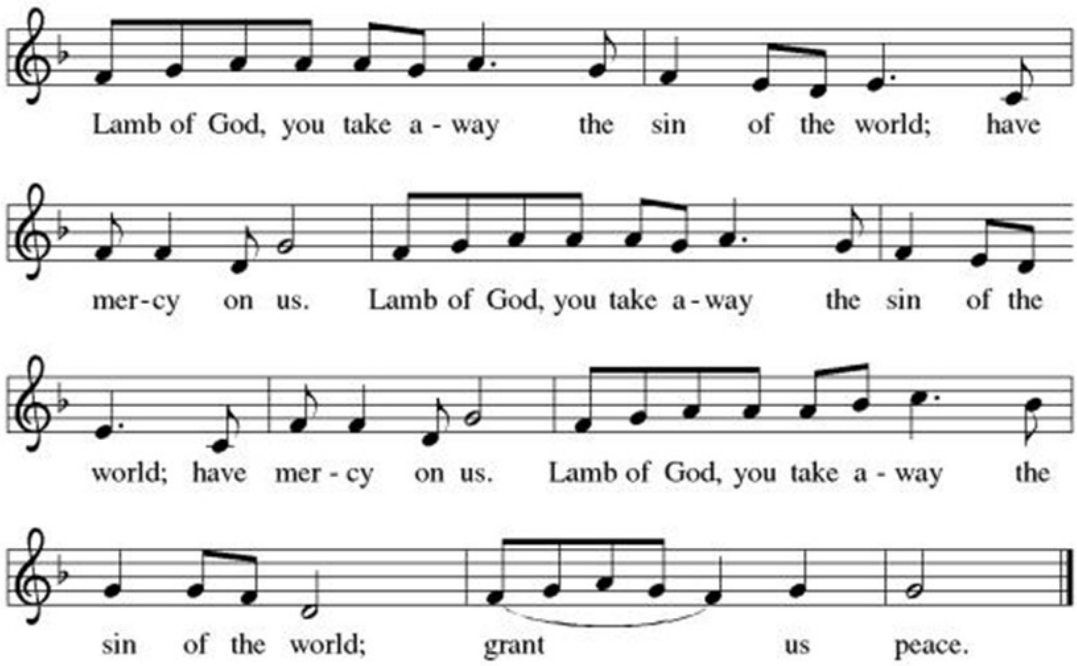
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
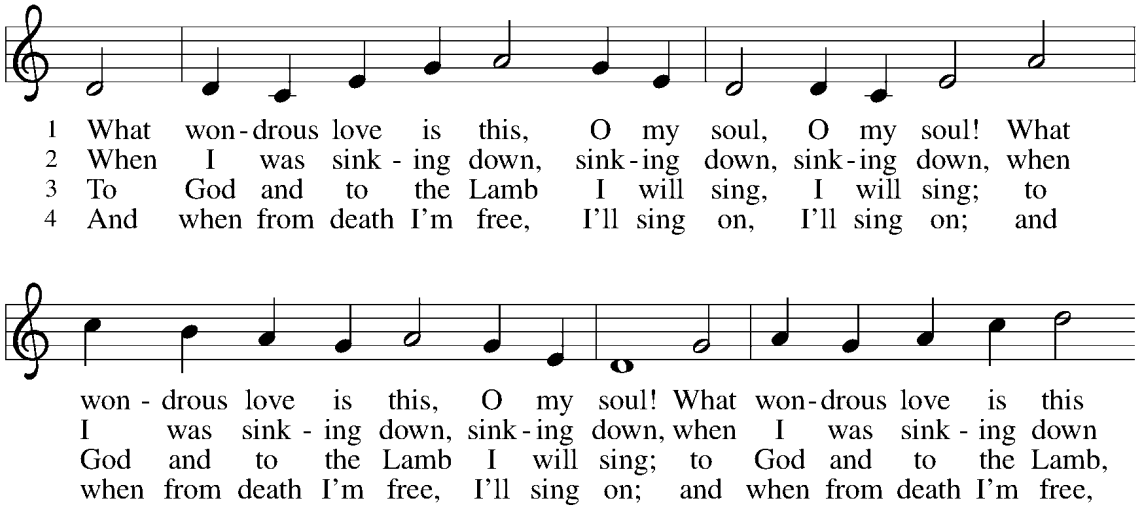
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



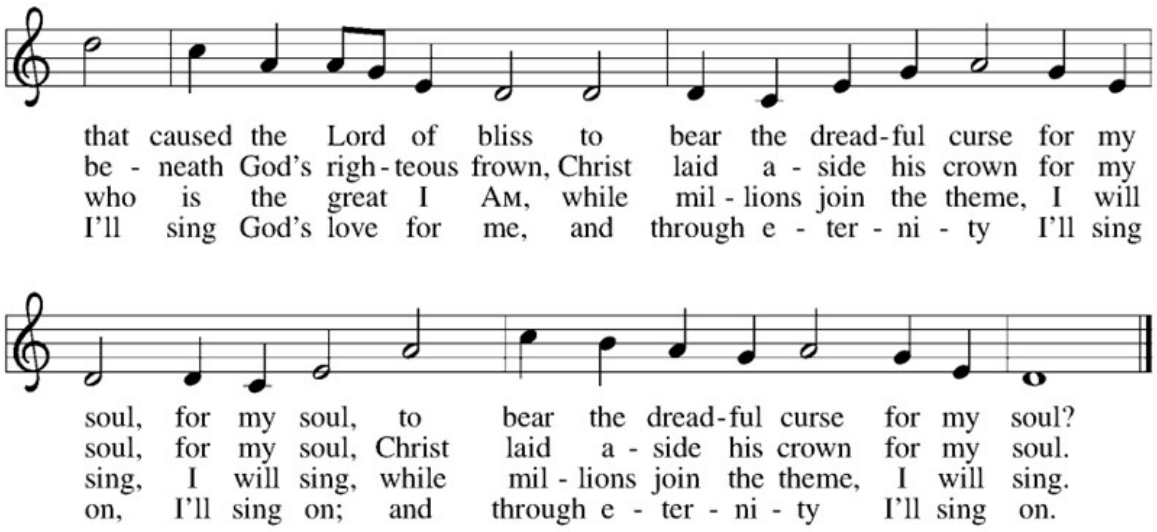
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

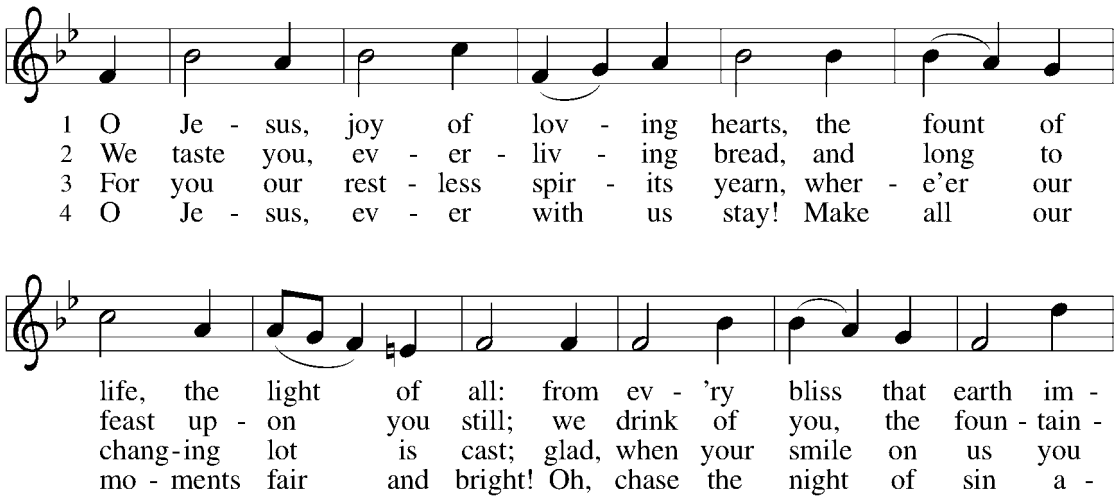
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
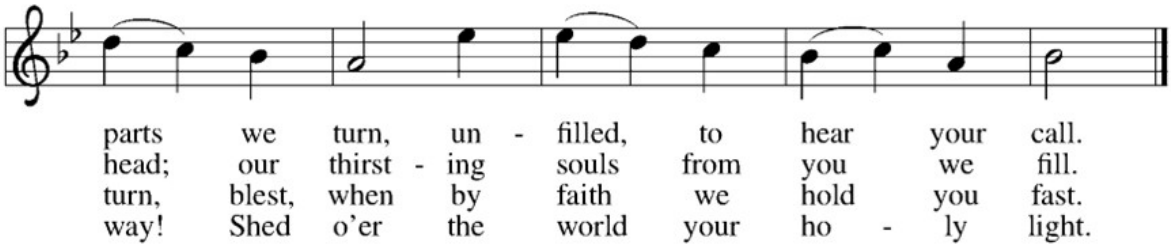
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

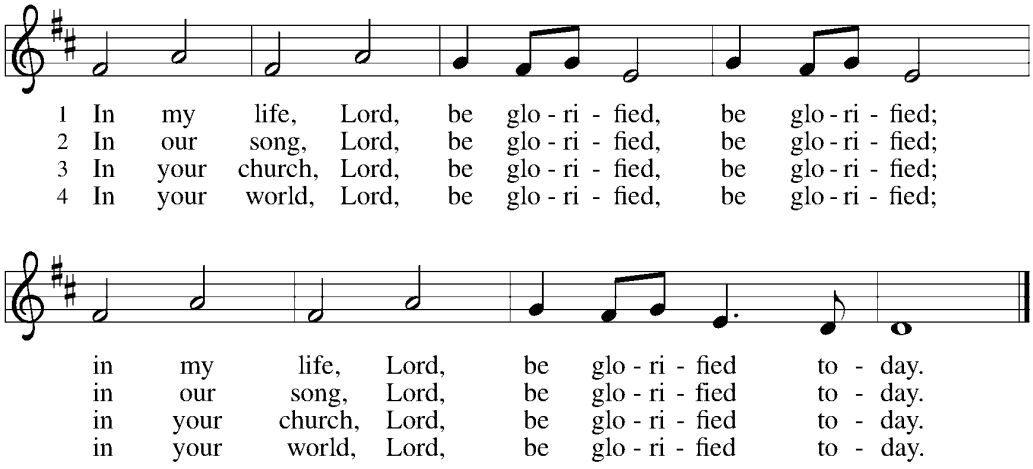
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

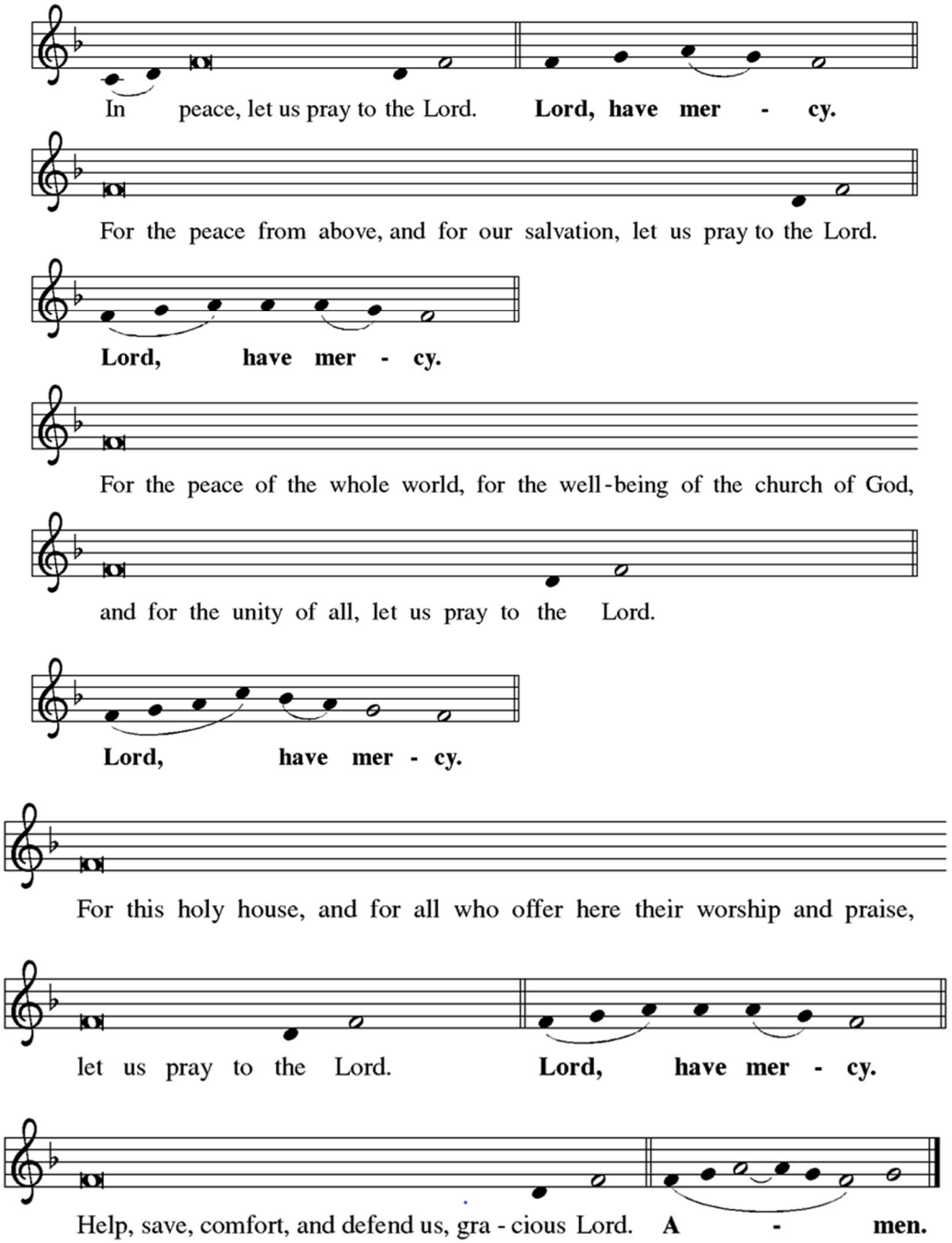
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

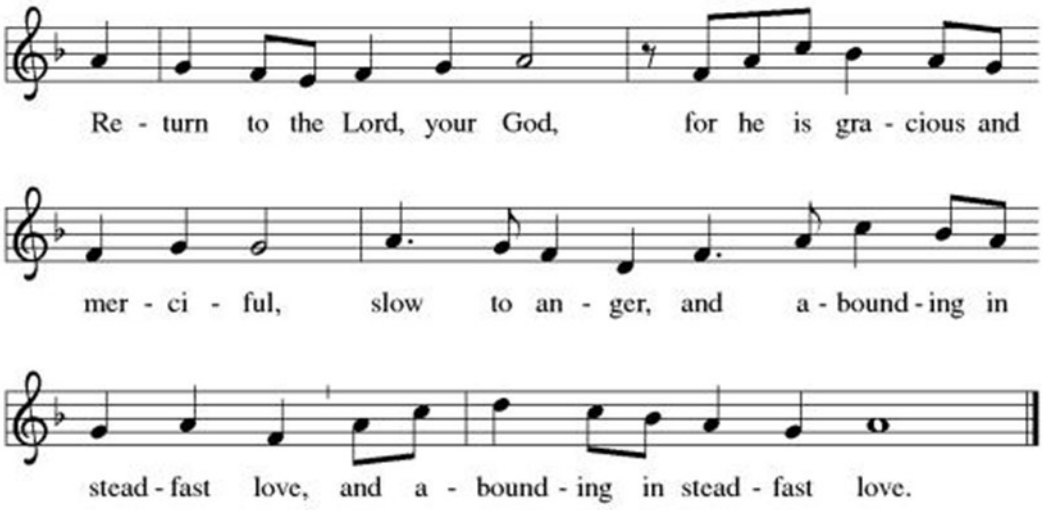
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

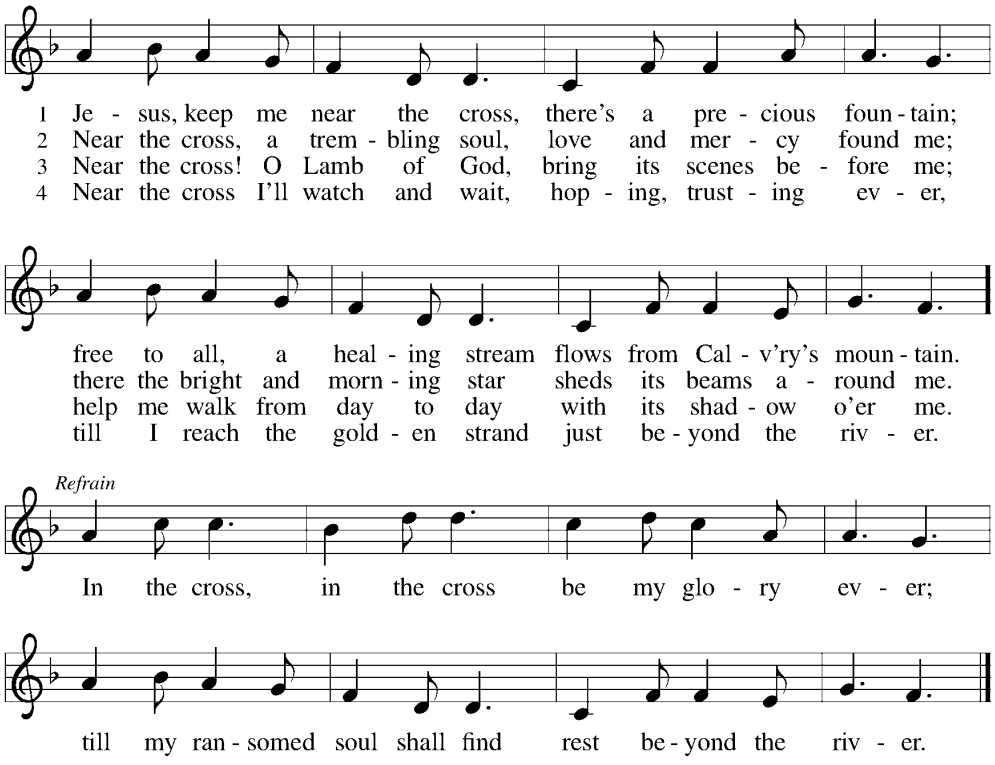
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

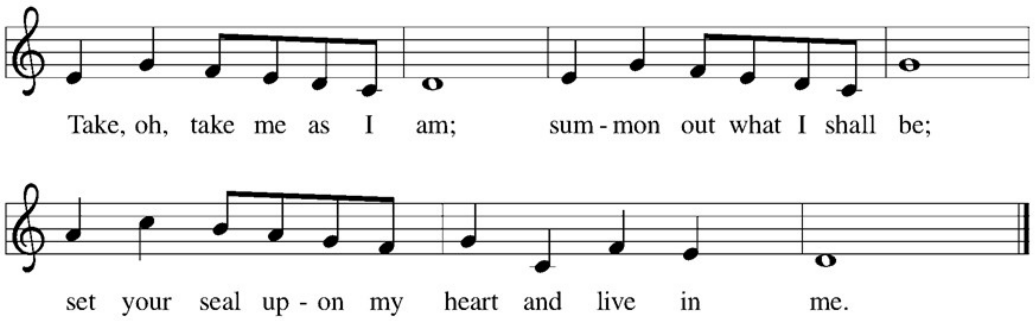
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

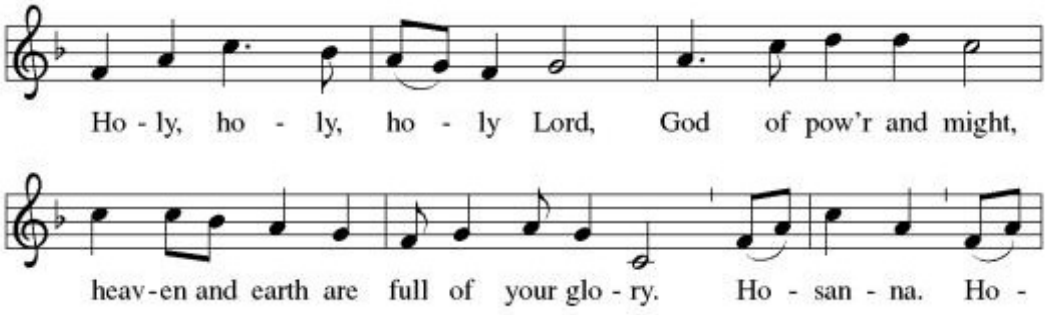
P: Lift up your hearts.

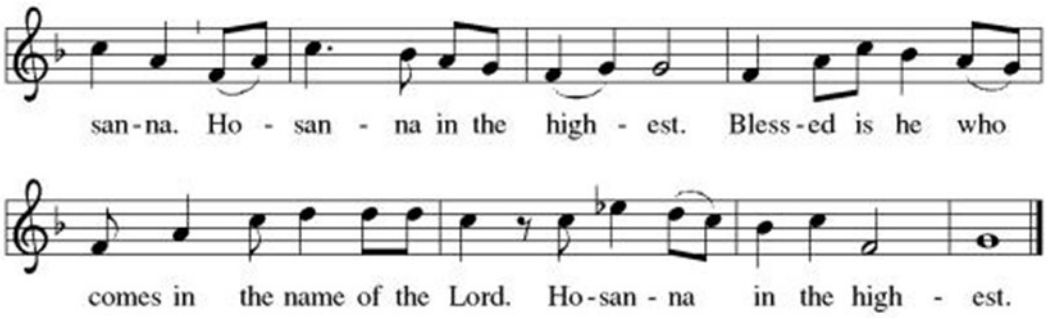
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

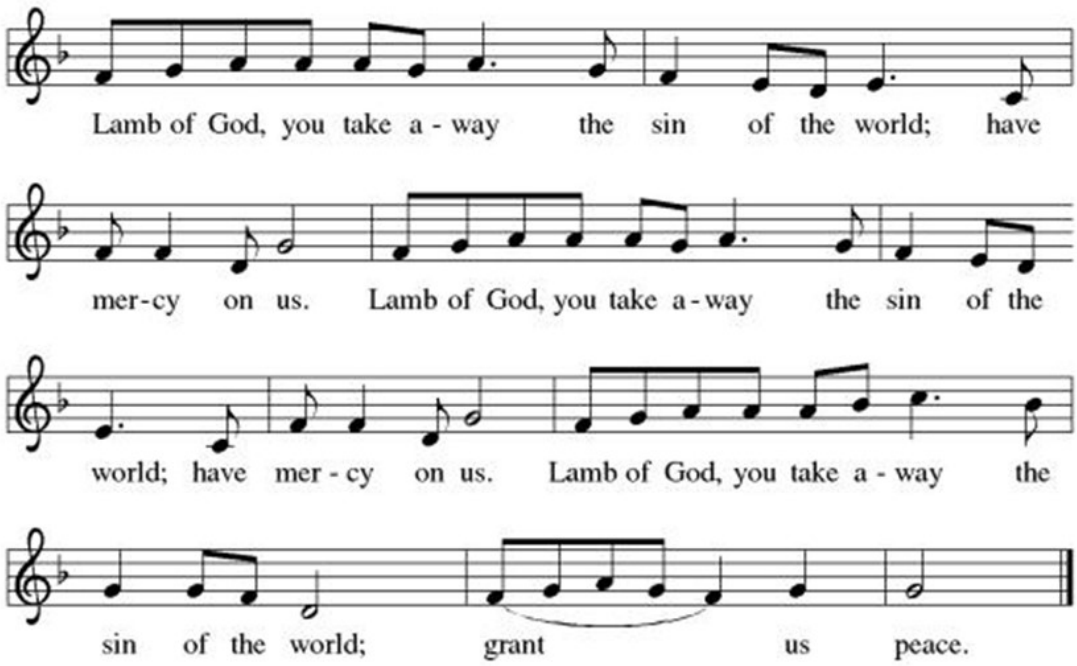
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
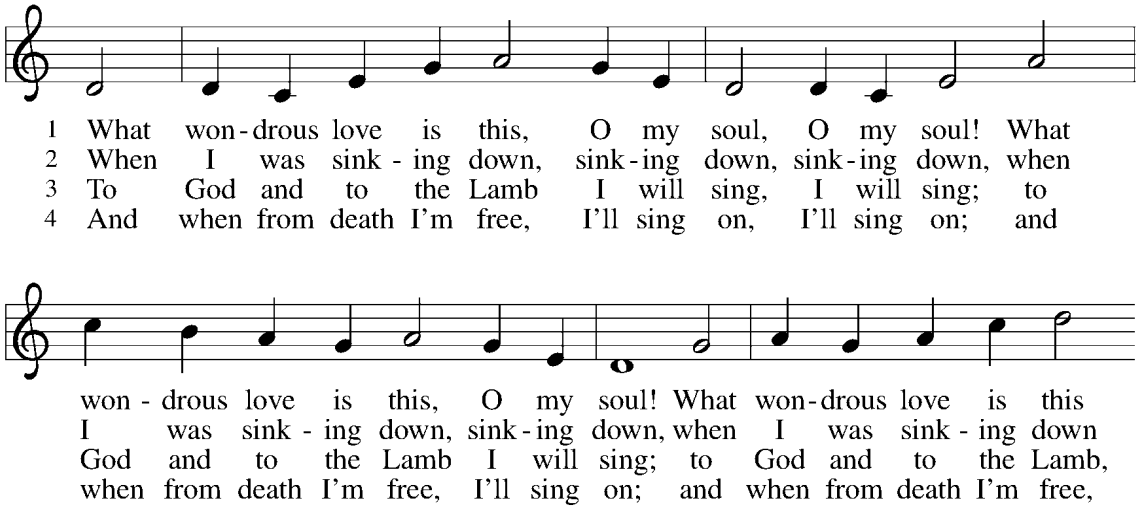
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



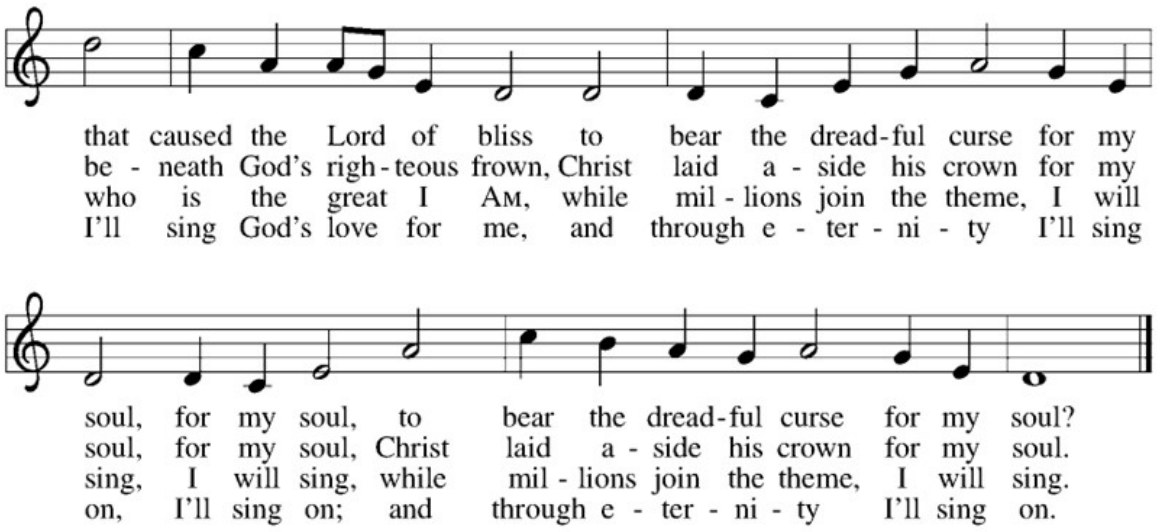
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

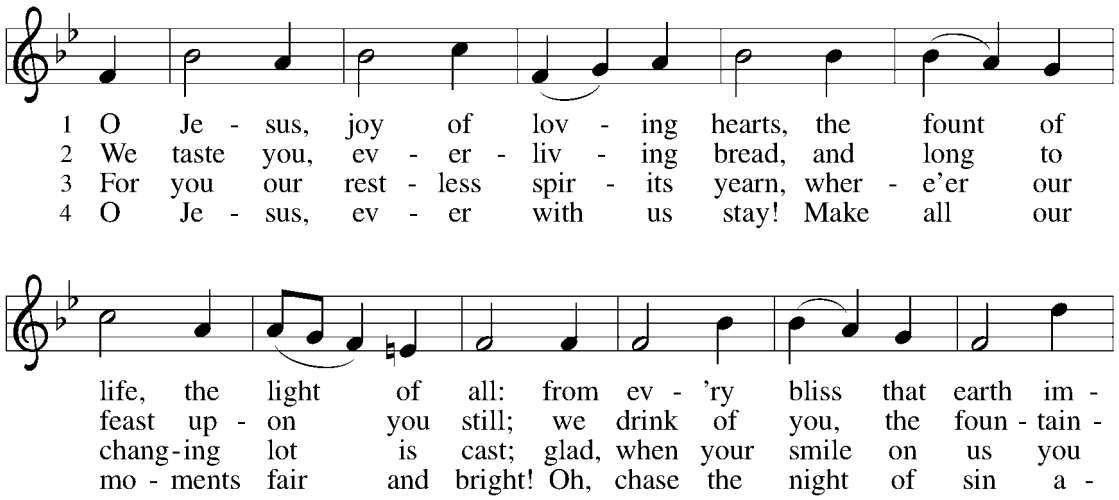
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
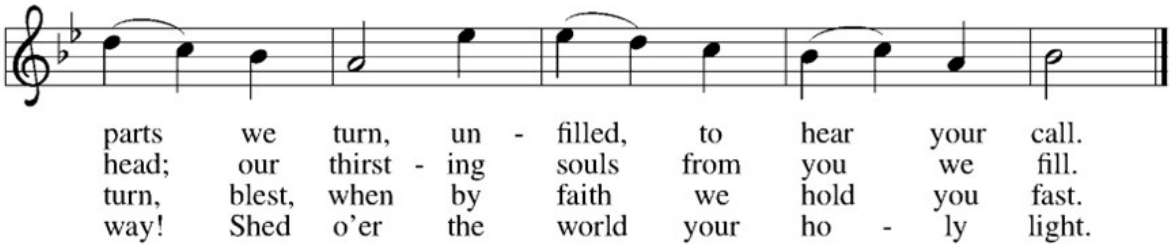
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

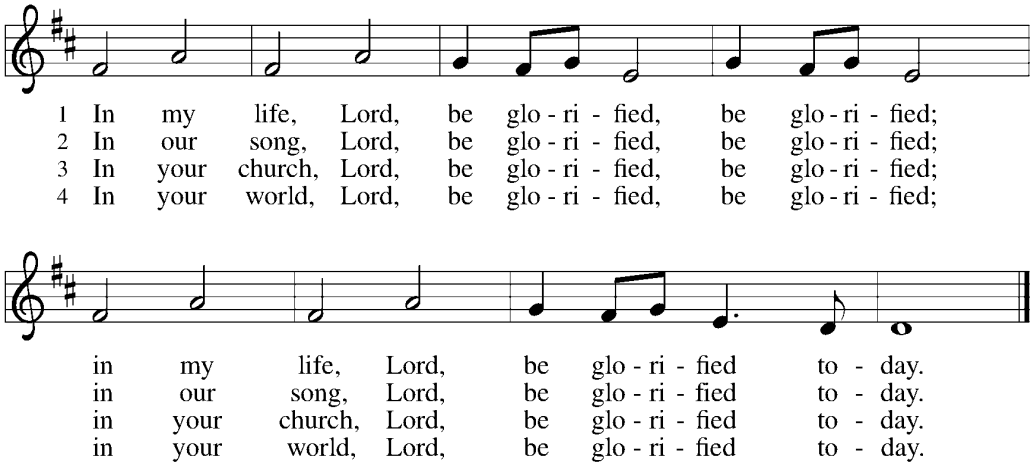
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

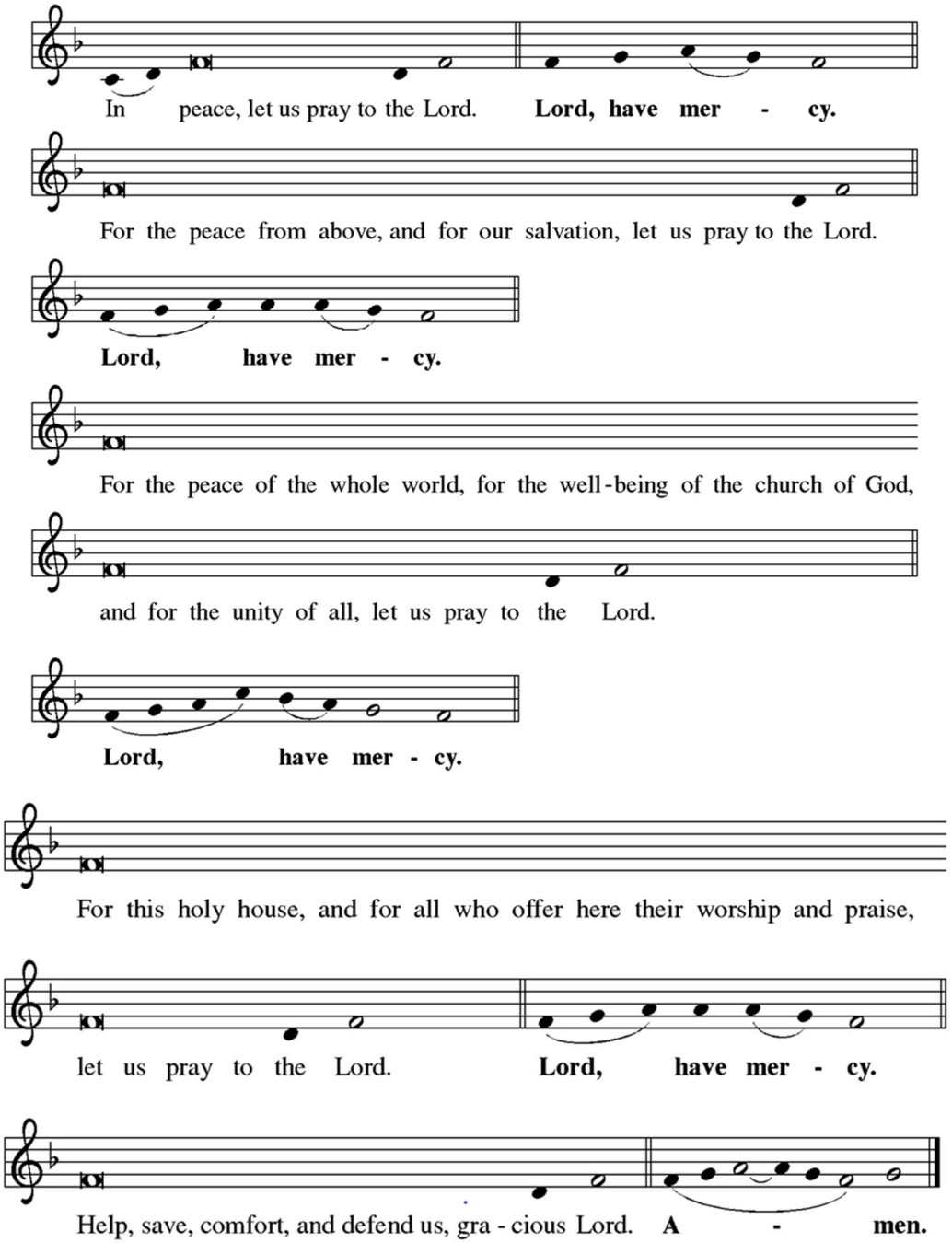
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

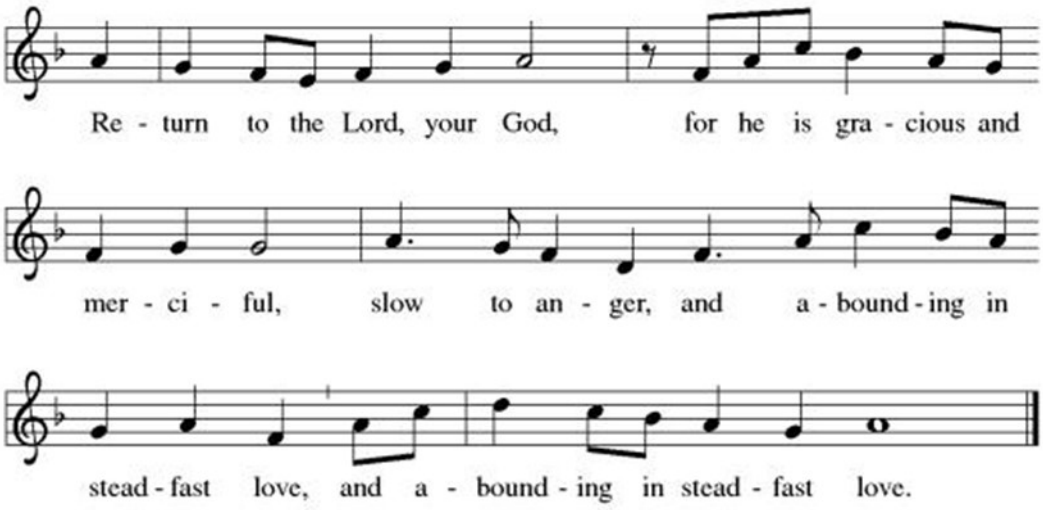
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

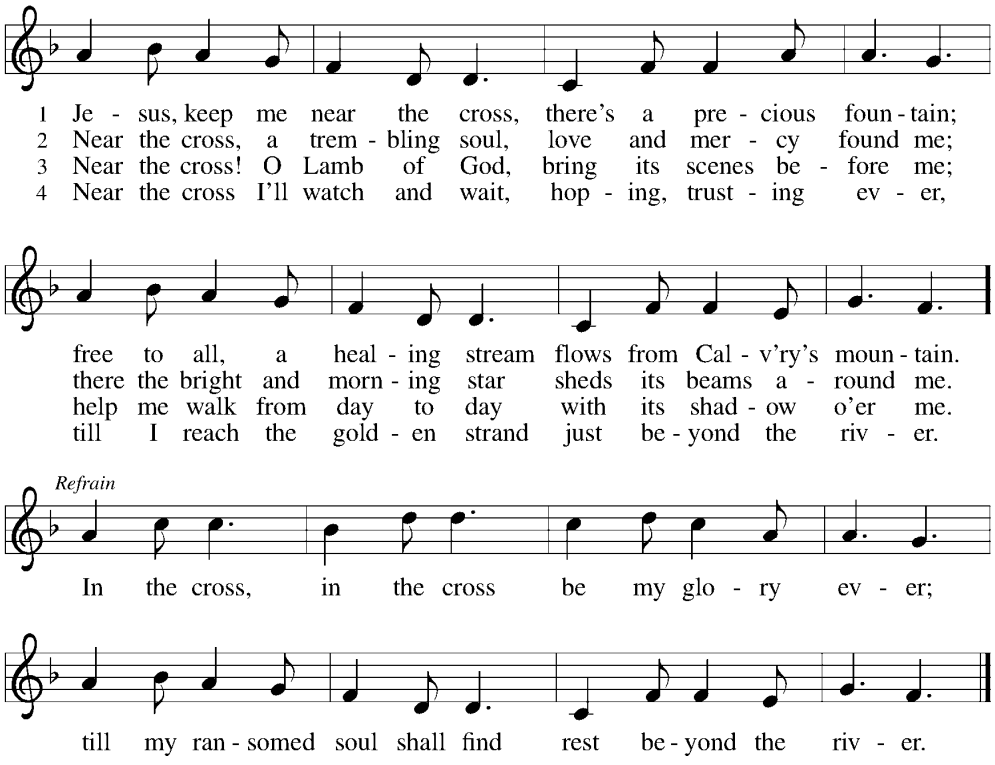
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

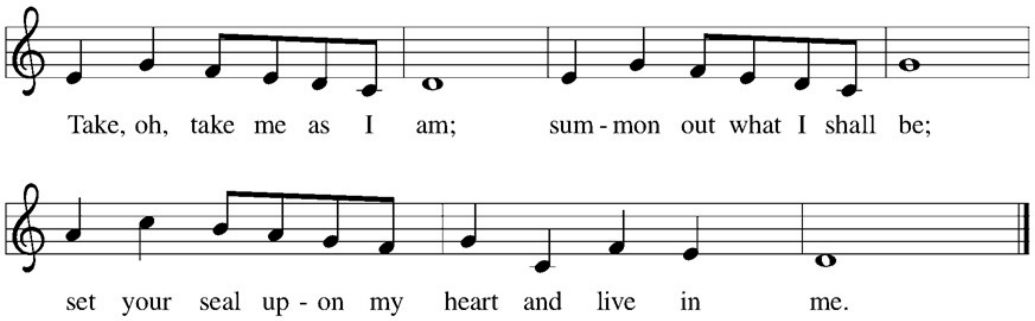
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

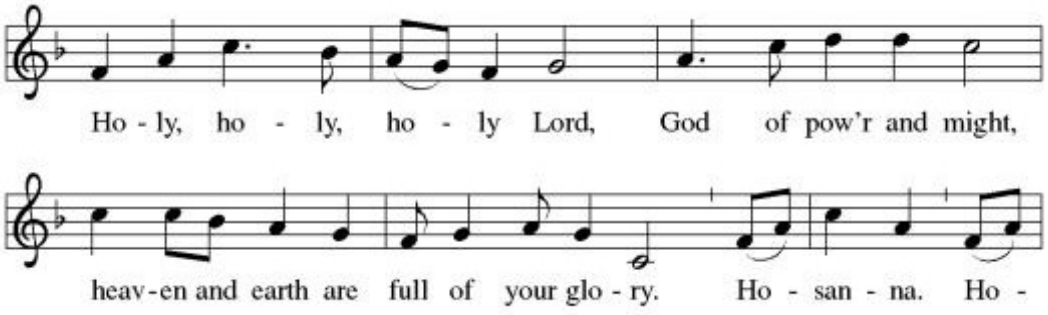
P: Lift up your hearts.

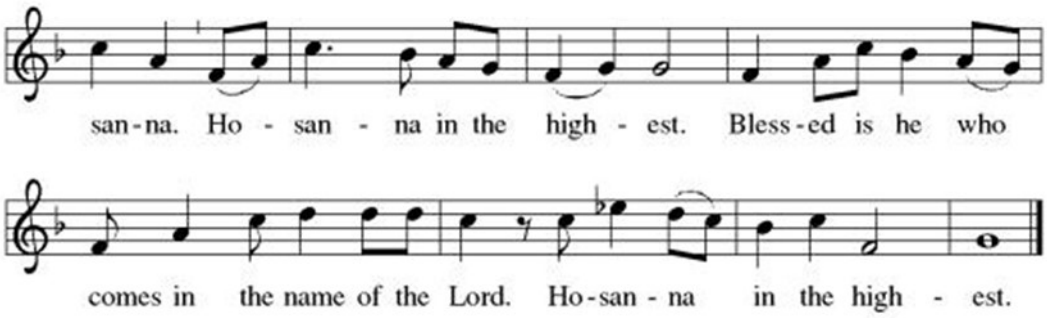
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

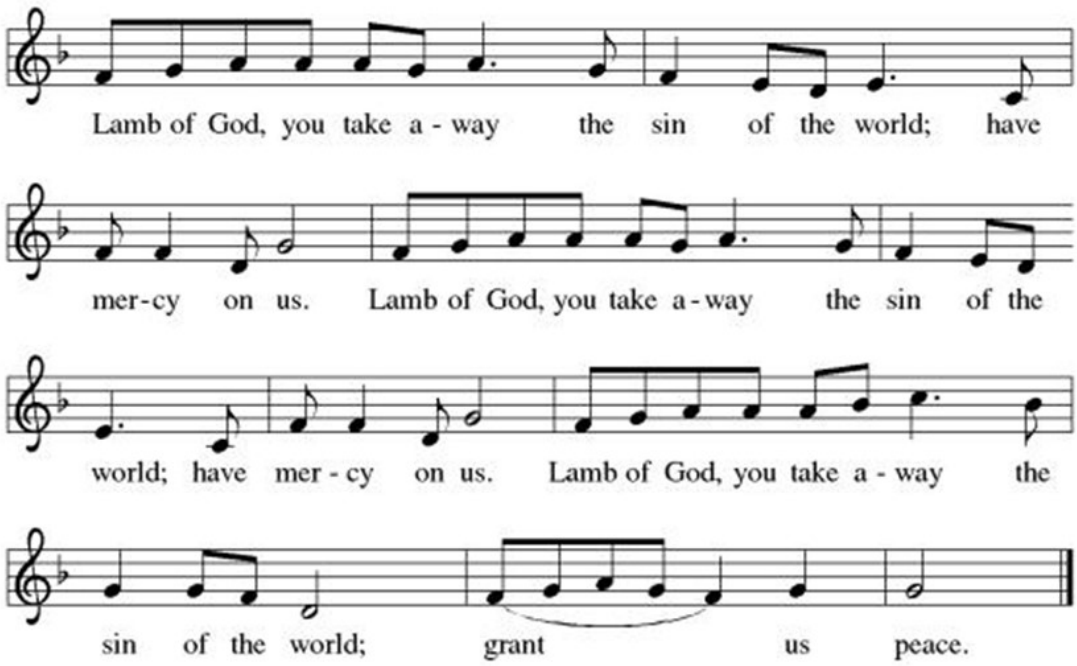
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
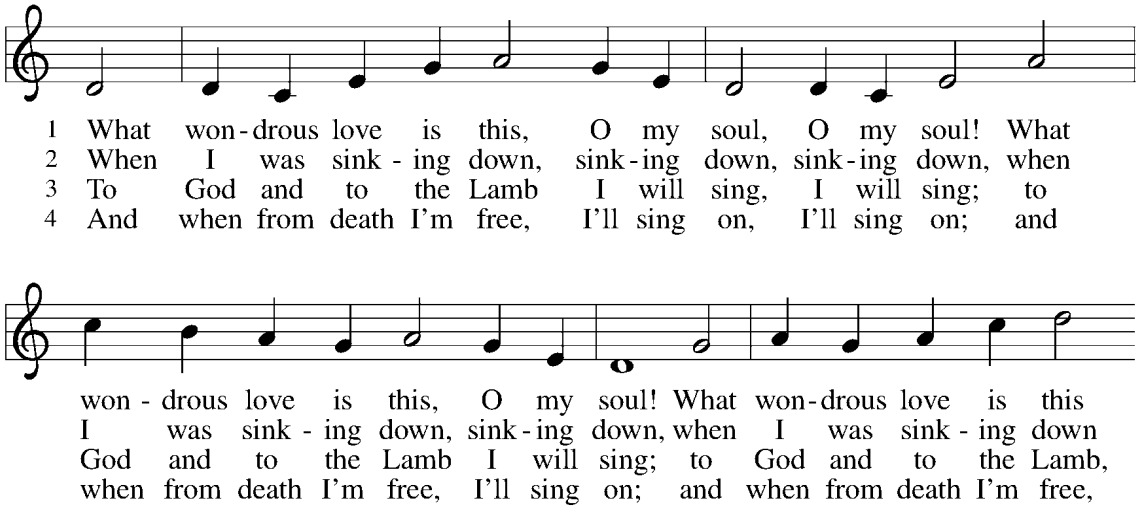
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



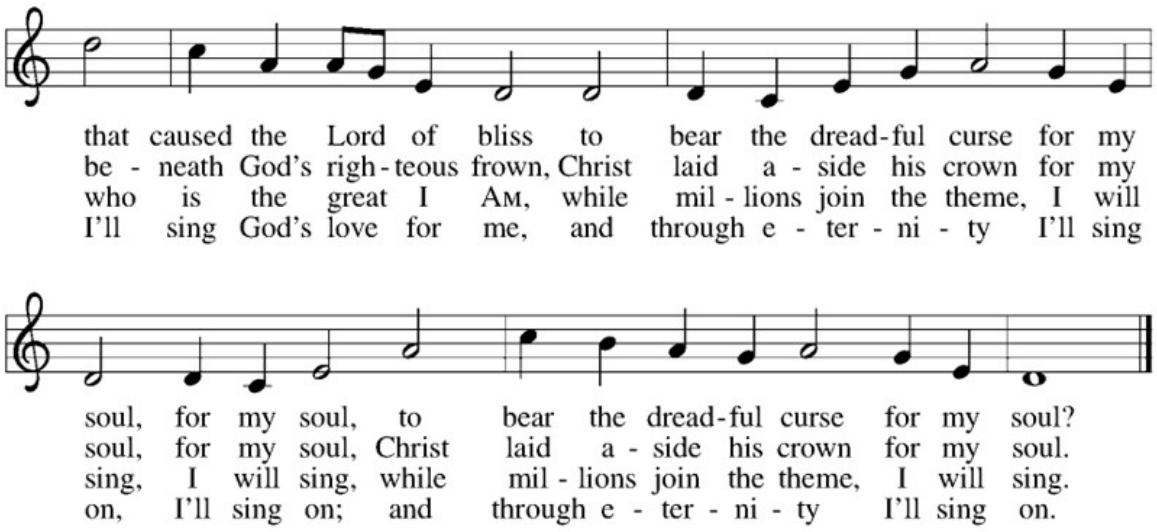
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

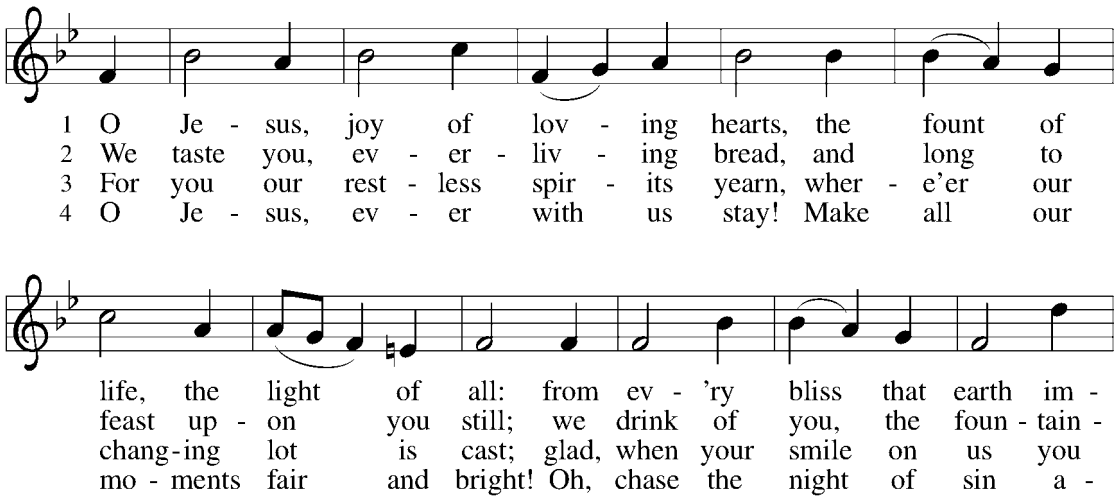
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
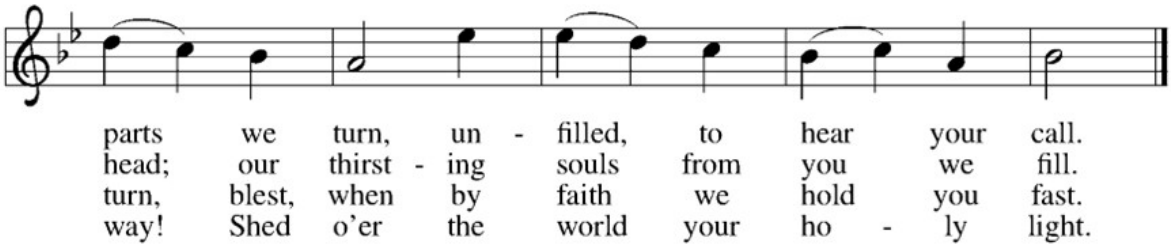
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

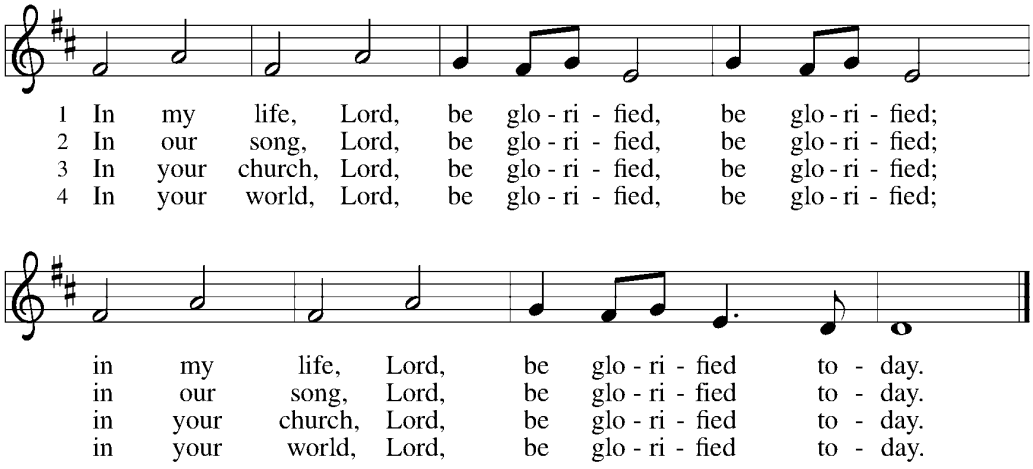
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

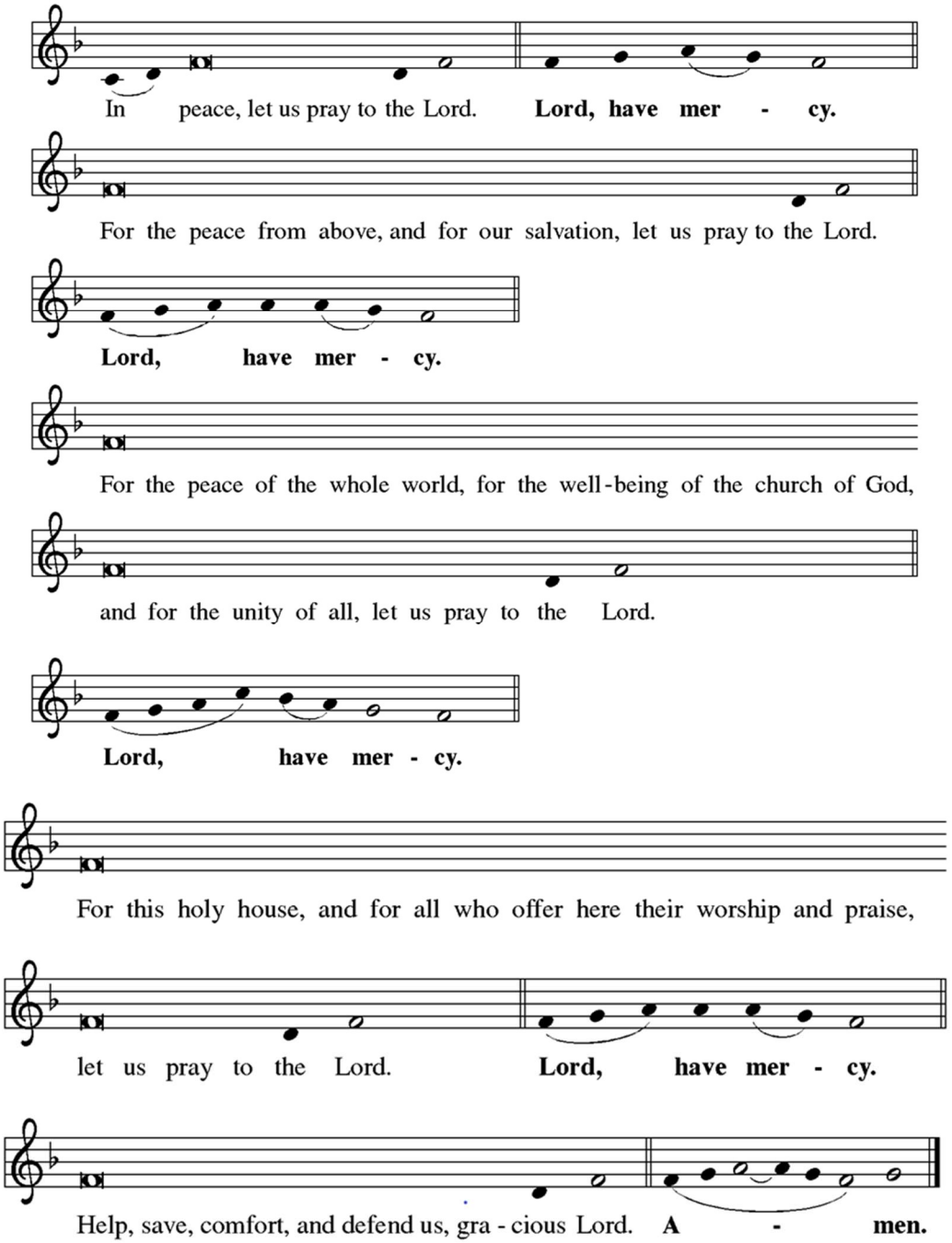
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

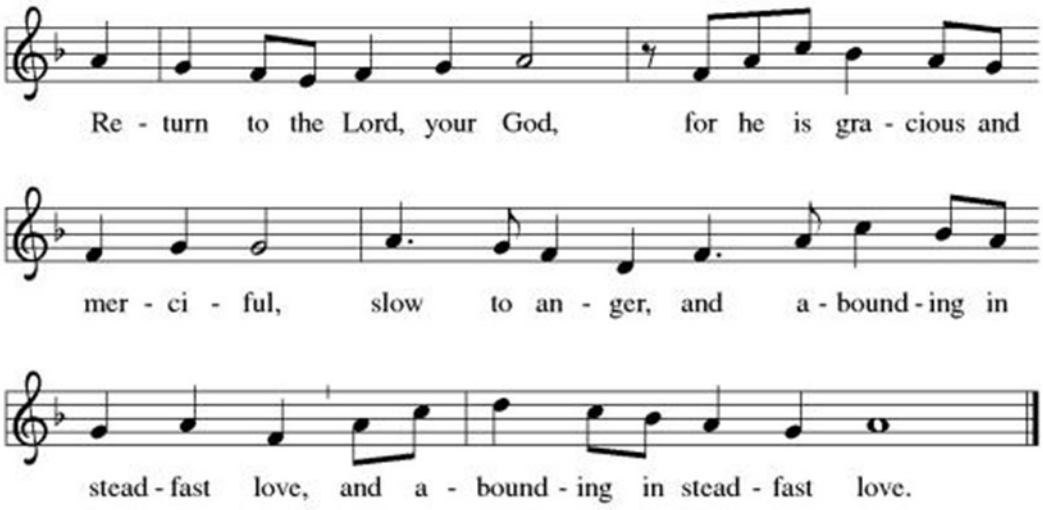
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

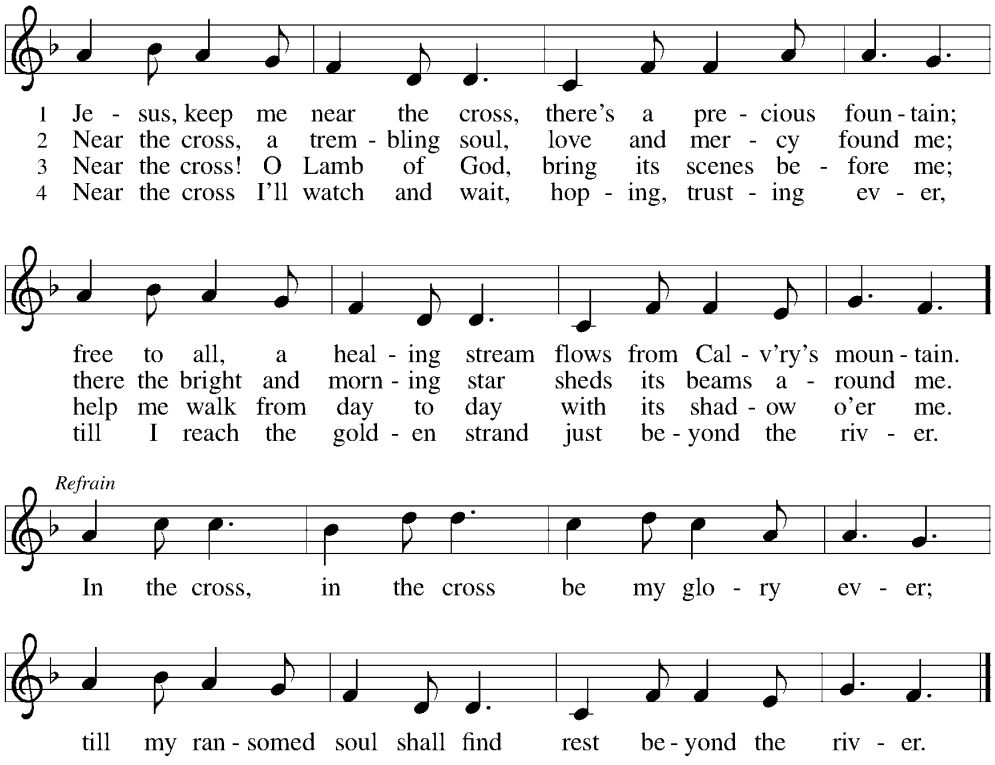
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

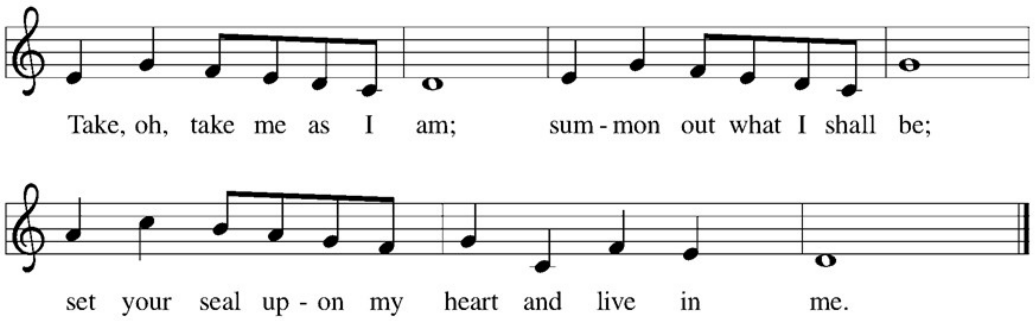
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

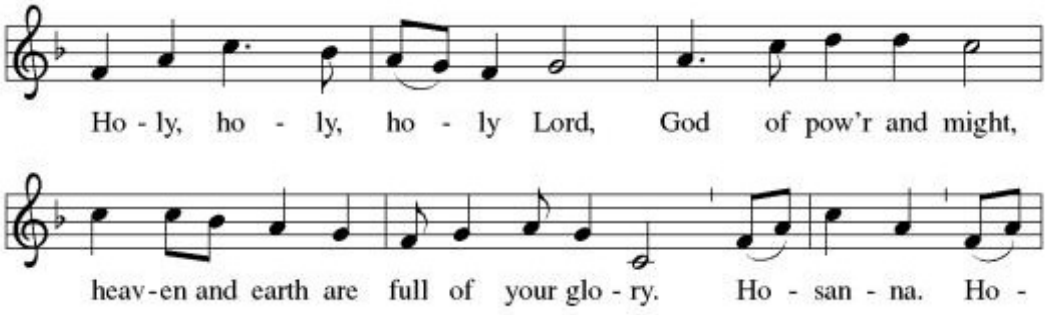
P: Lift up your hearts.

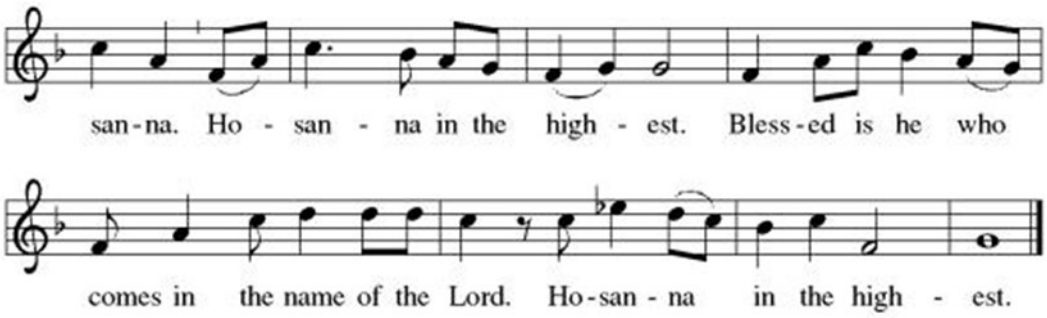
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

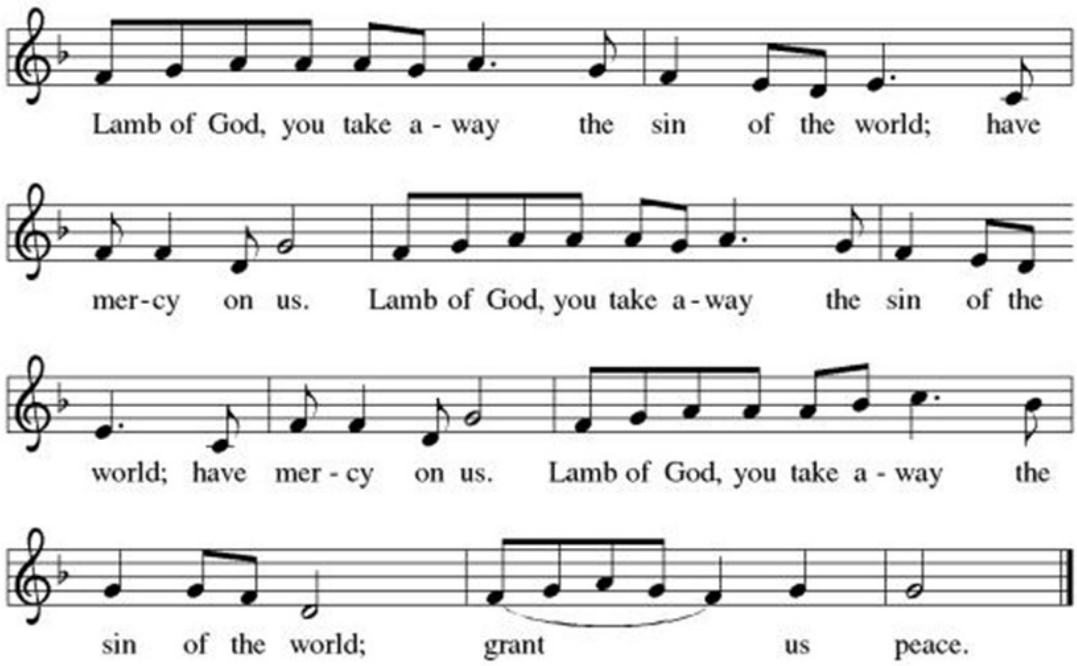
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
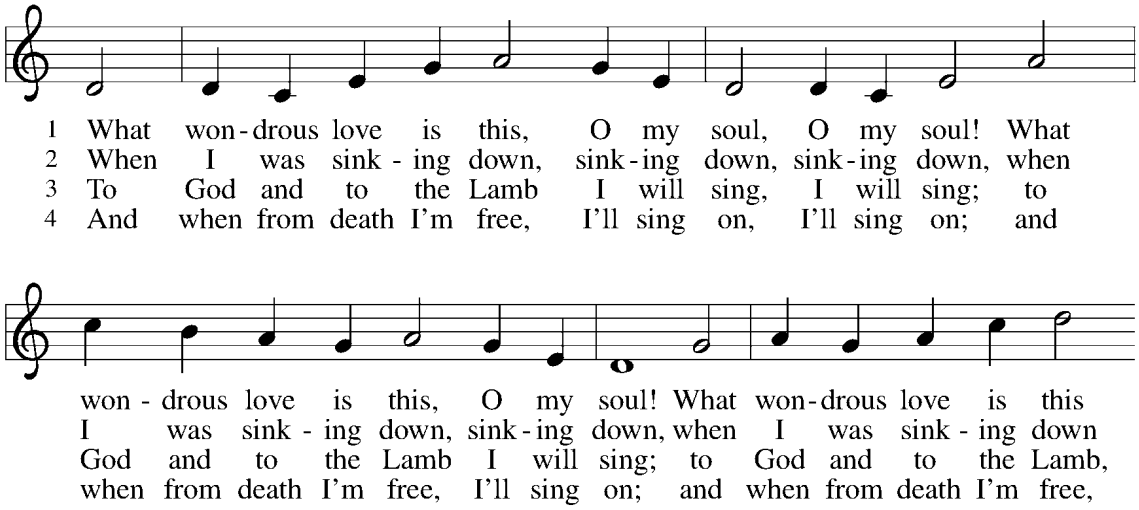
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



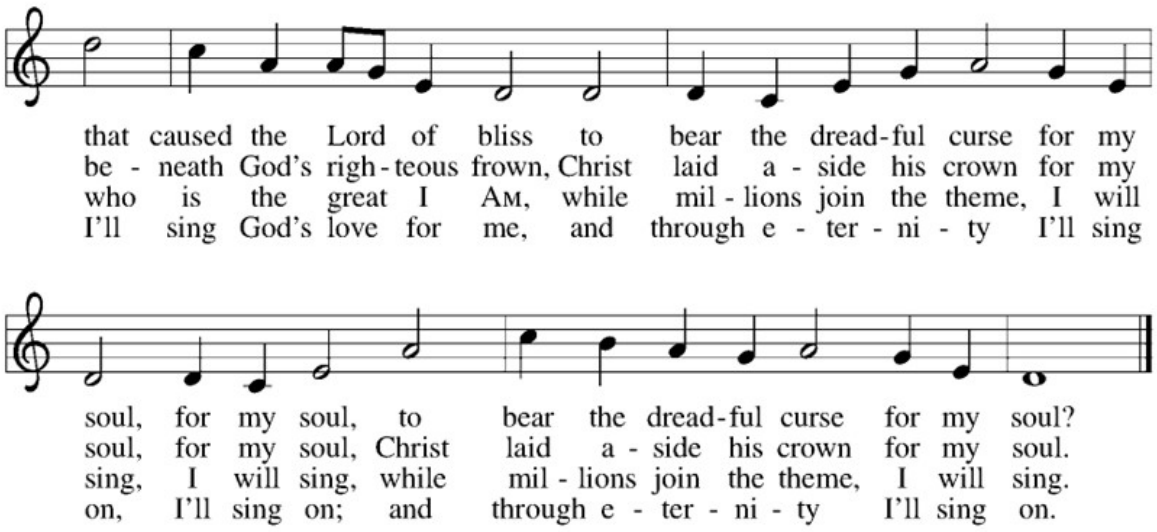
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

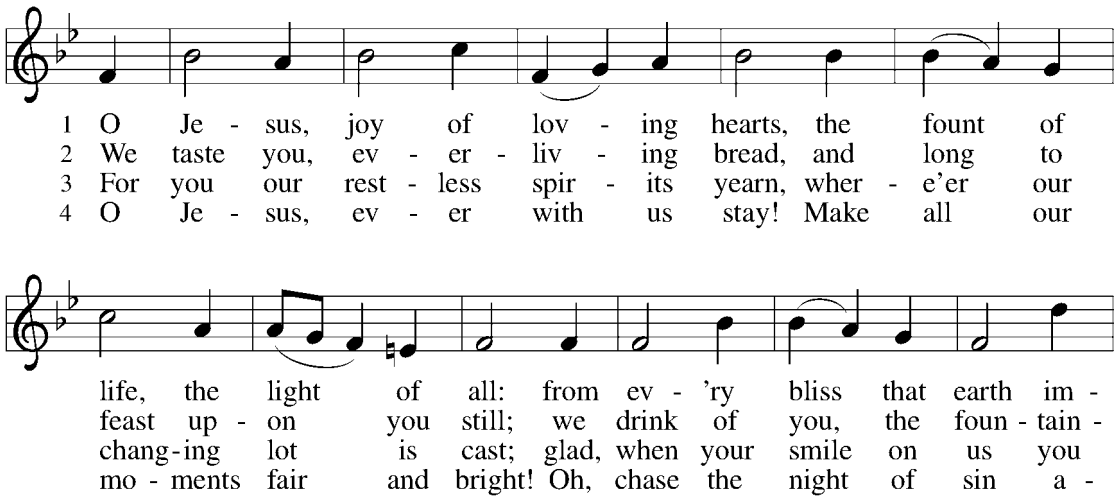
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
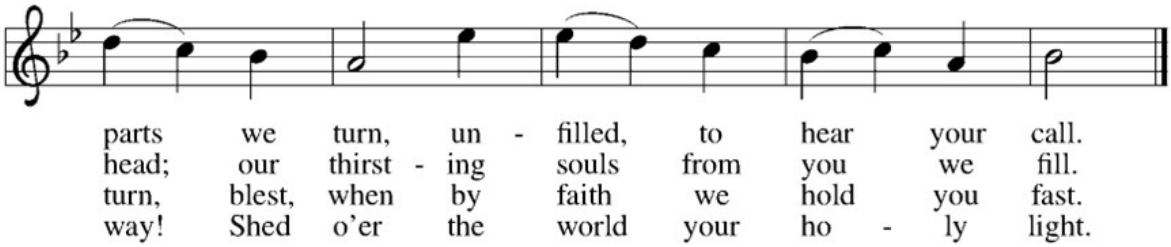
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

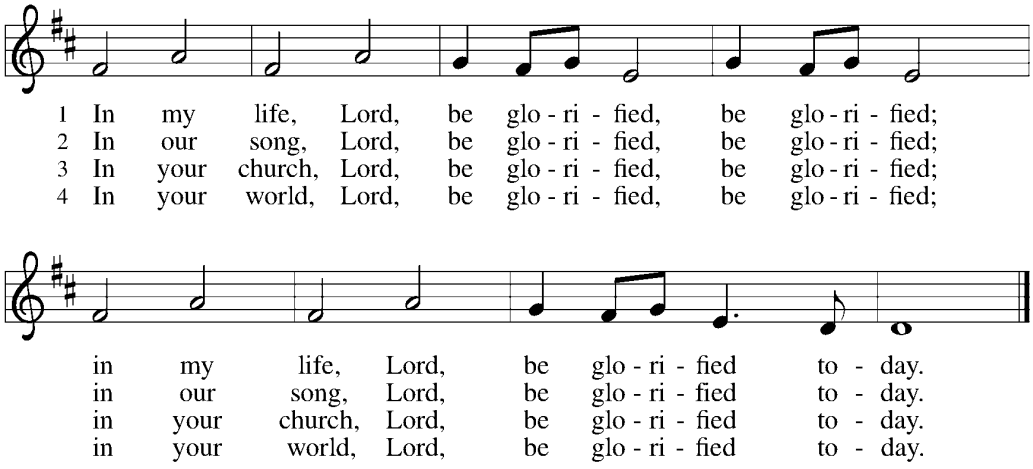
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

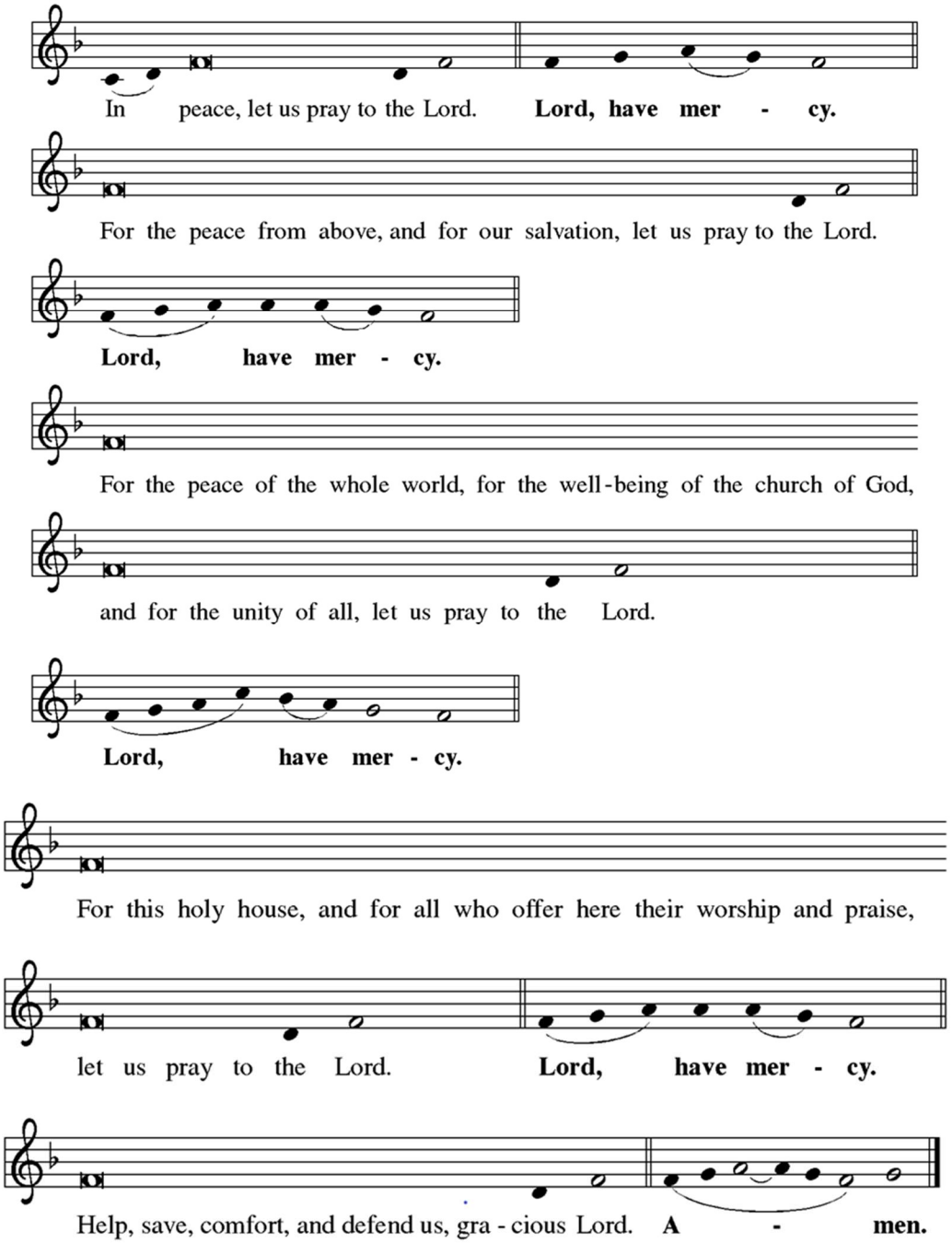
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

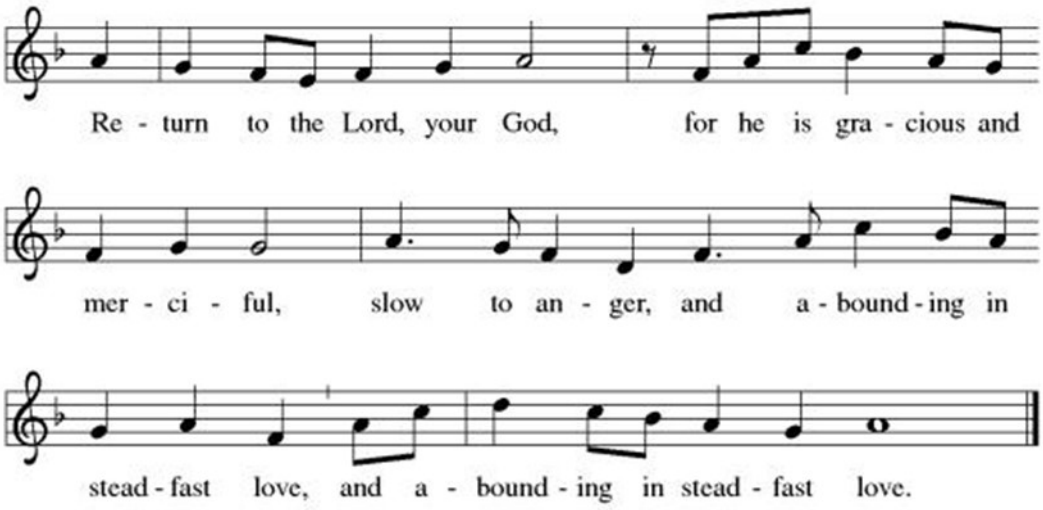
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

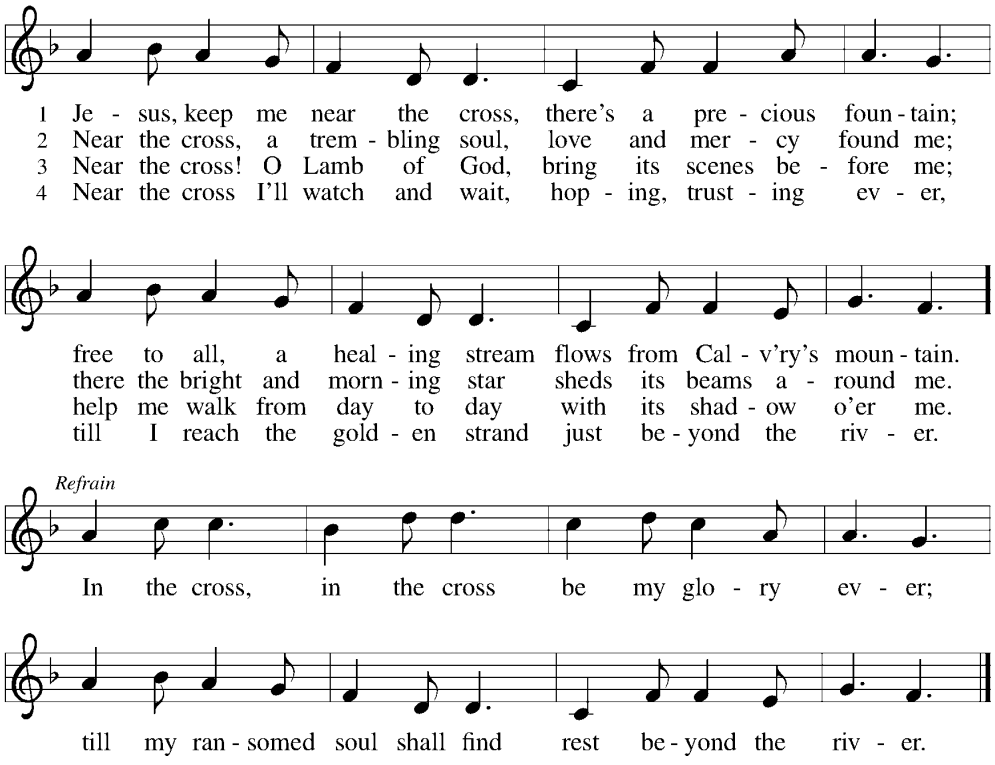
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

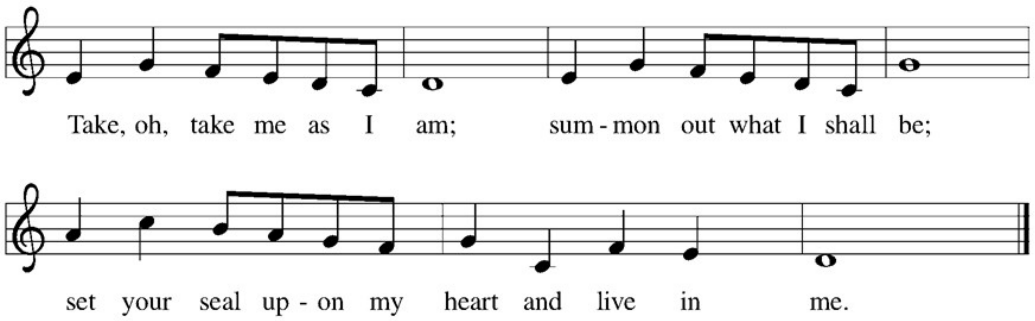
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

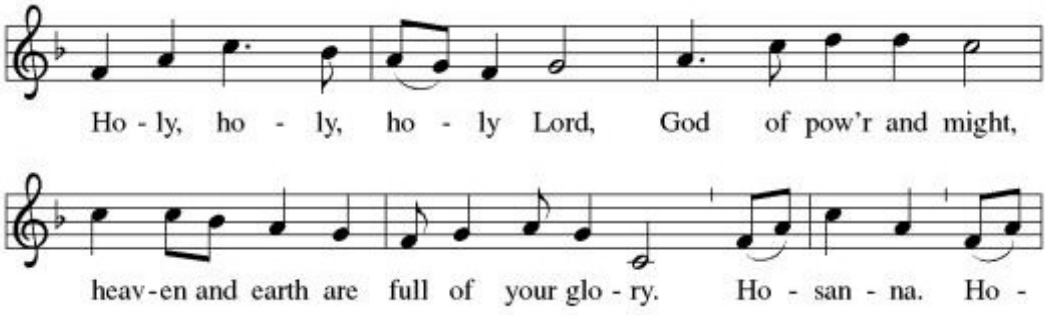
P: Lift up your hearts.

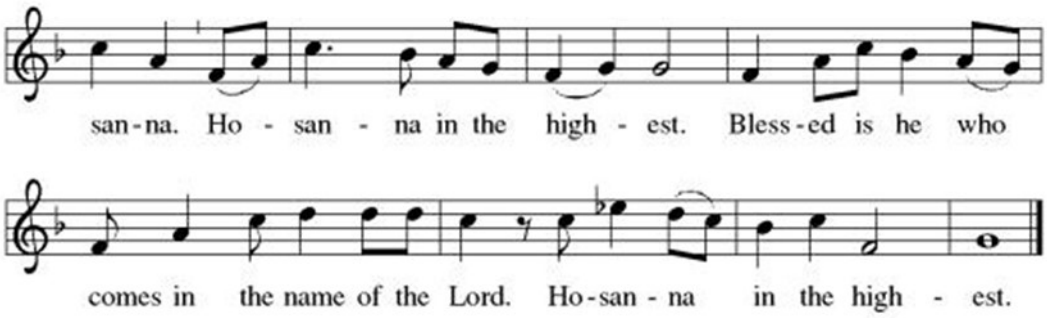
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

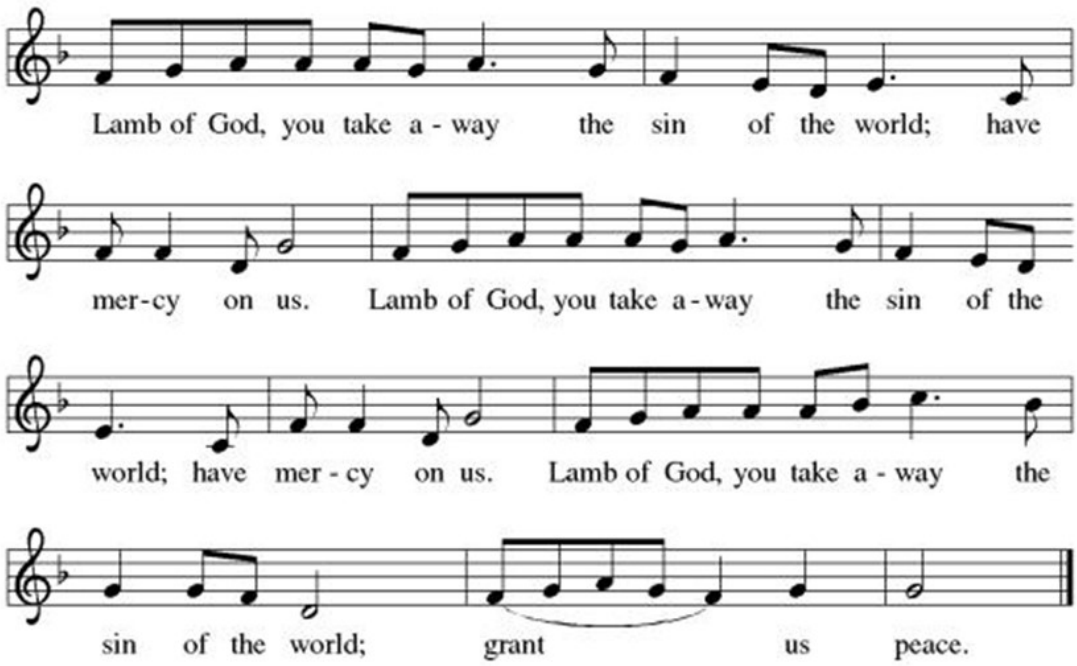
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
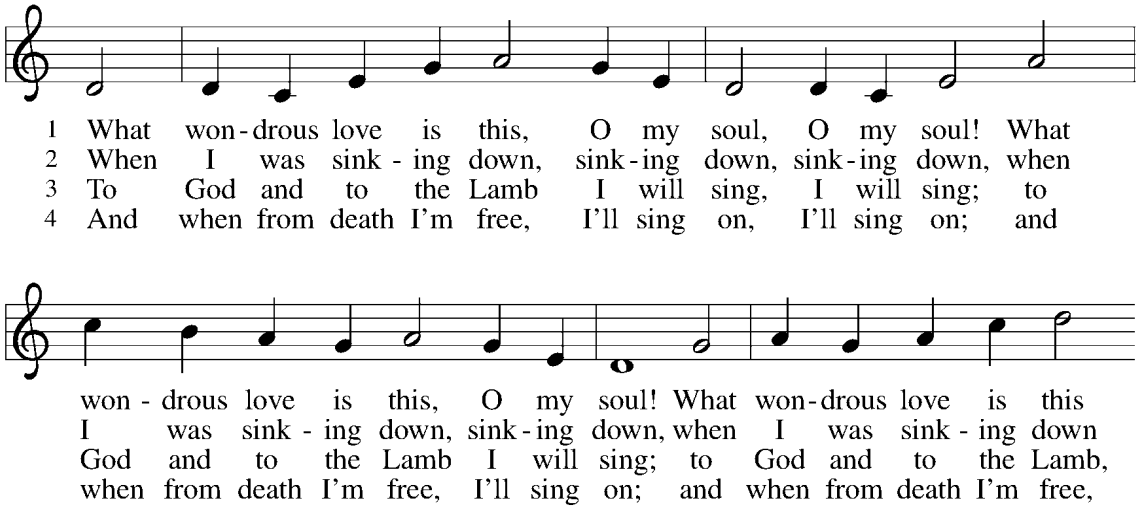
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



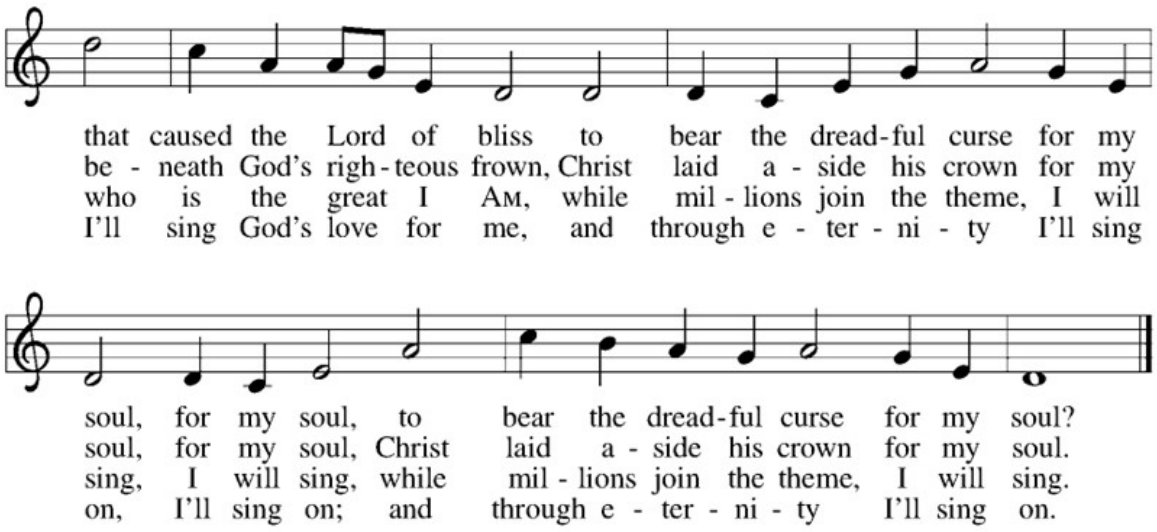
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

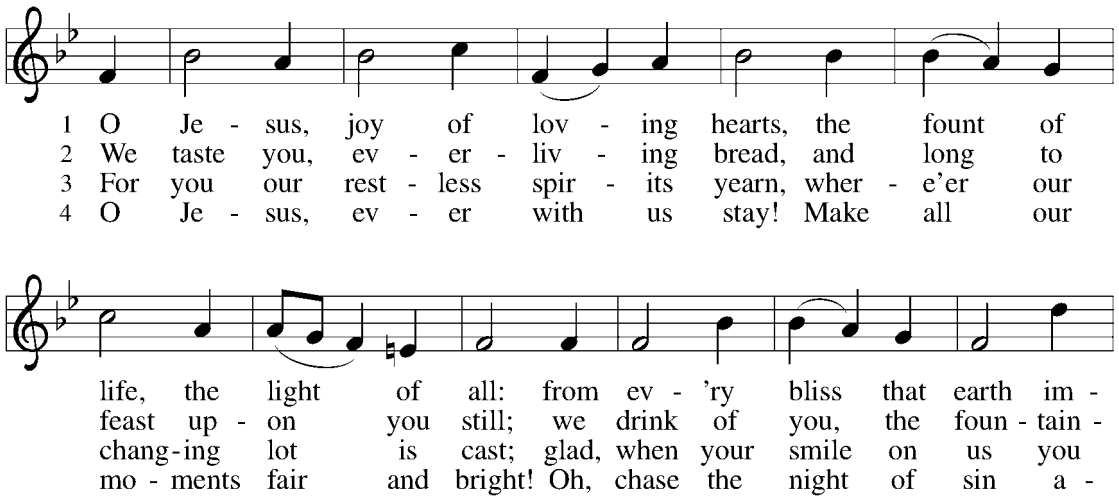
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
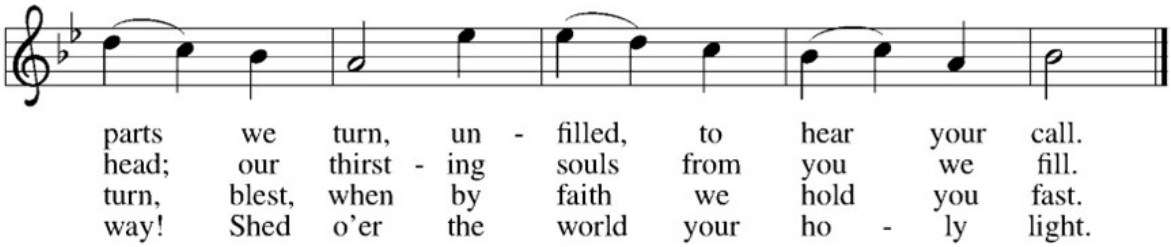
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

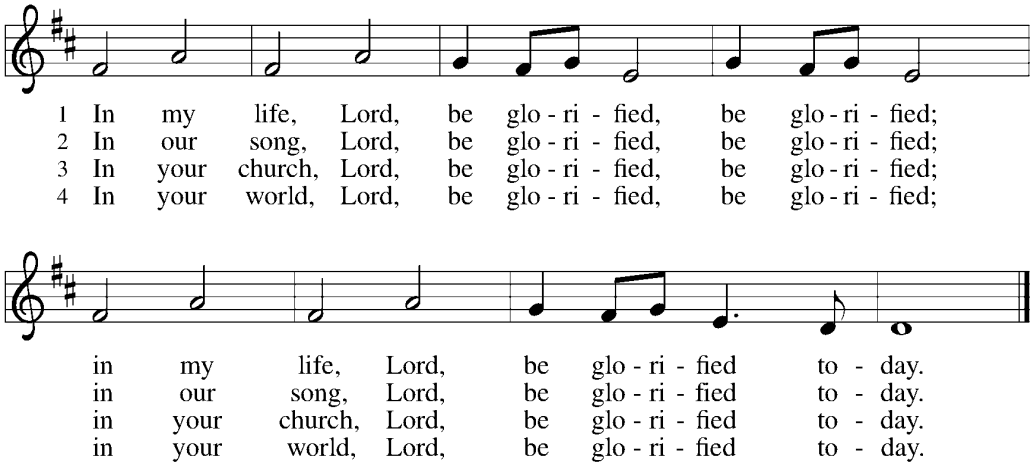
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

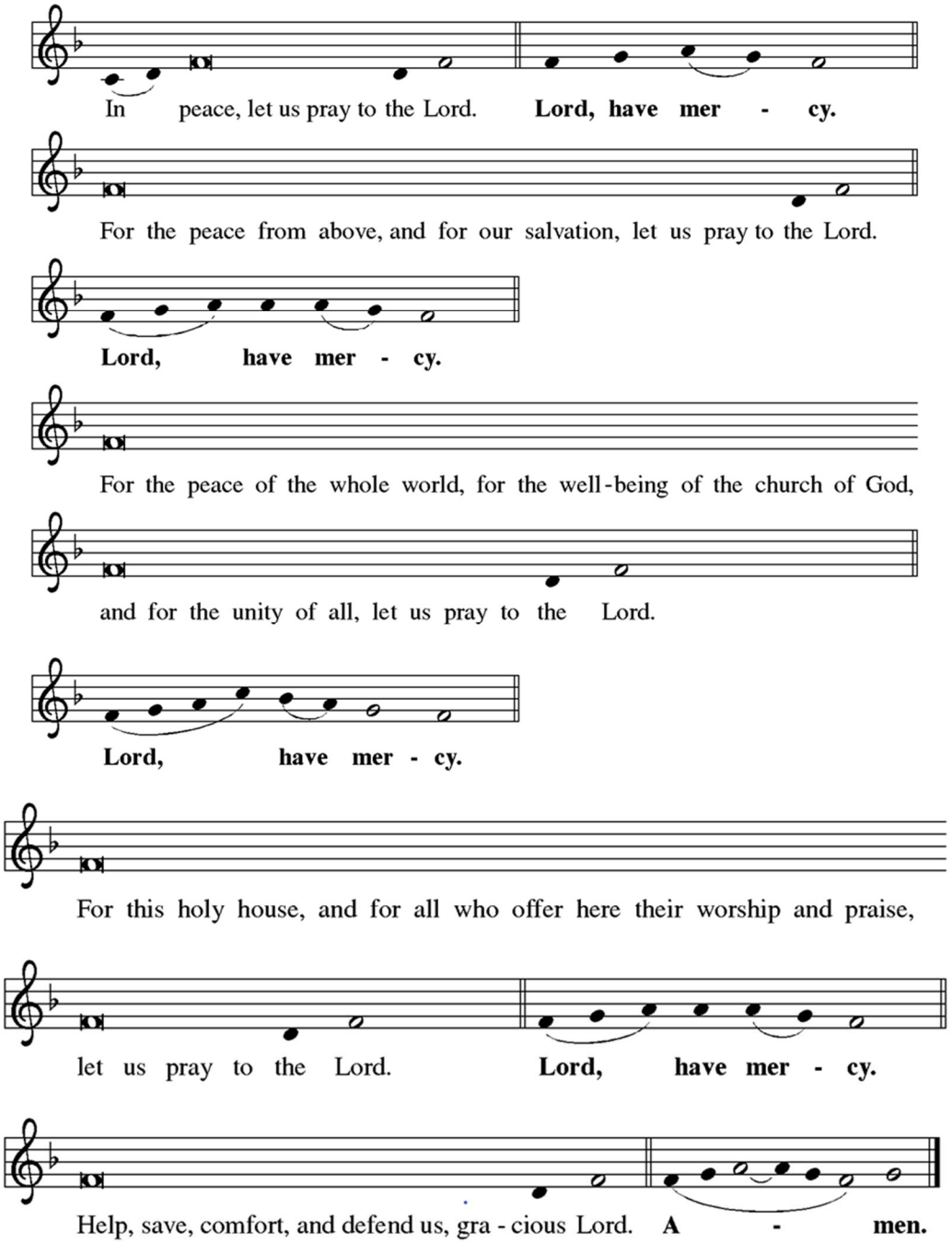
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

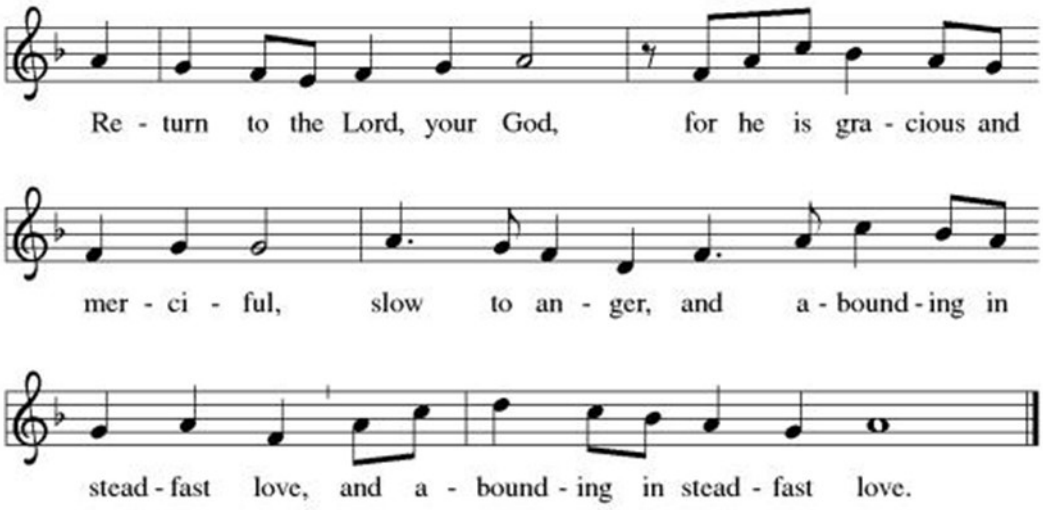
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

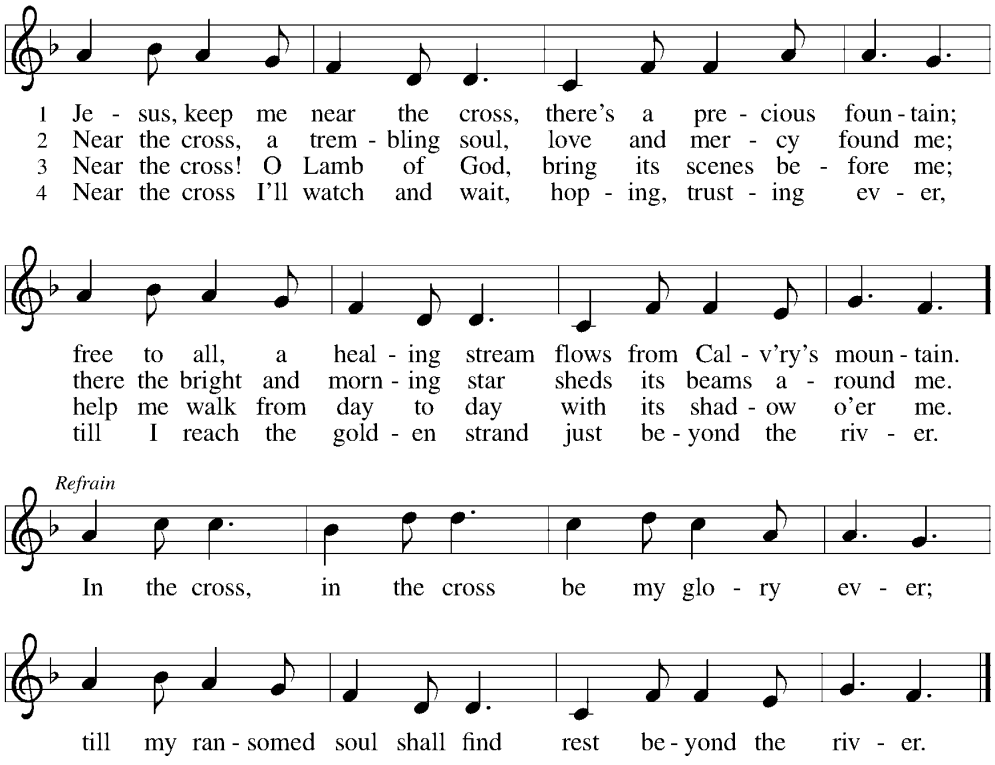
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

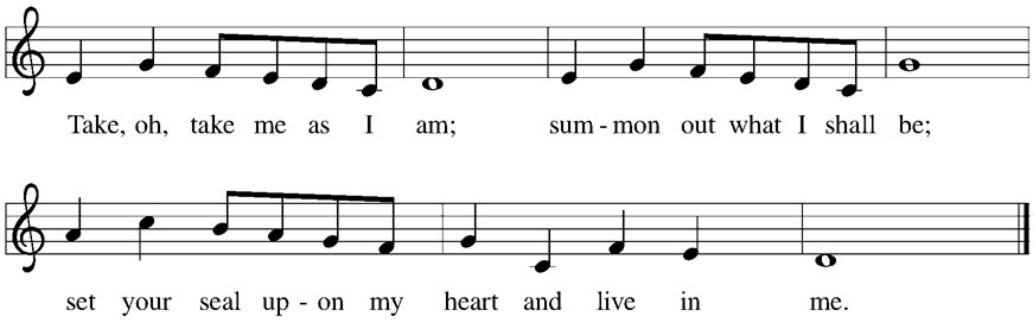
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

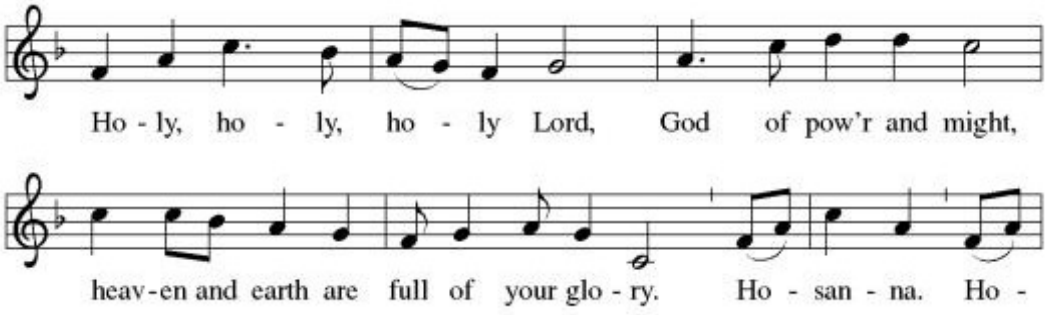
P: Lift up your hearts.

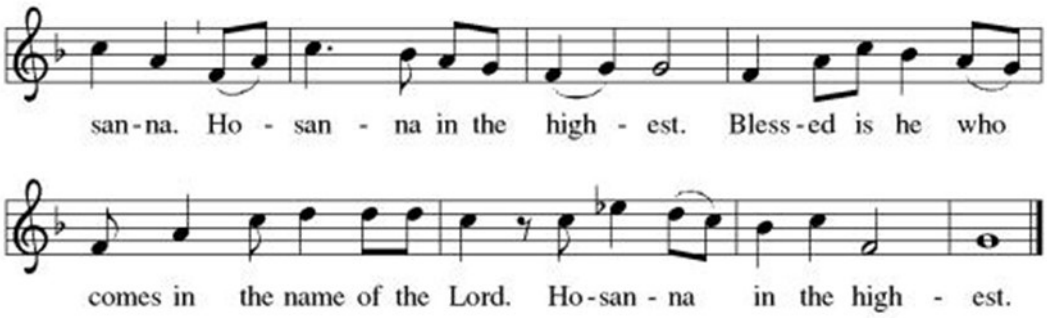
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

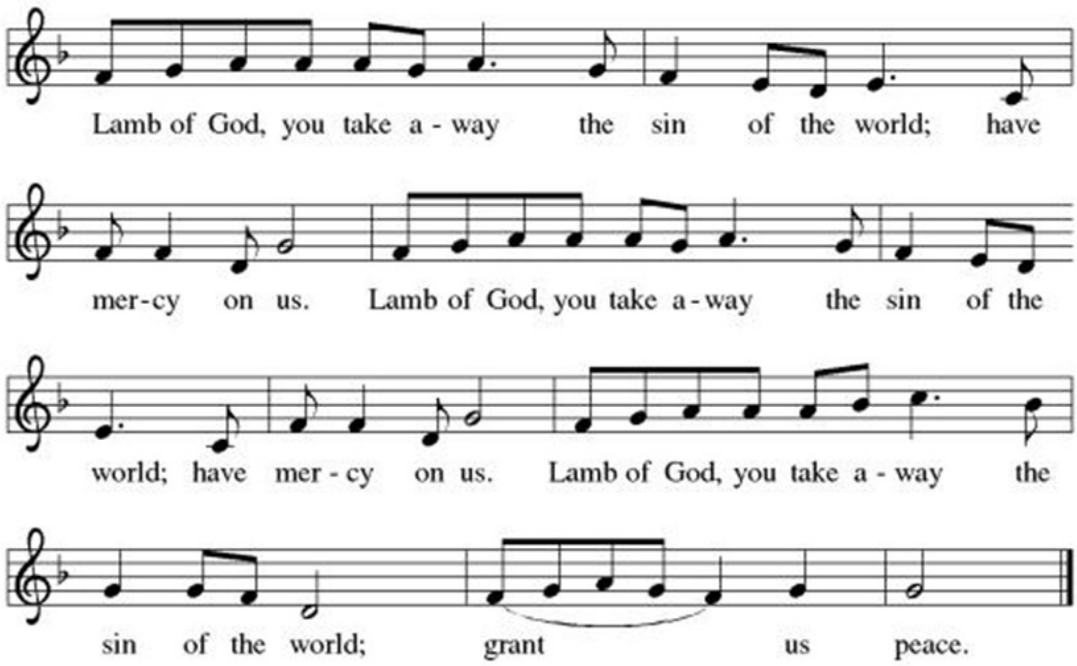
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
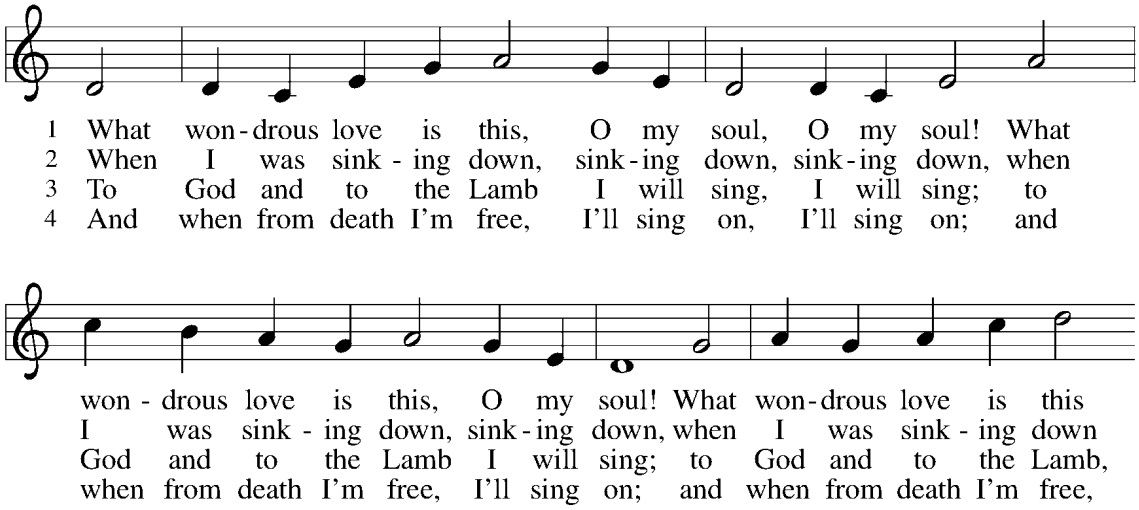
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



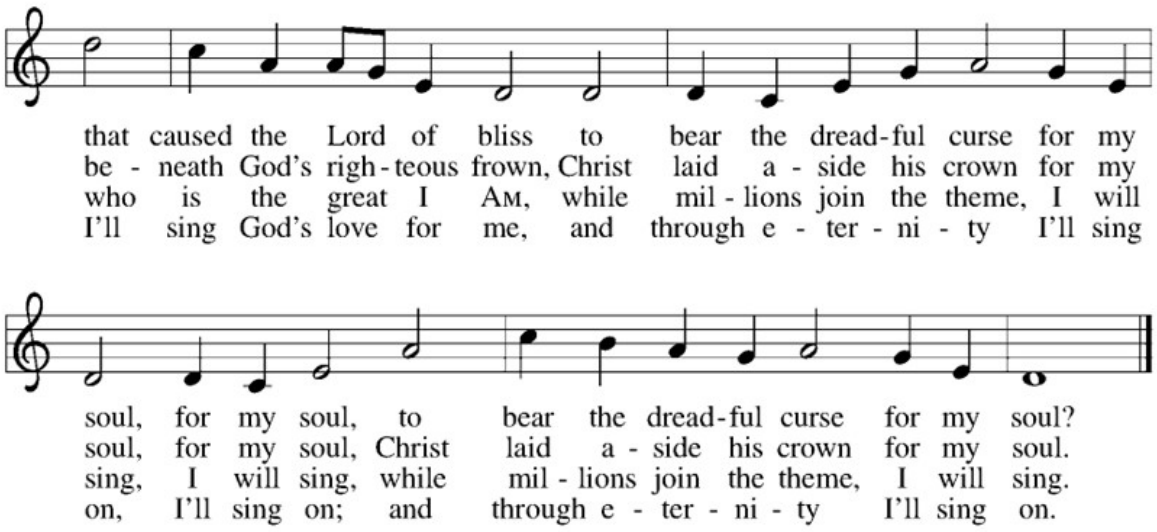
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

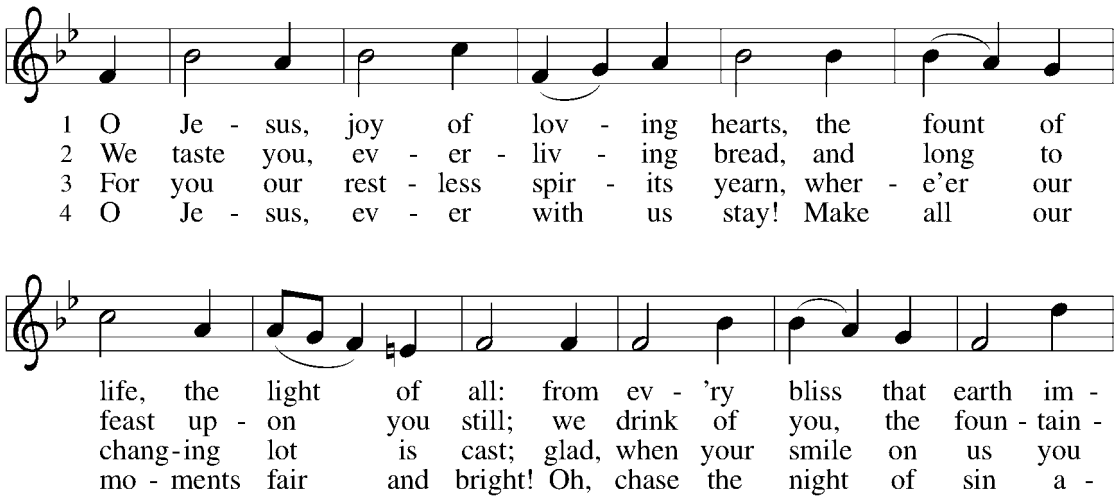
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
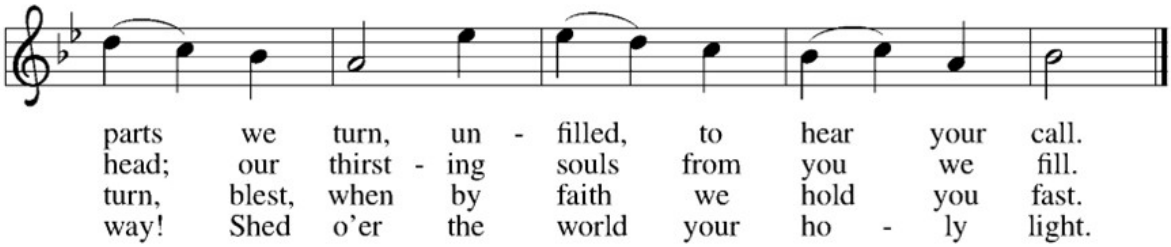
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

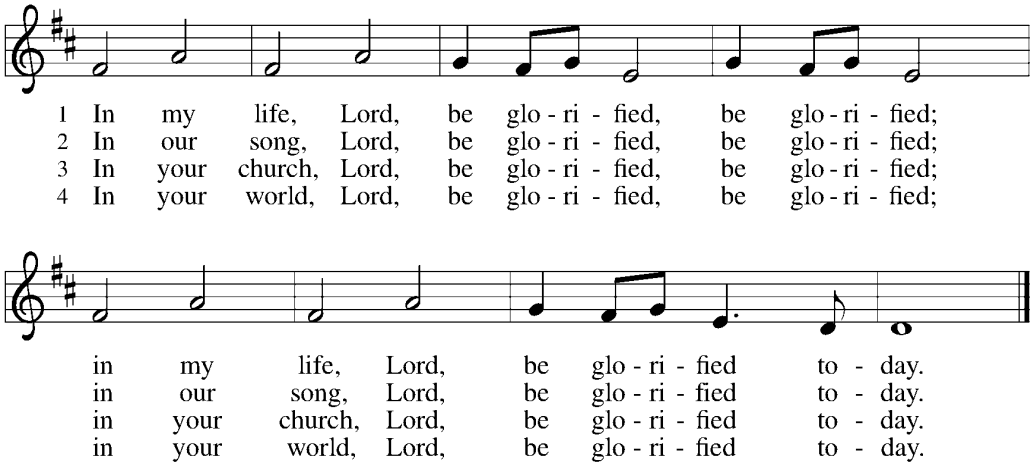
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

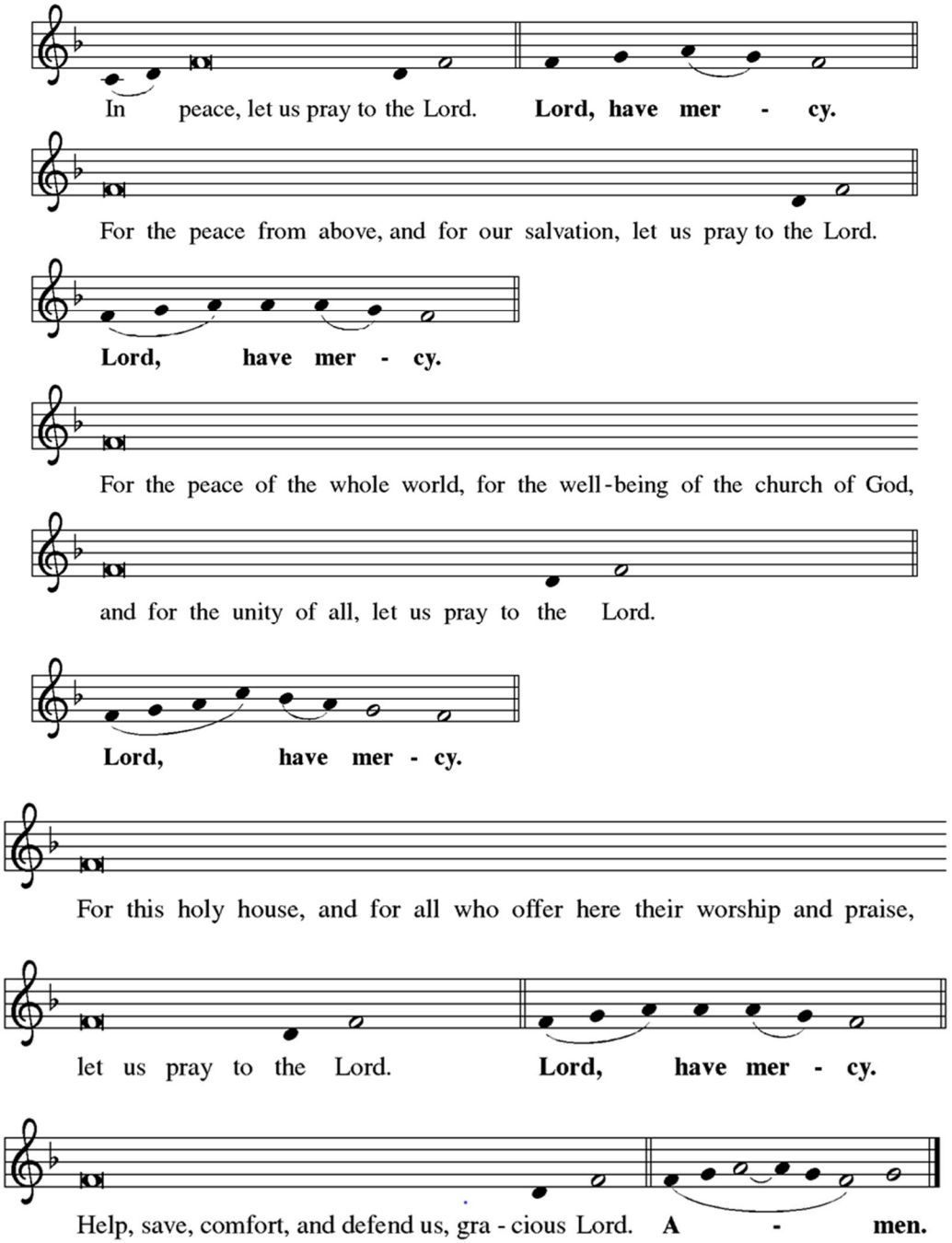
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

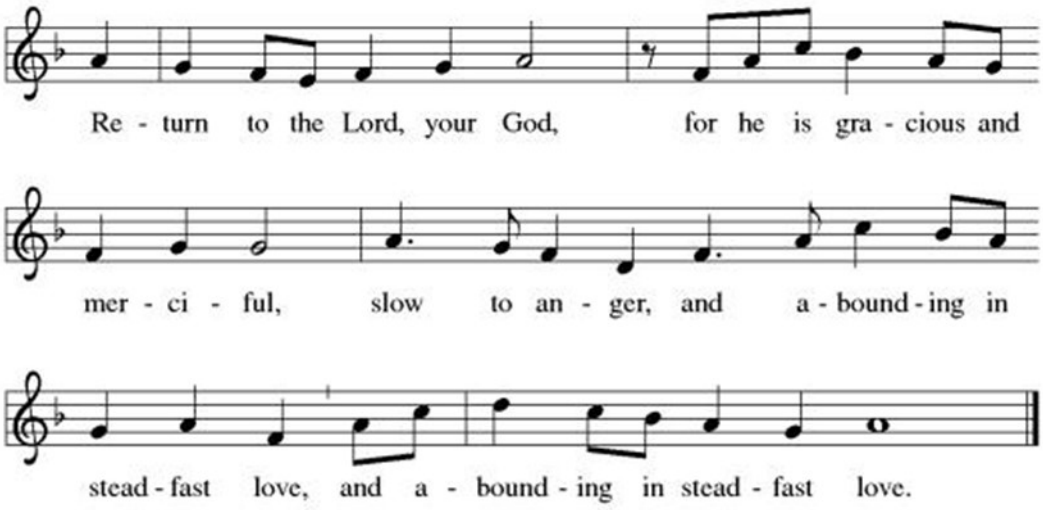
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

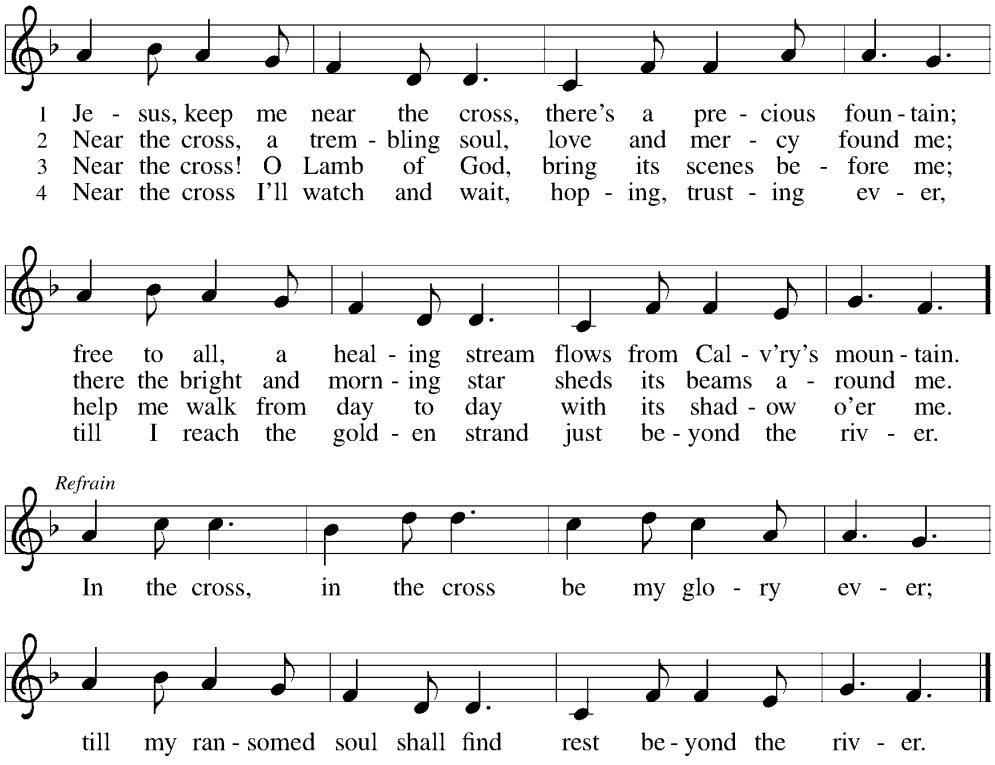
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

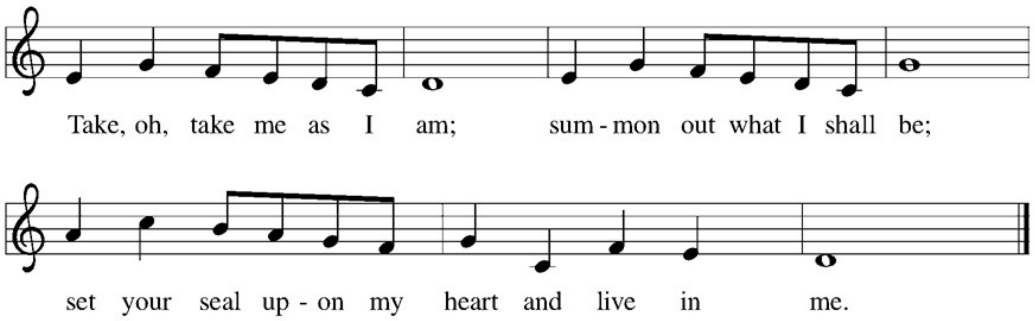
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

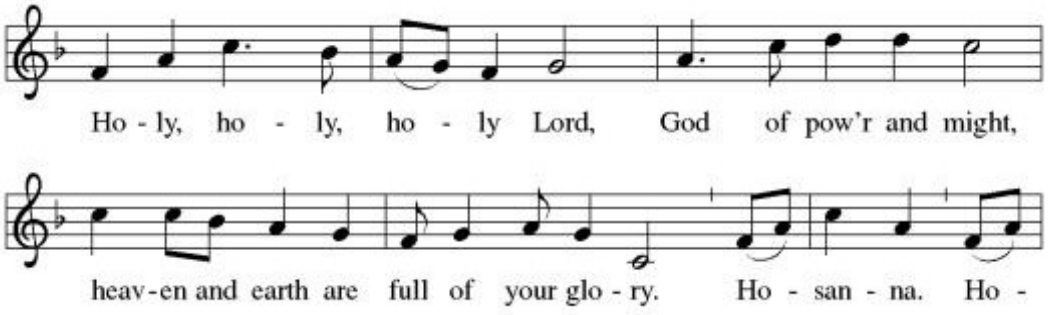
P: Lift up your hearts.

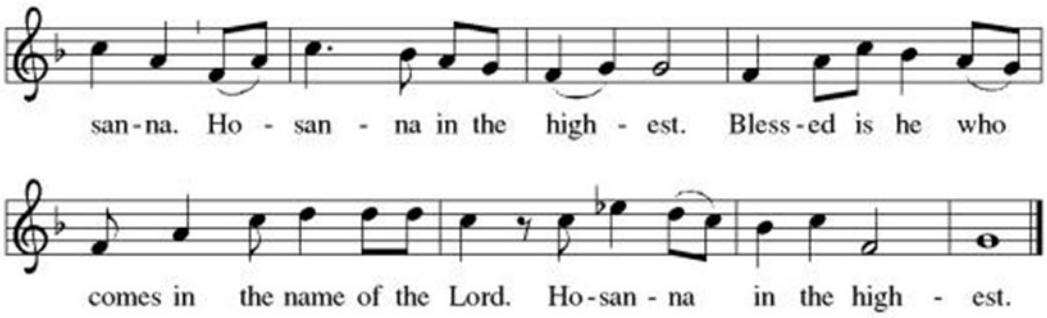
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

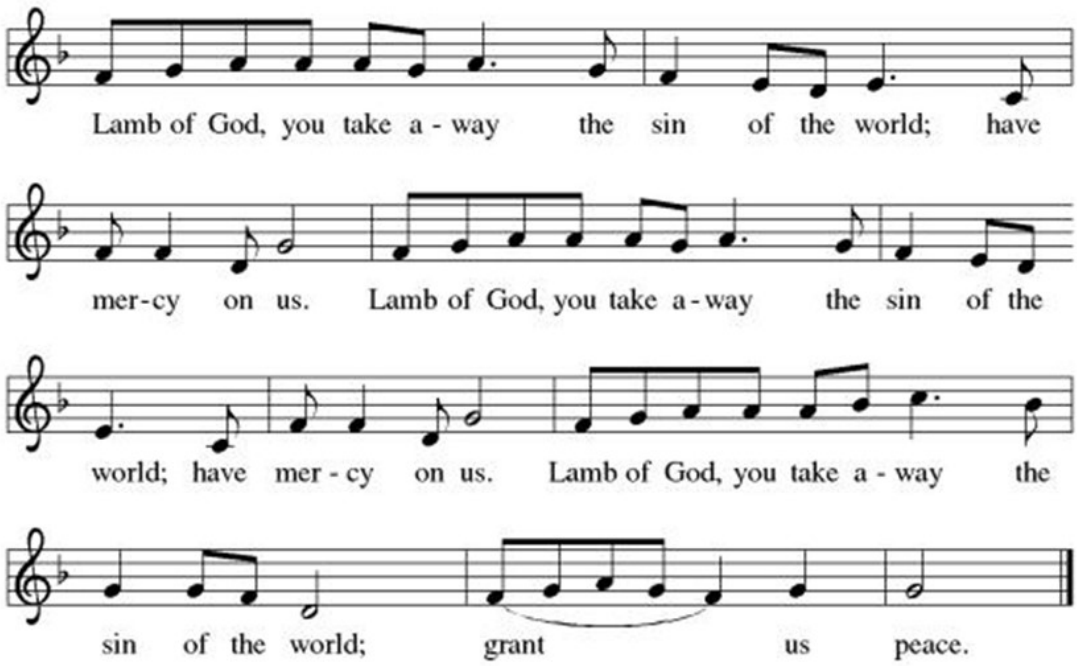
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
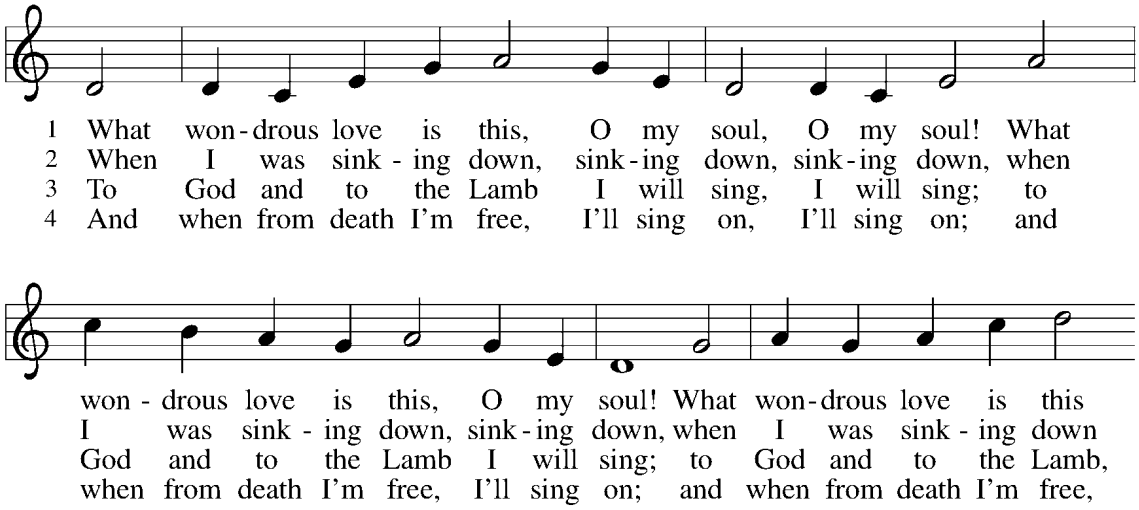
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



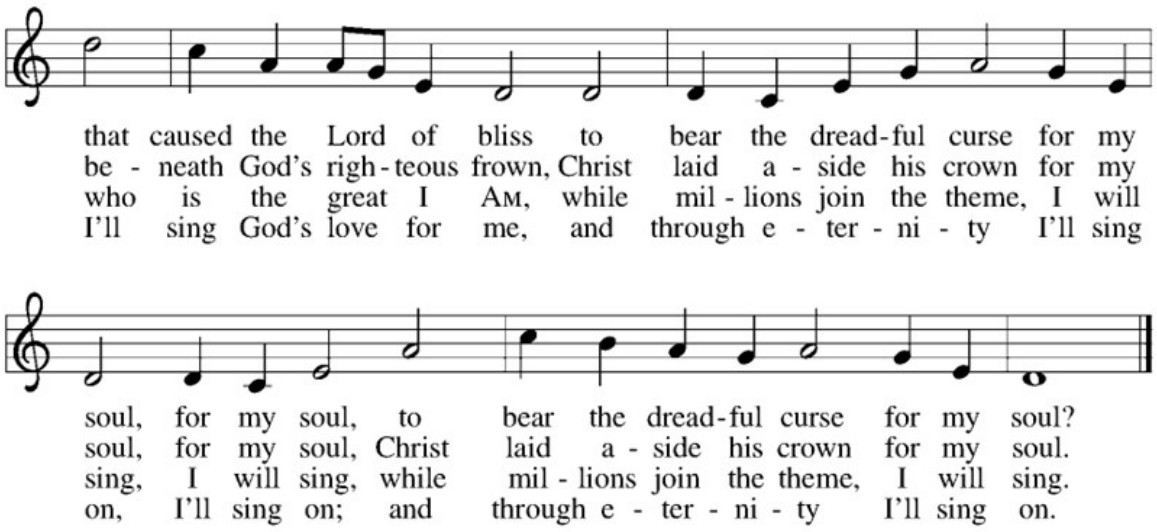
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

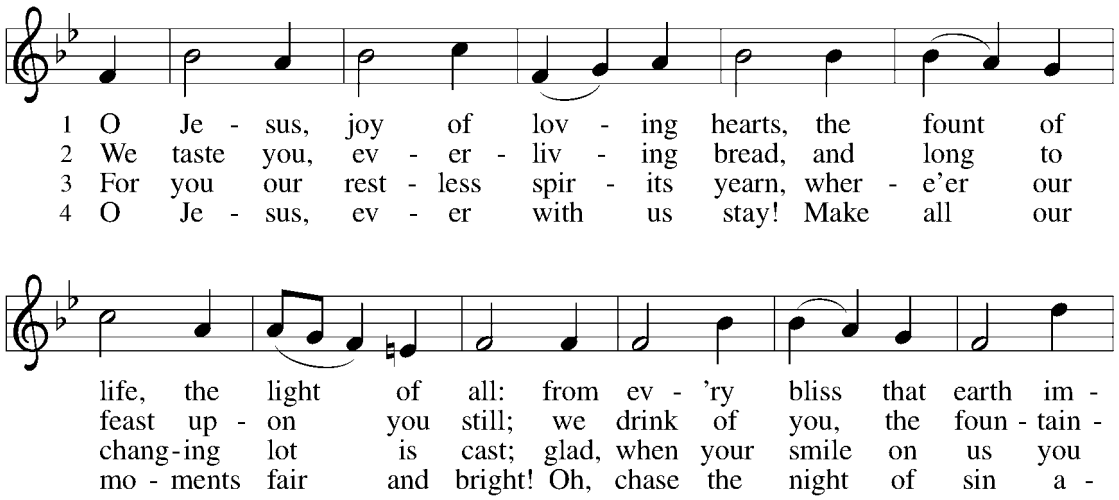
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
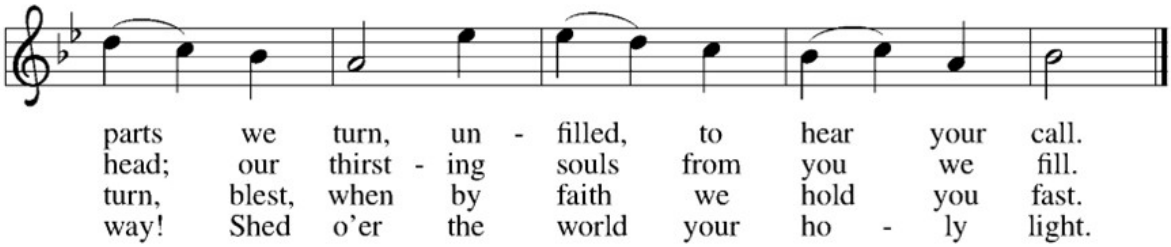
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

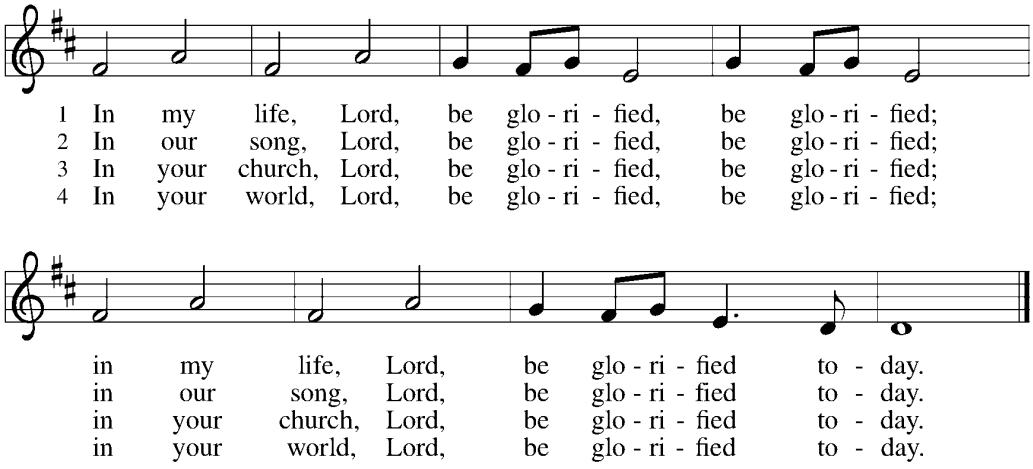
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

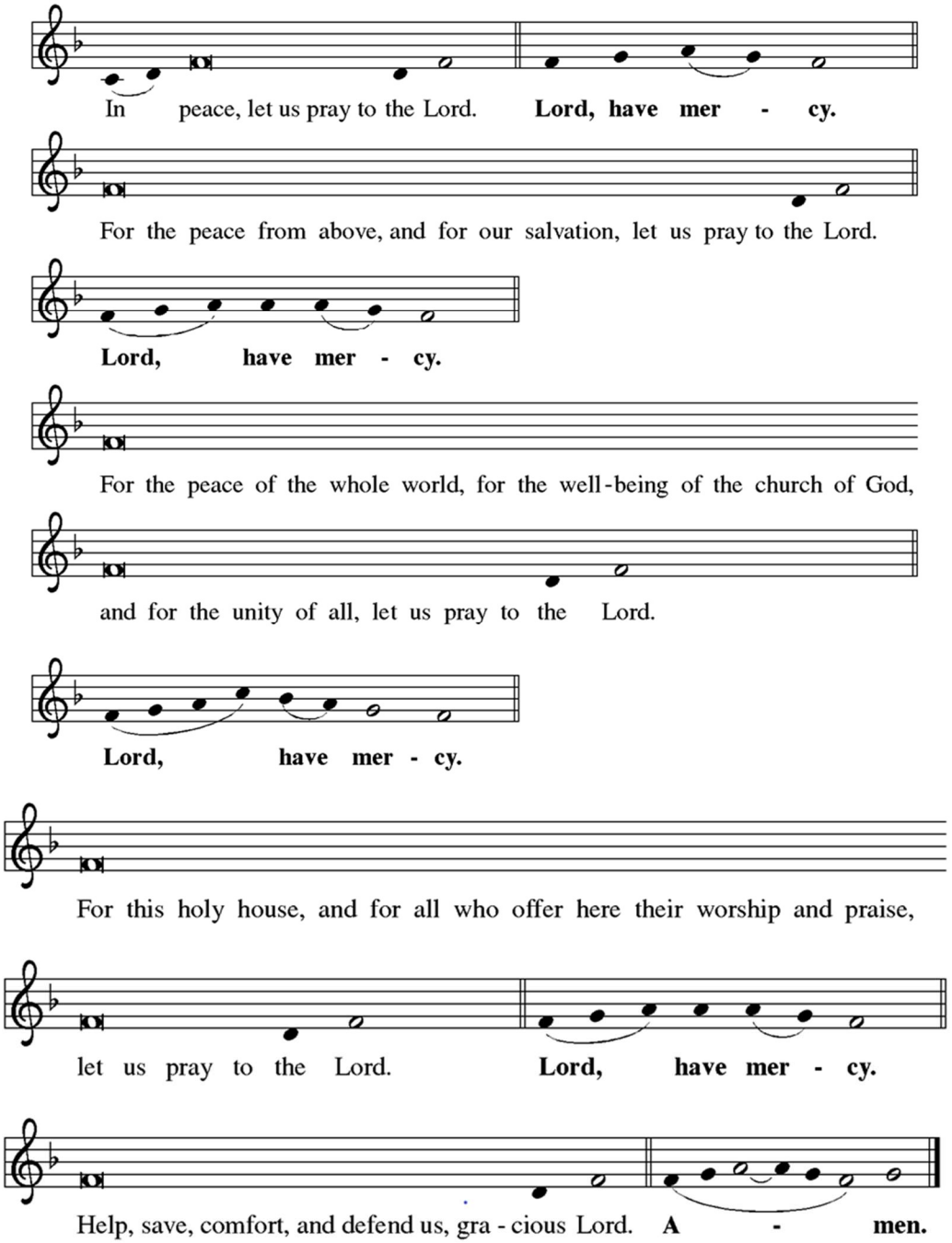
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

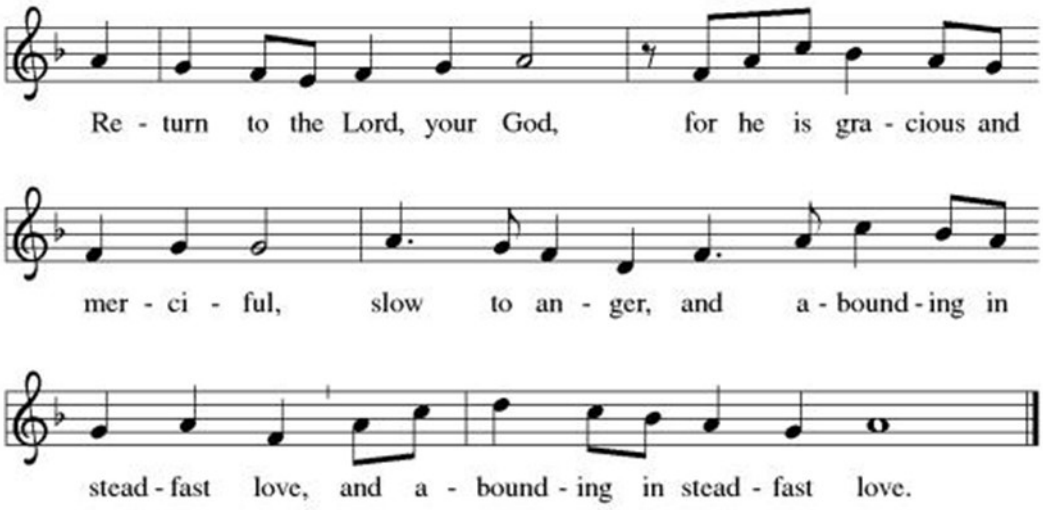
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

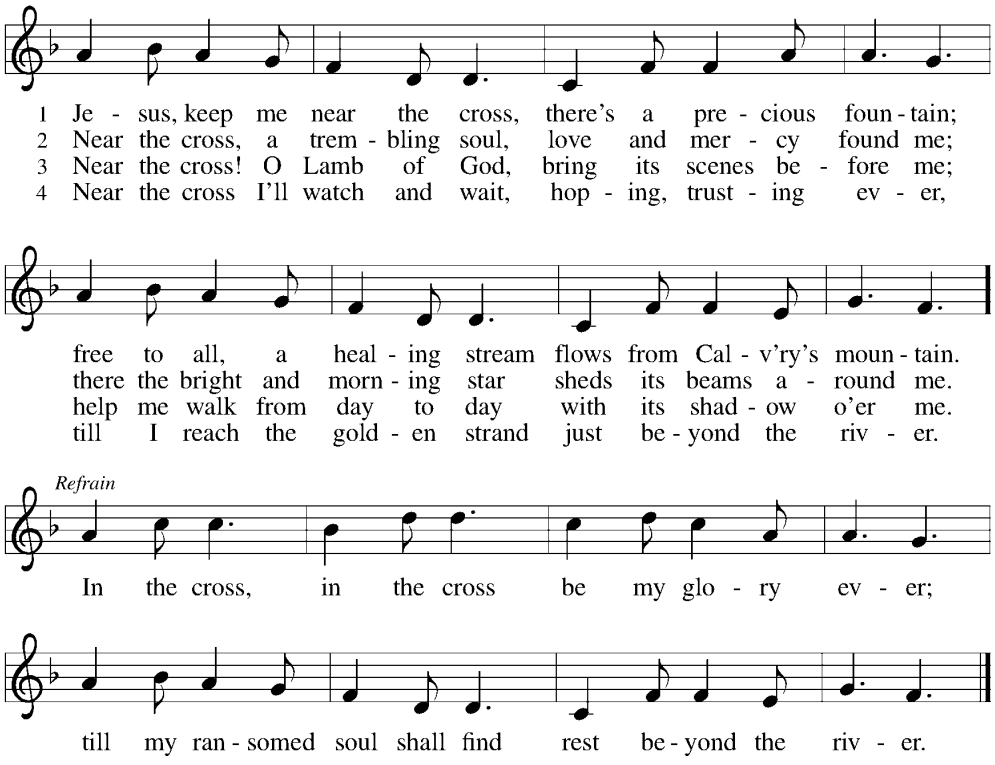
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

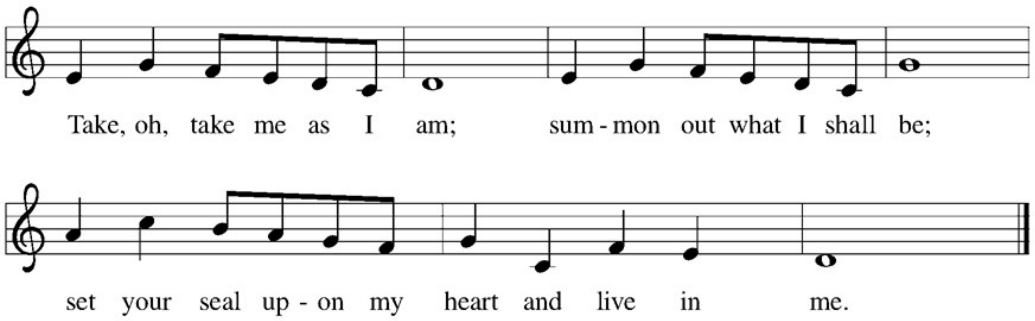
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

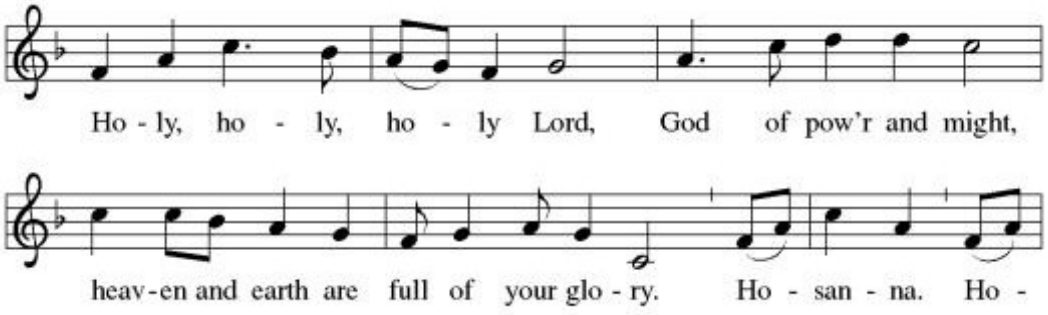
P: Lift up your hearts.

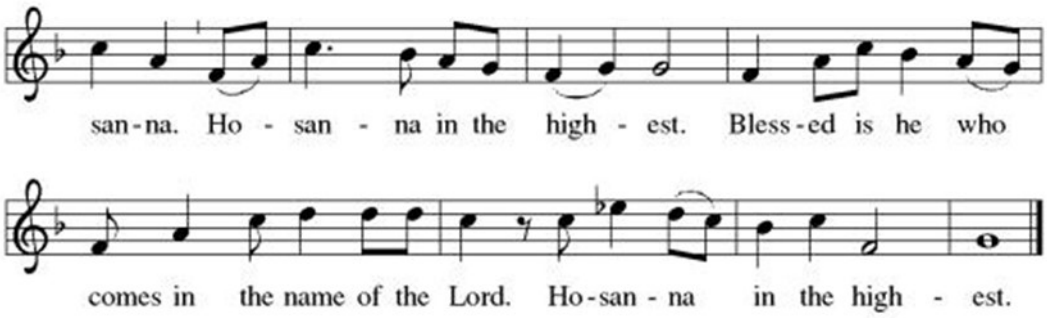
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

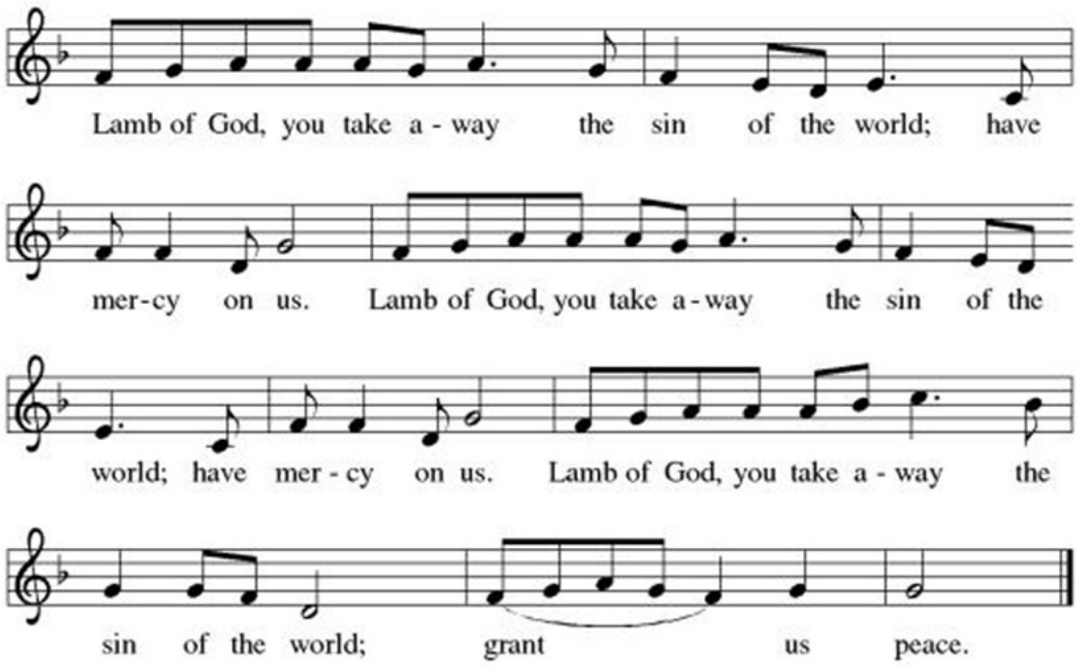
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
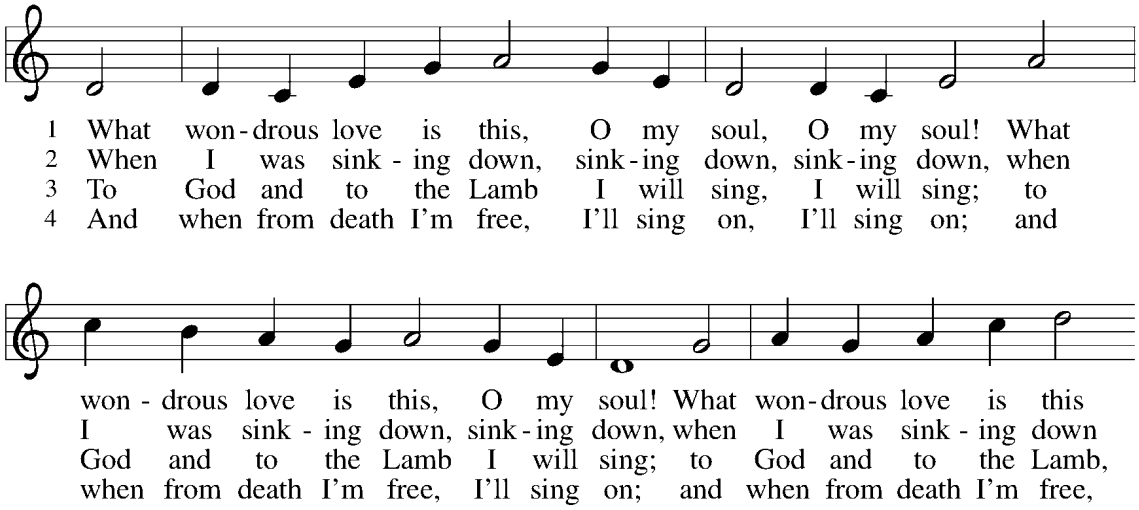
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



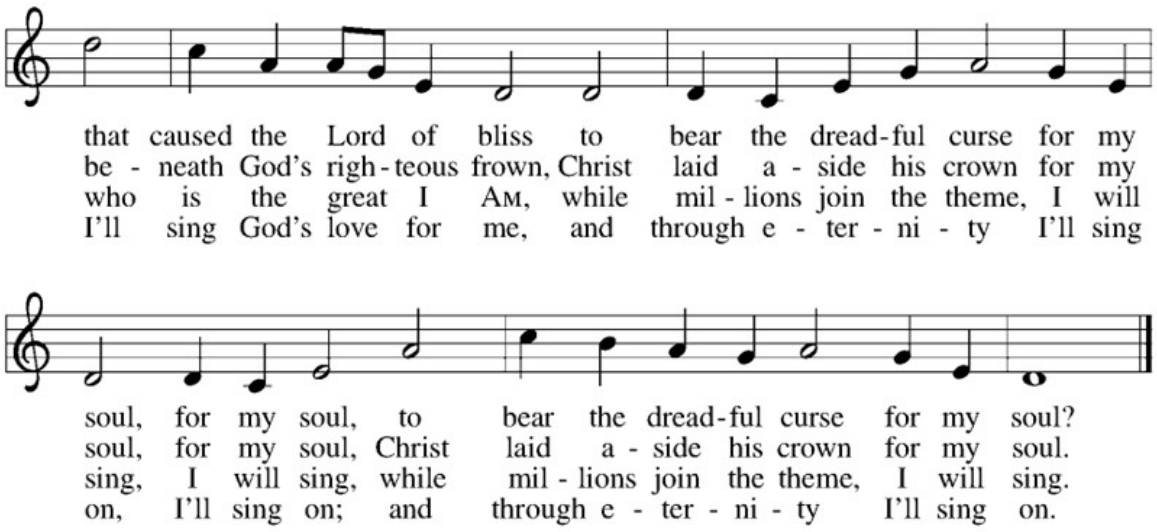
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

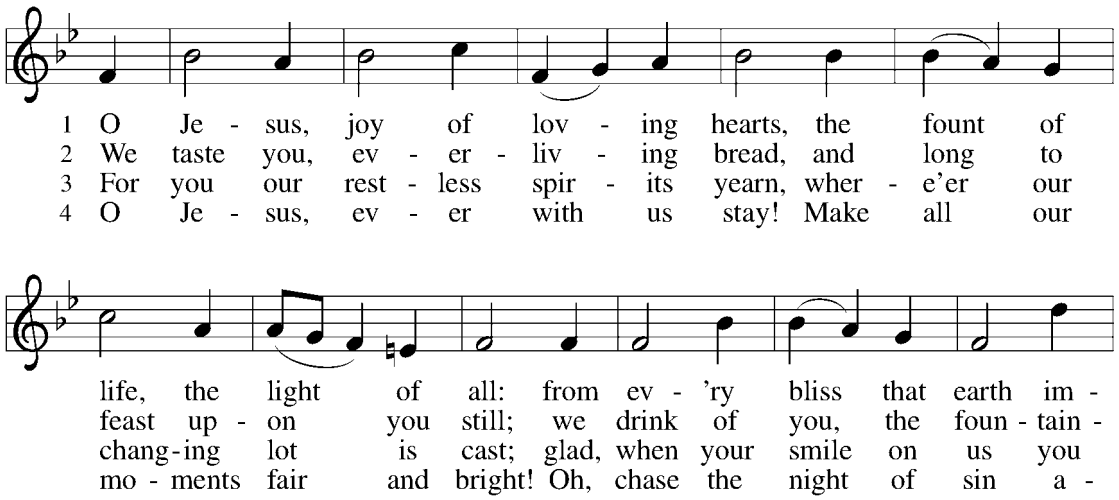
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
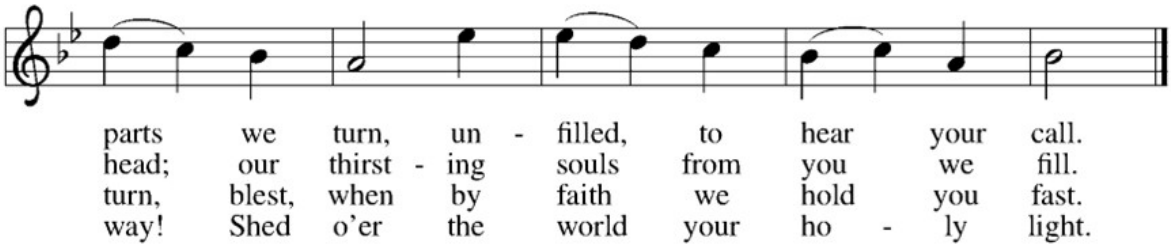
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

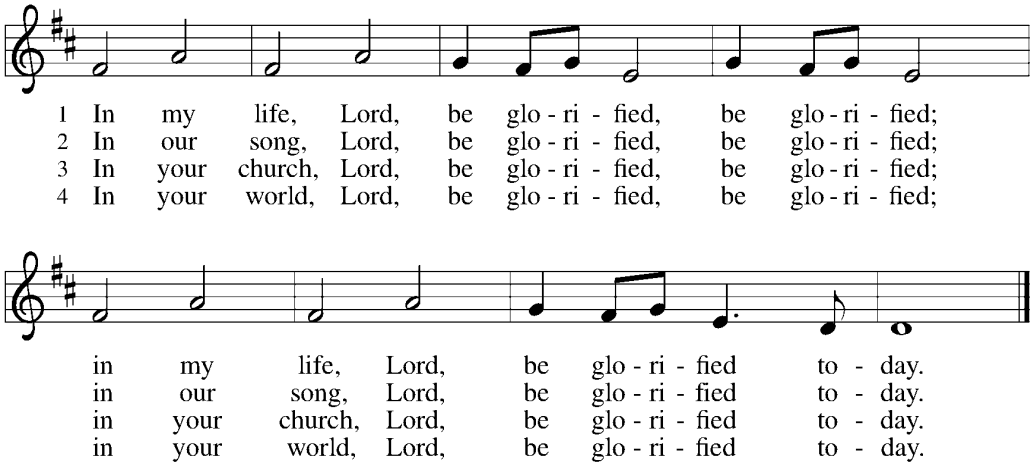
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

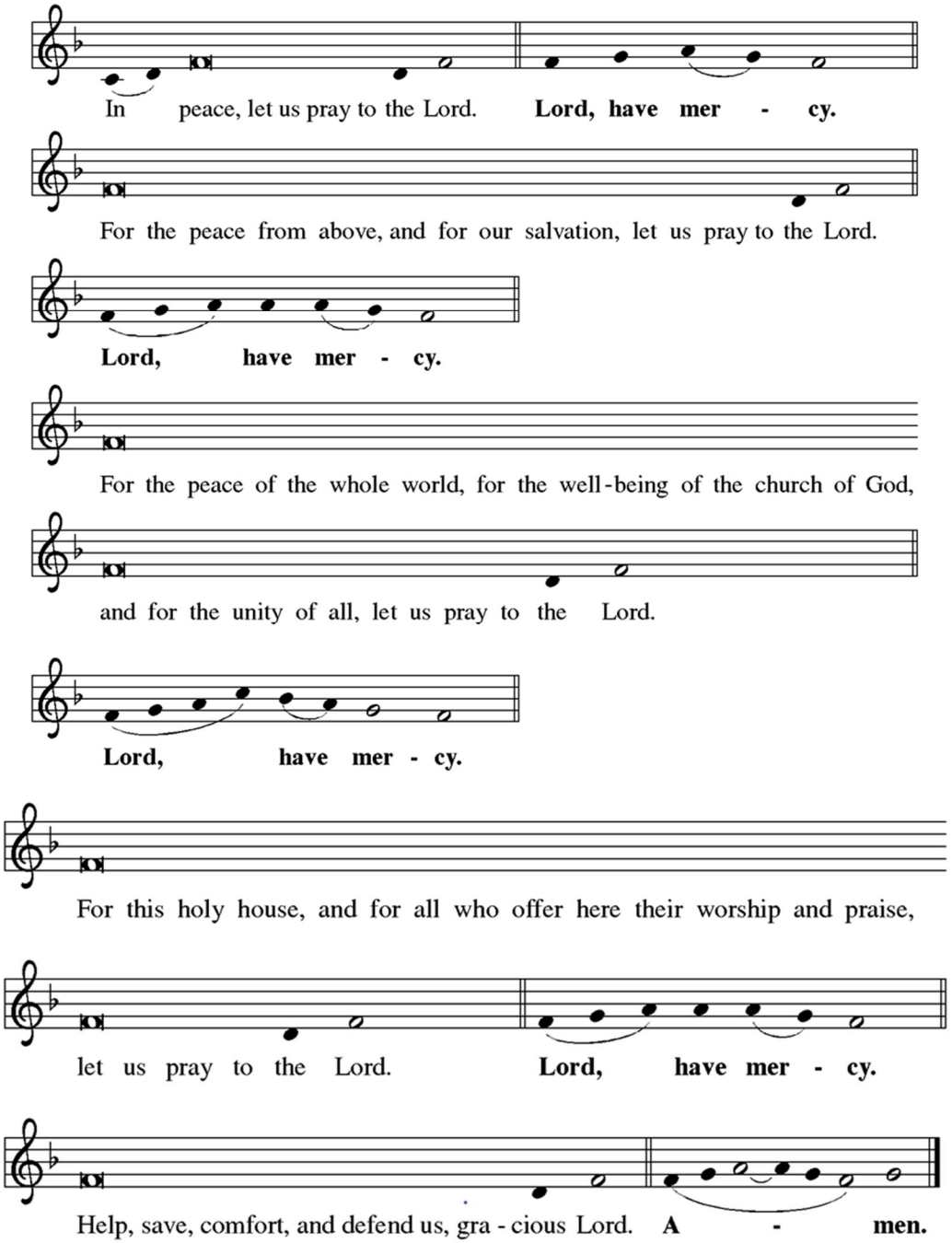
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

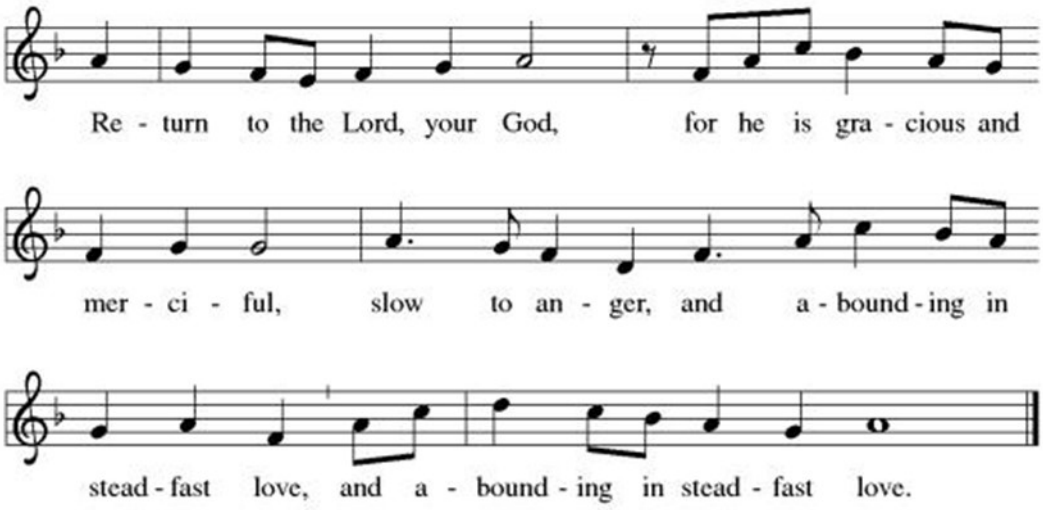
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

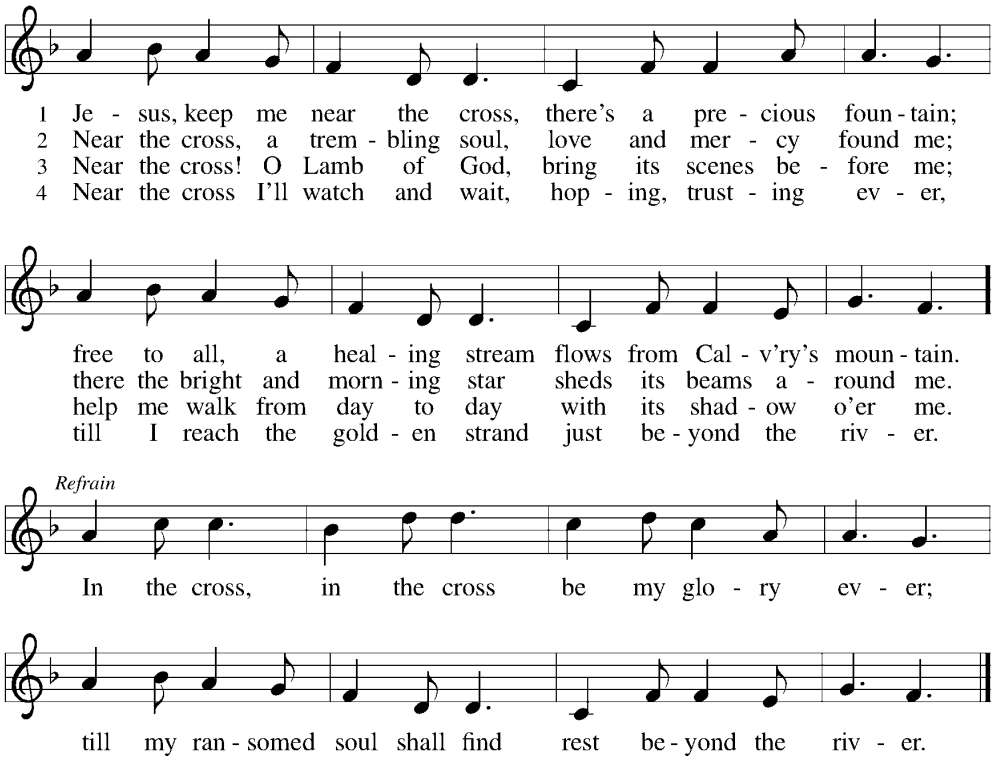
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

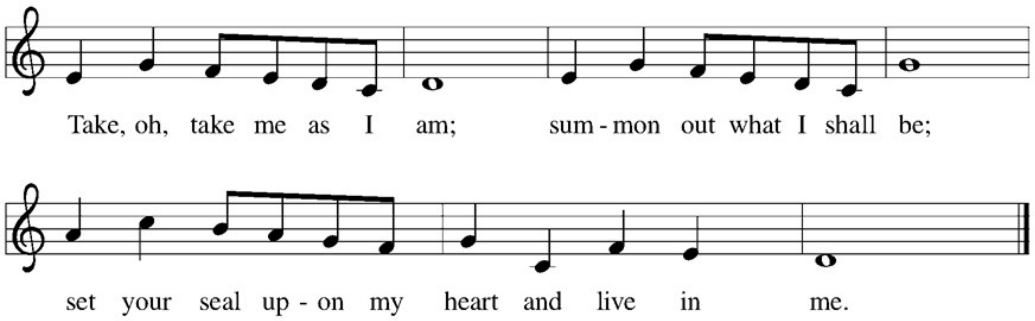
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

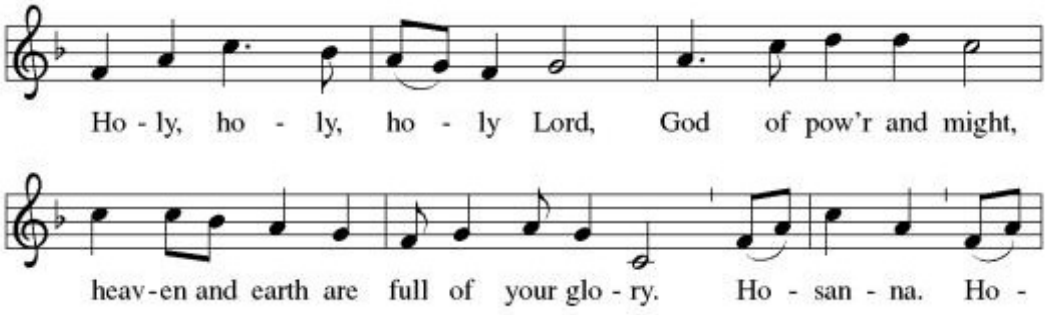
P: Lift up your hearts.

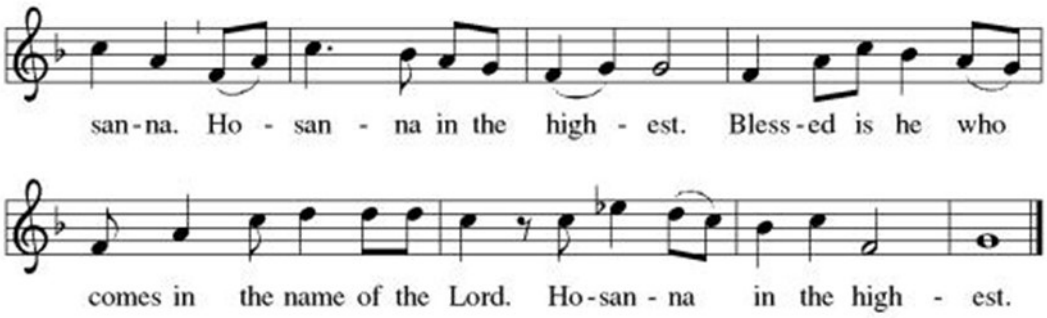
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

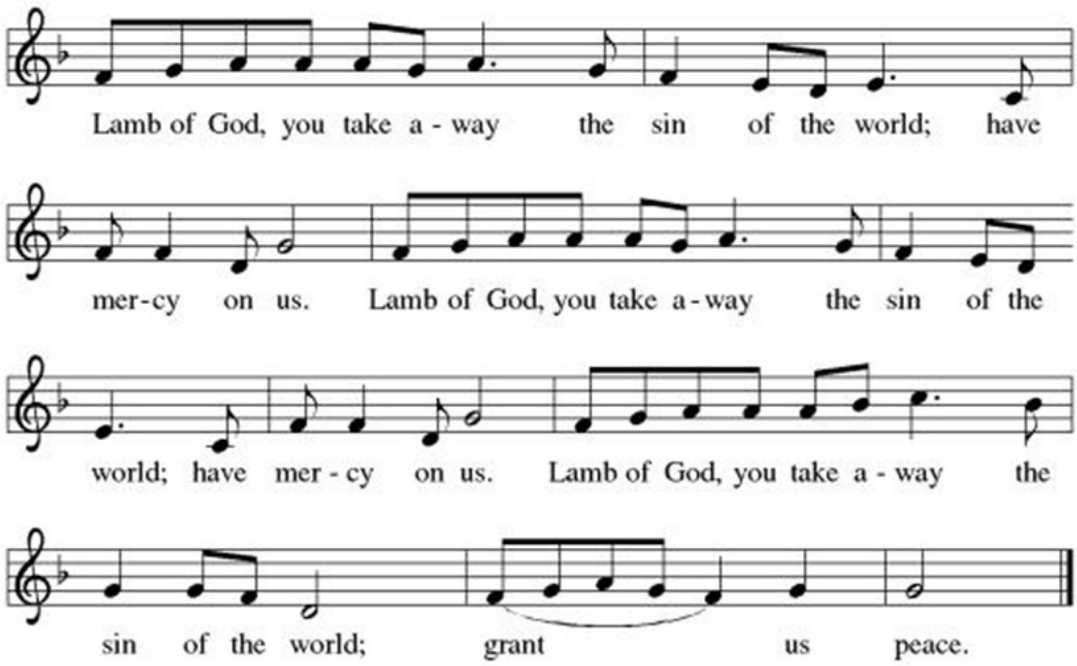
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
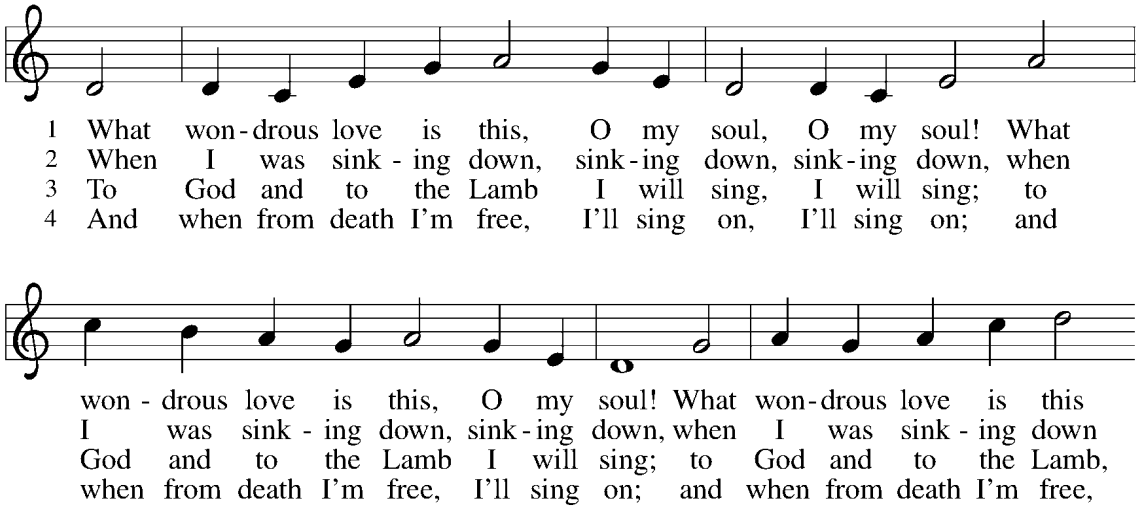
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



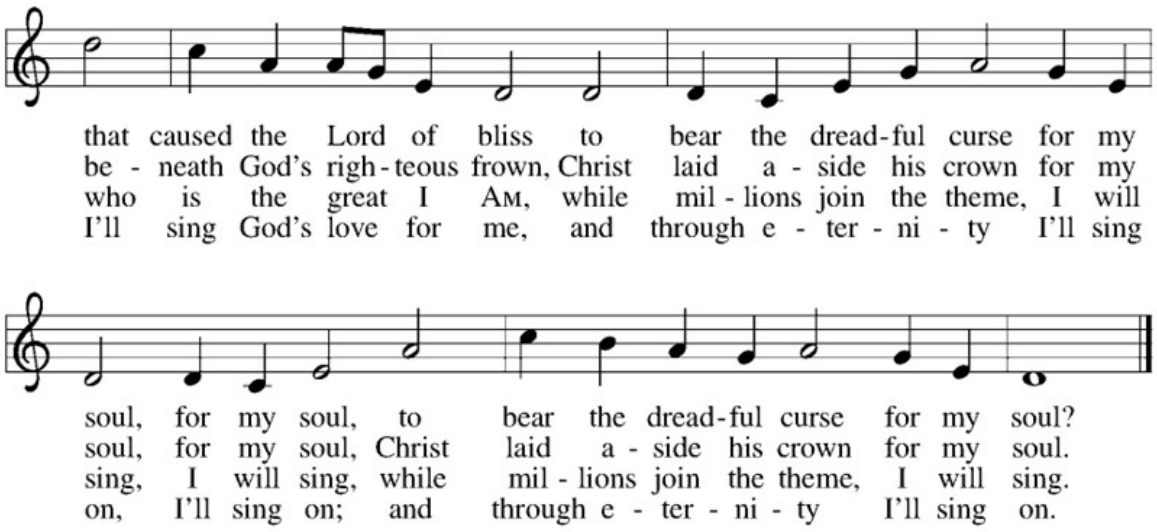
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

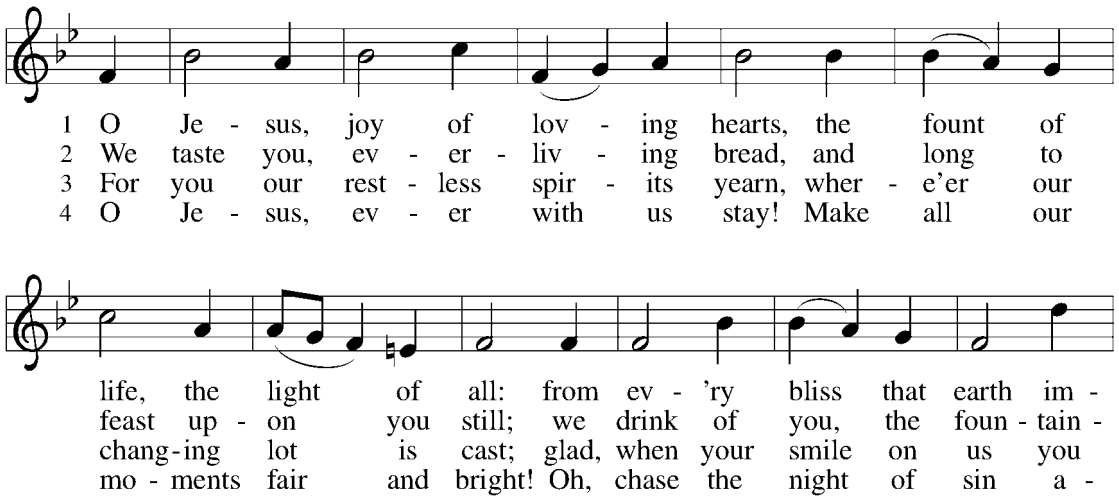
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
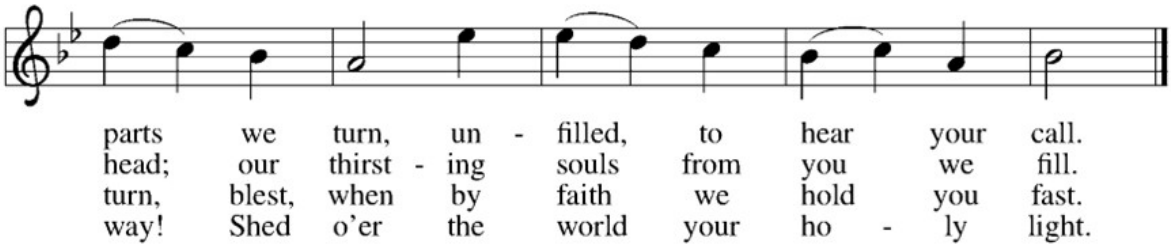
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

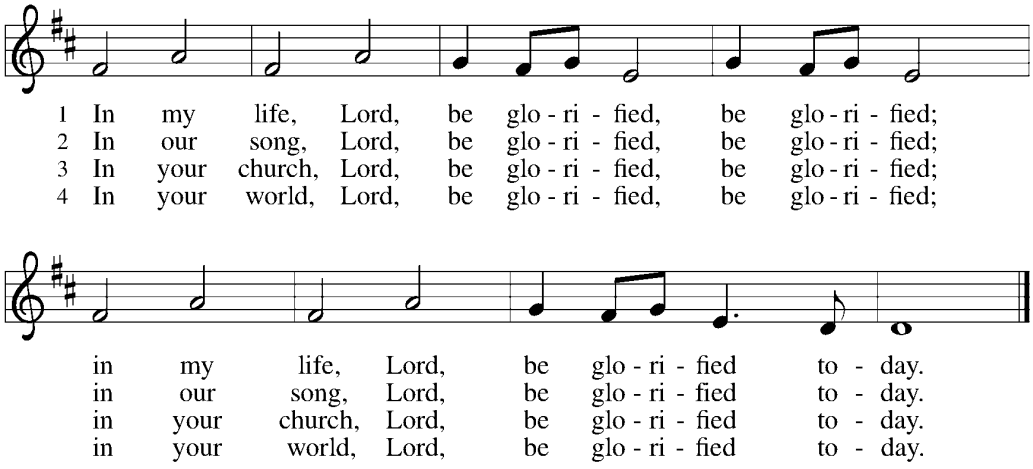
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

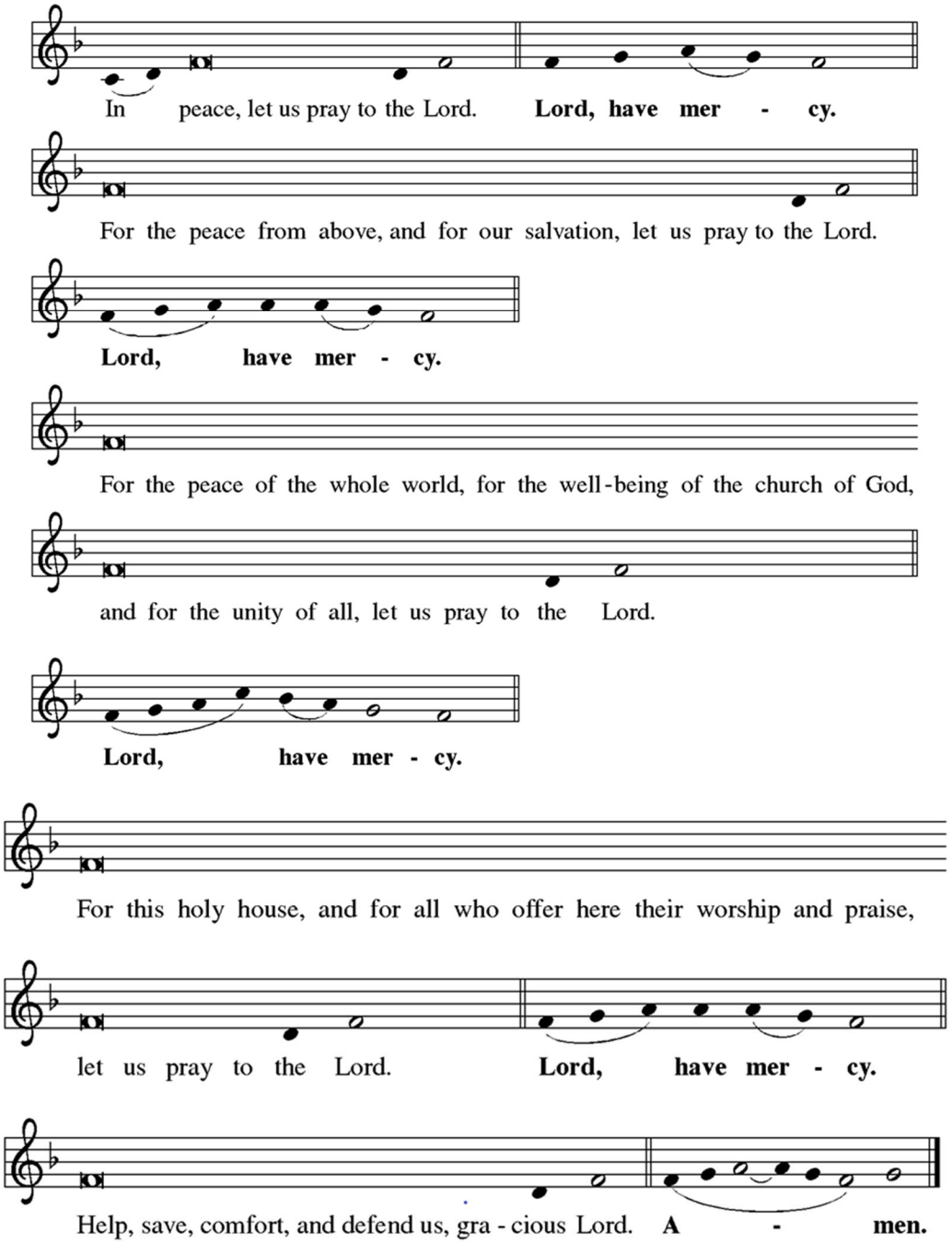
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

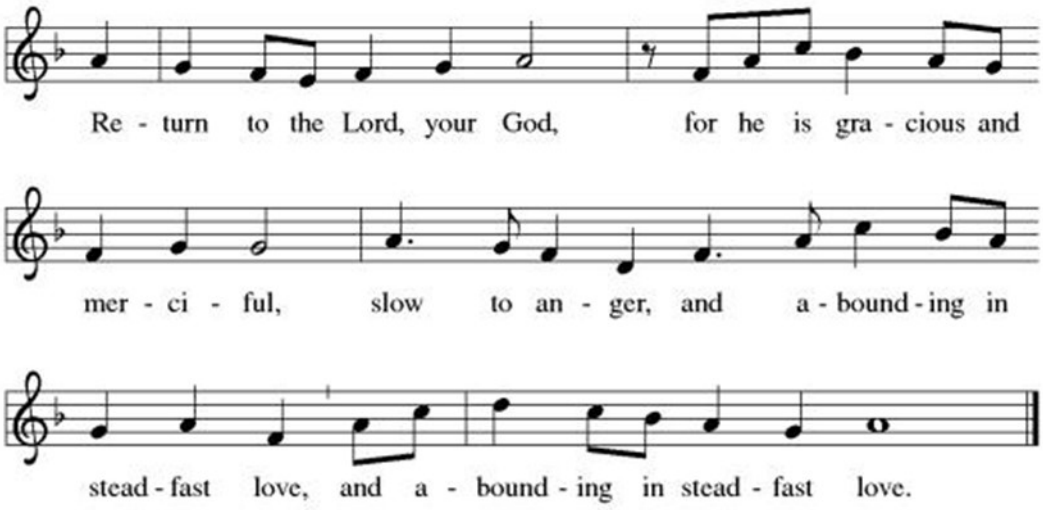
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

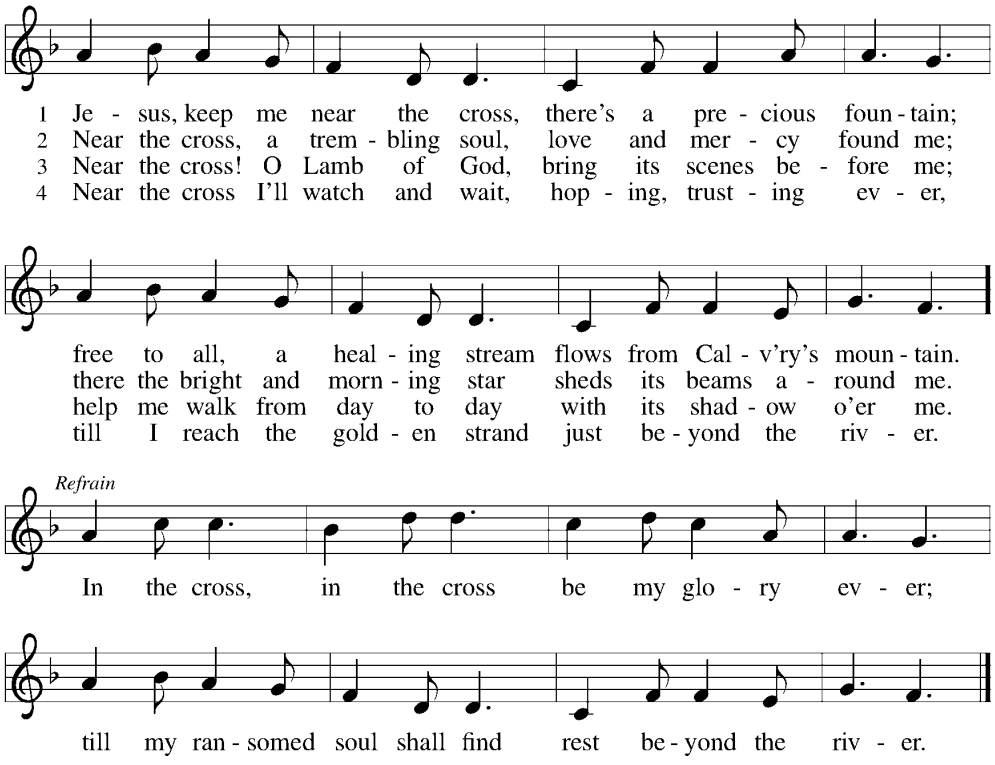
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

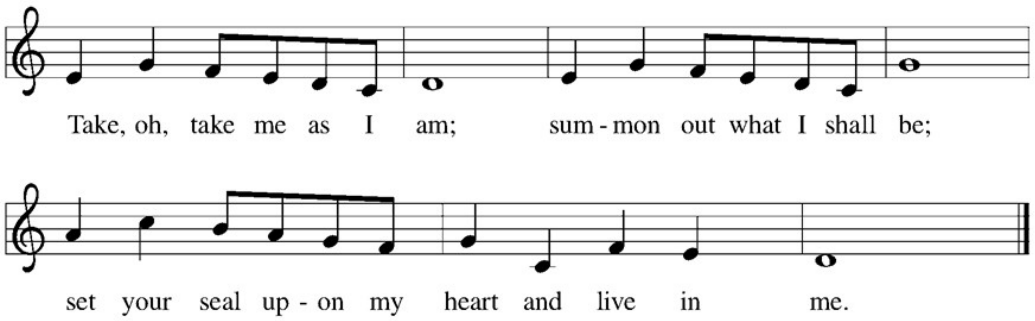
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

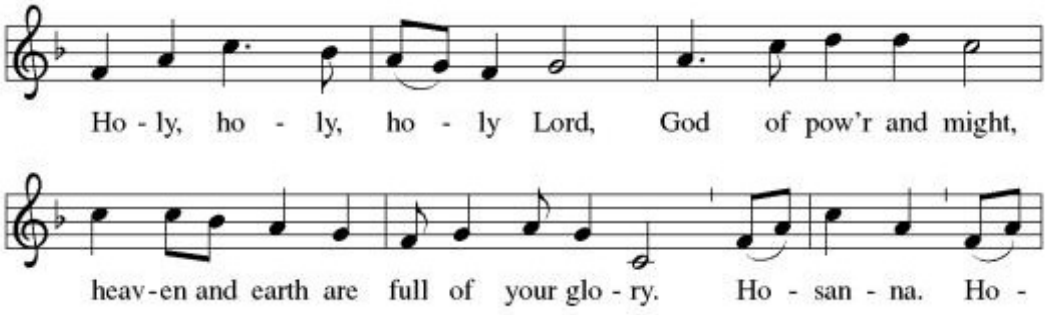
P: Lift up your hearts.

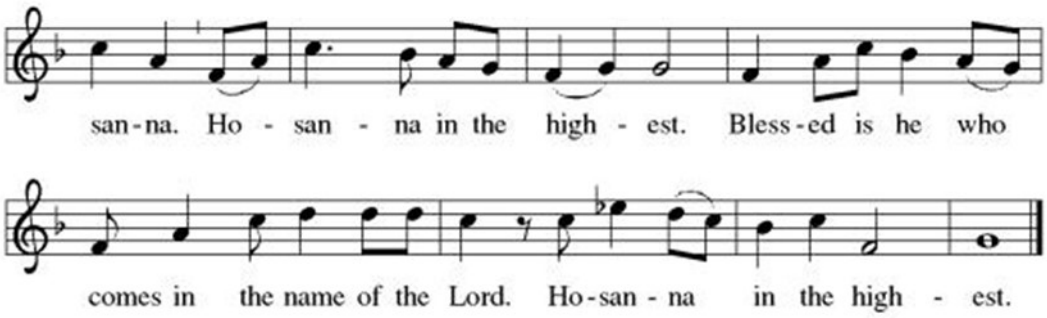
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

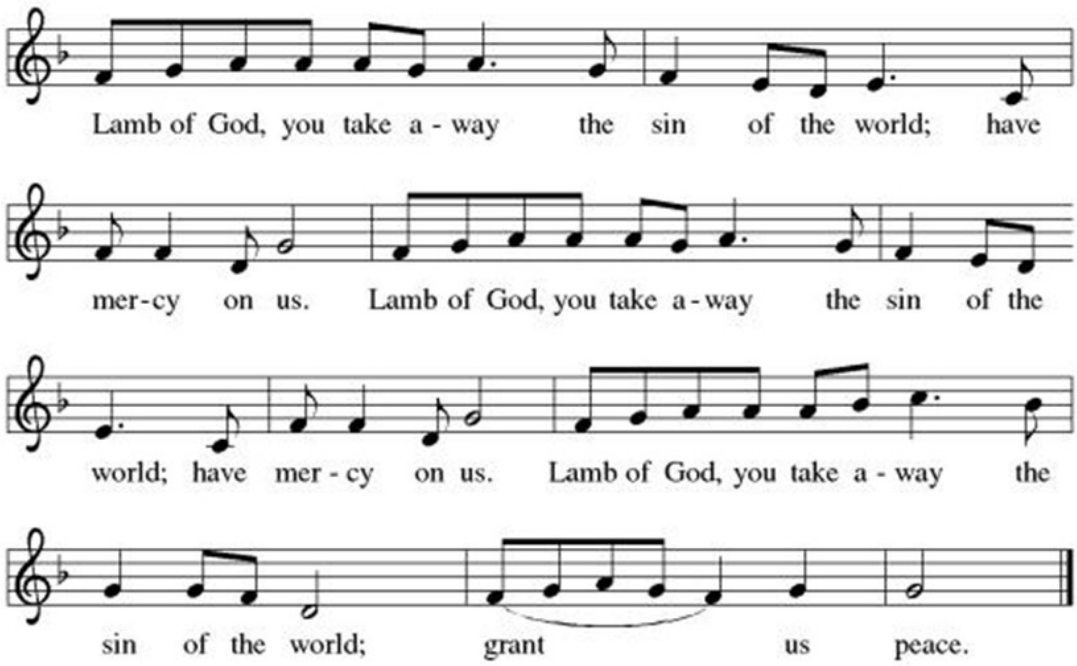
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
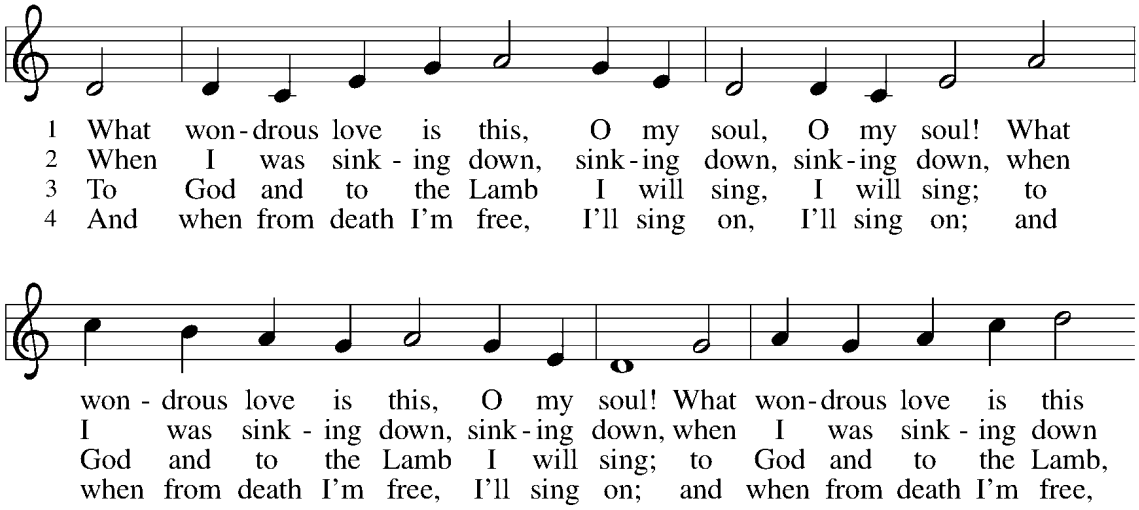
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



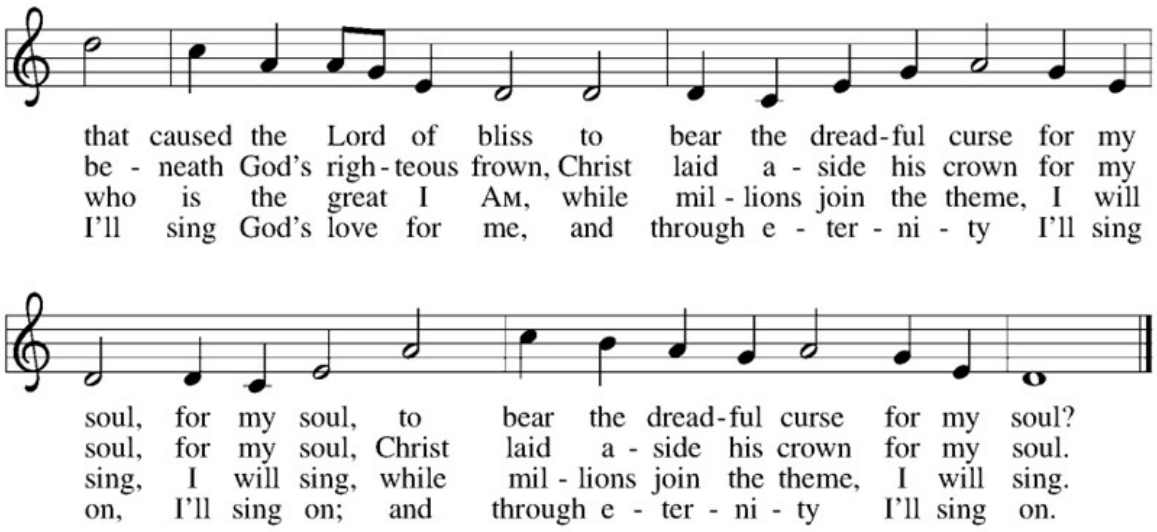
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

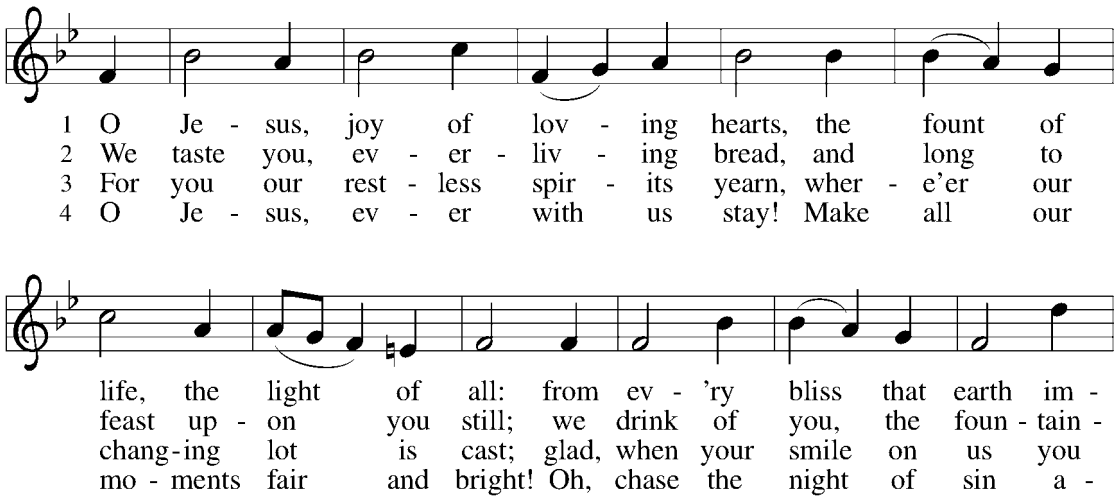
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
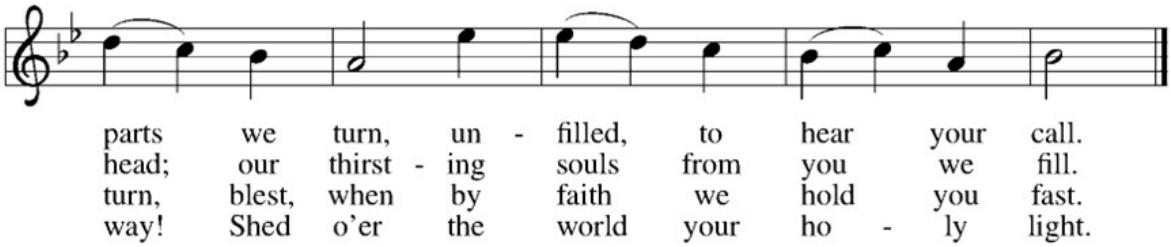
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

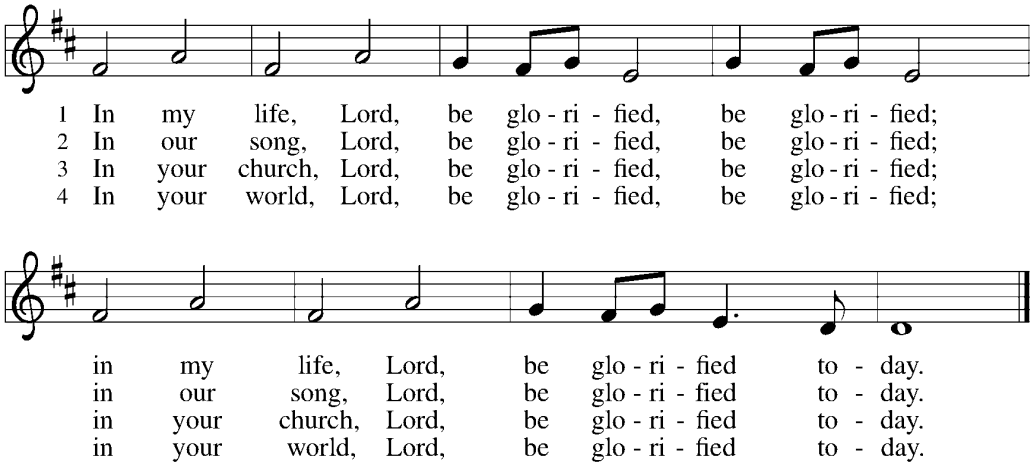
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

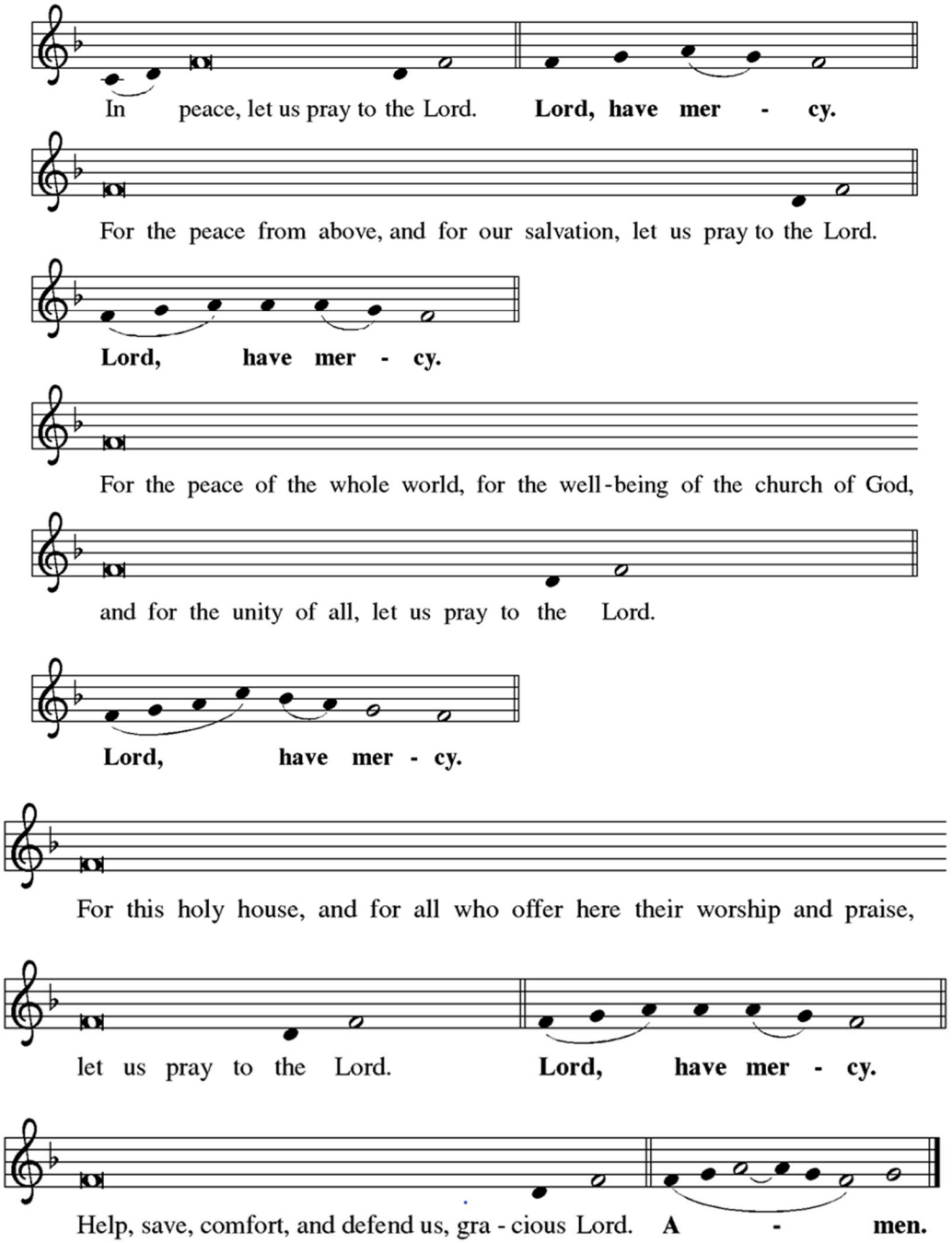
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

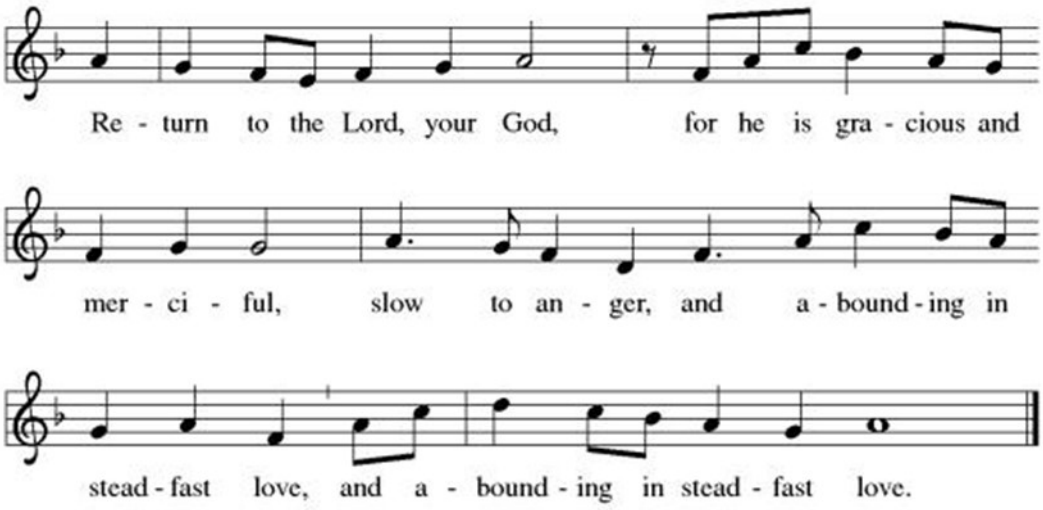
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

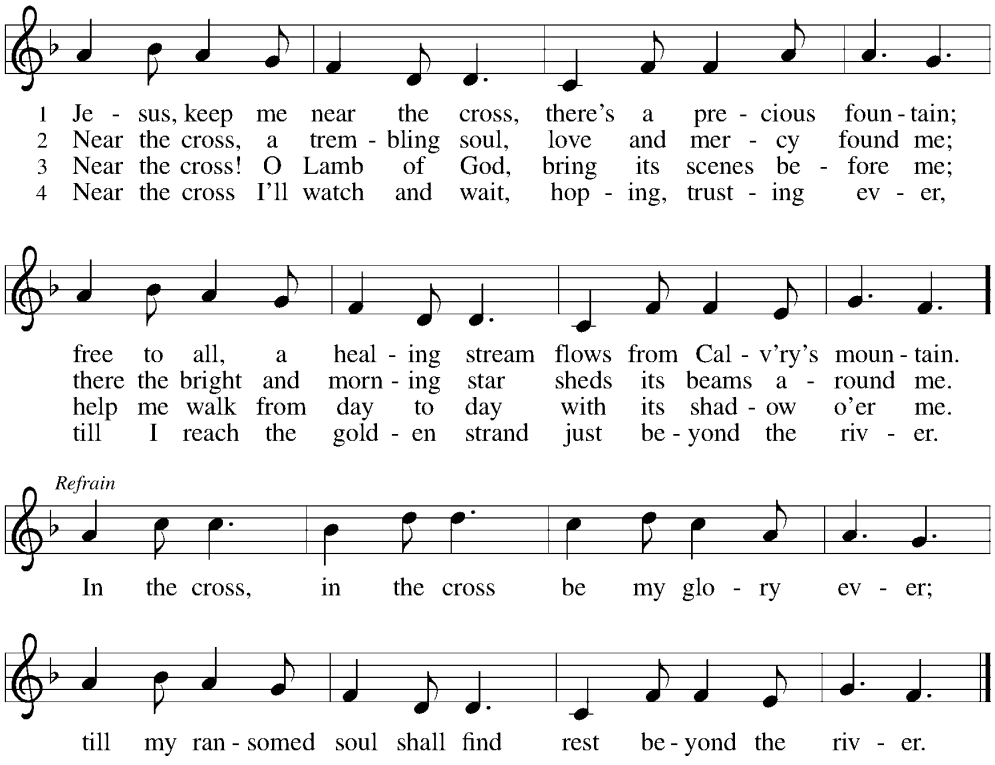
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

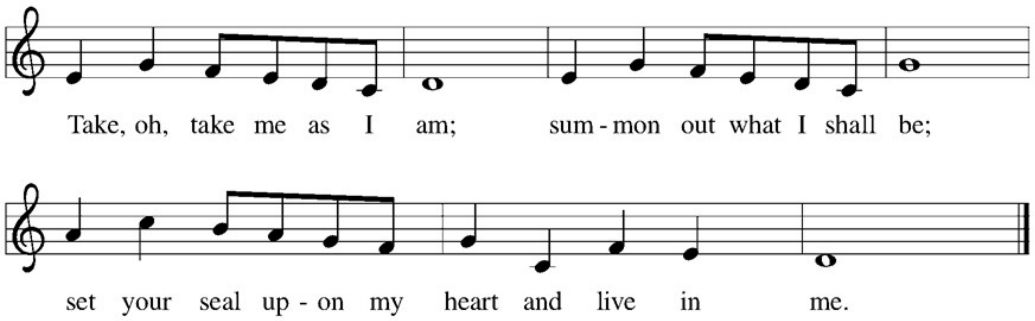
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

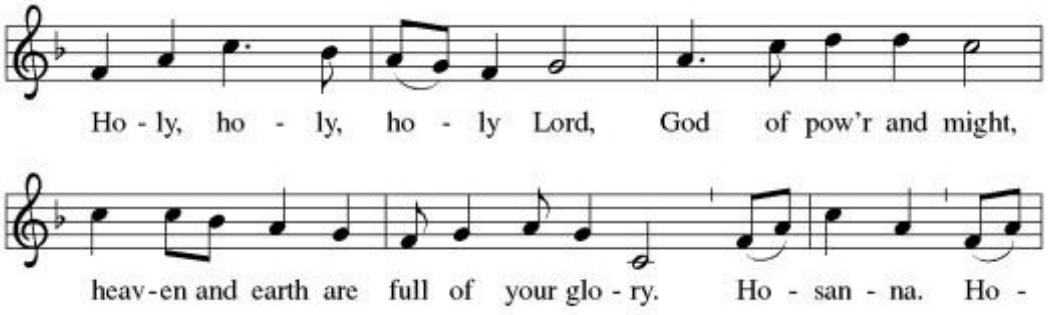
P: Lift up your hearts.

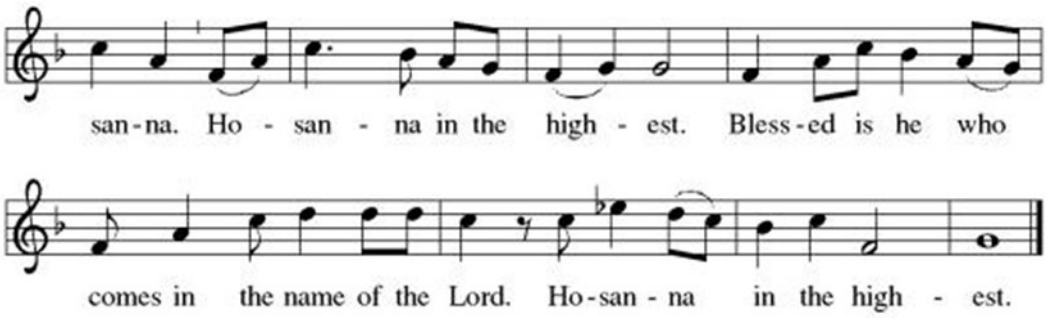
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

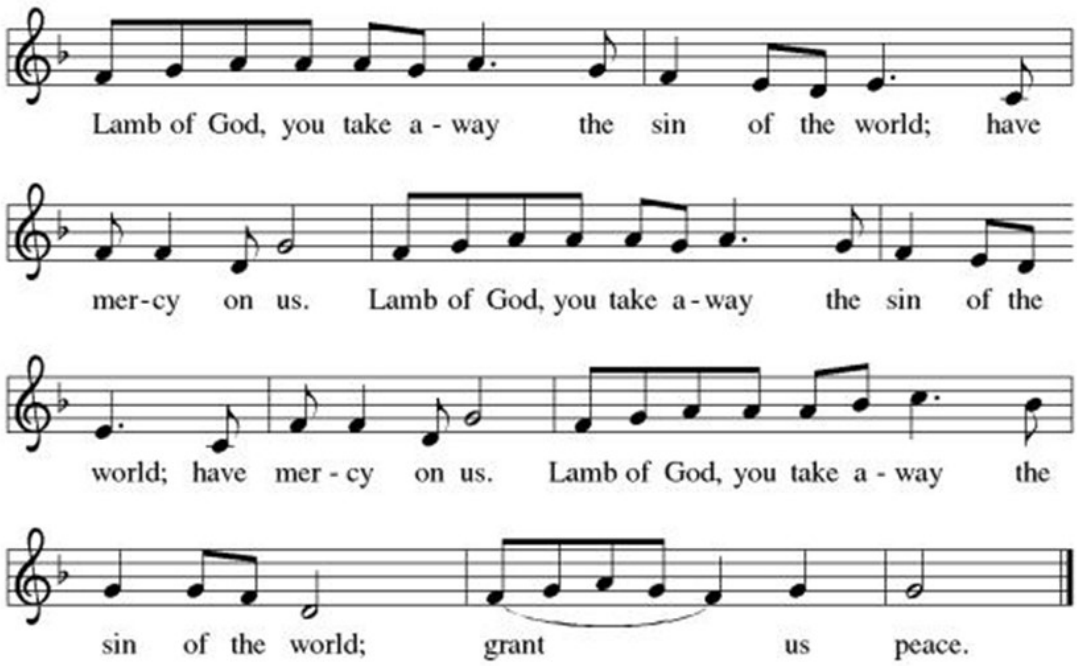
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
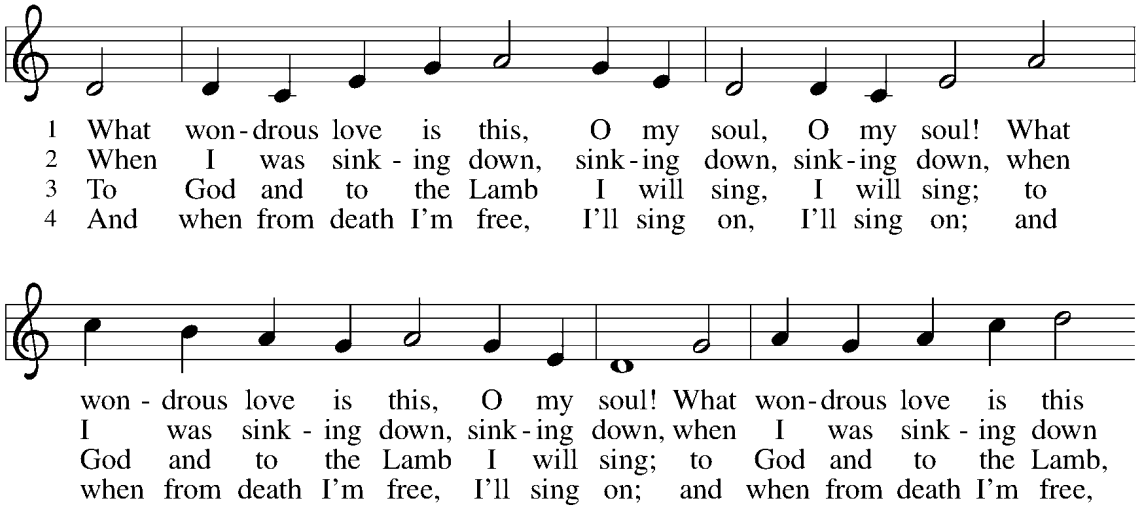
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



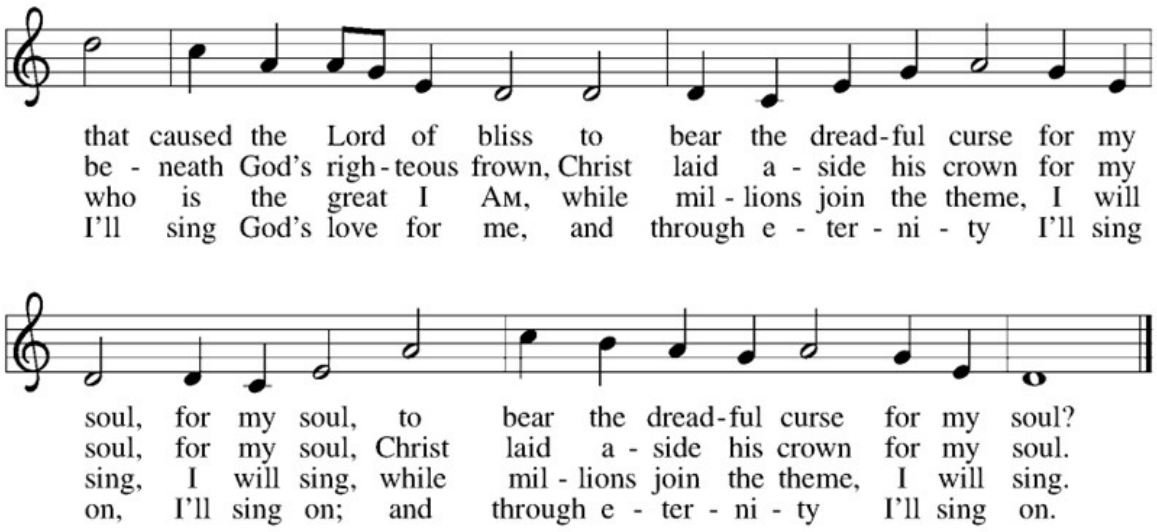
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

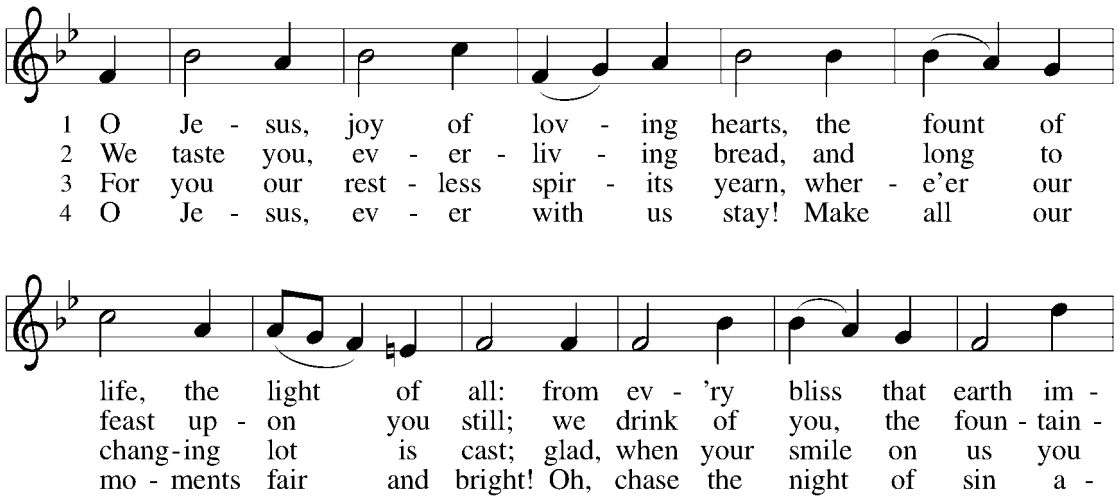
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
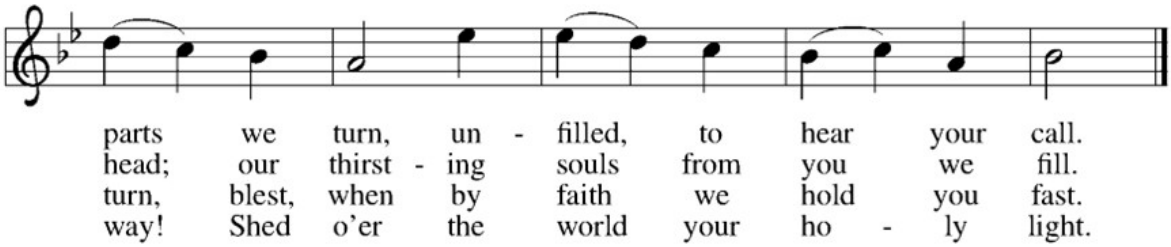
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

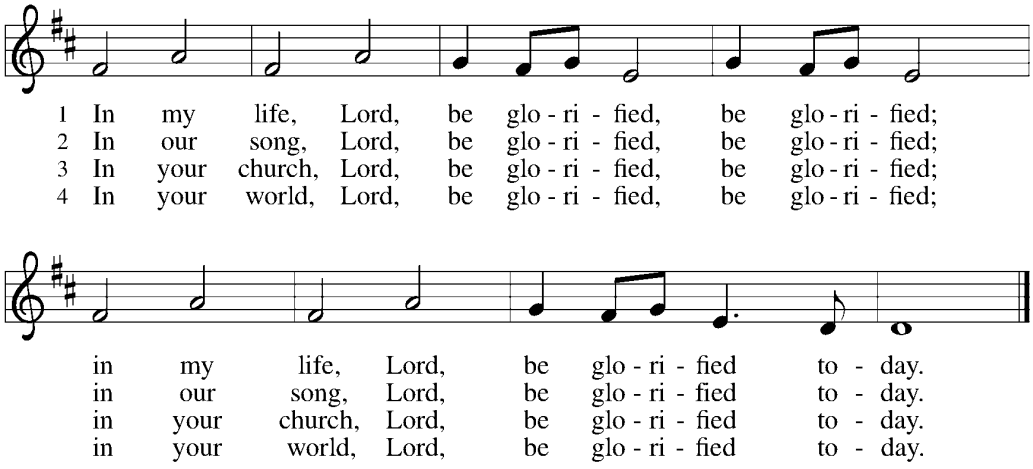
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

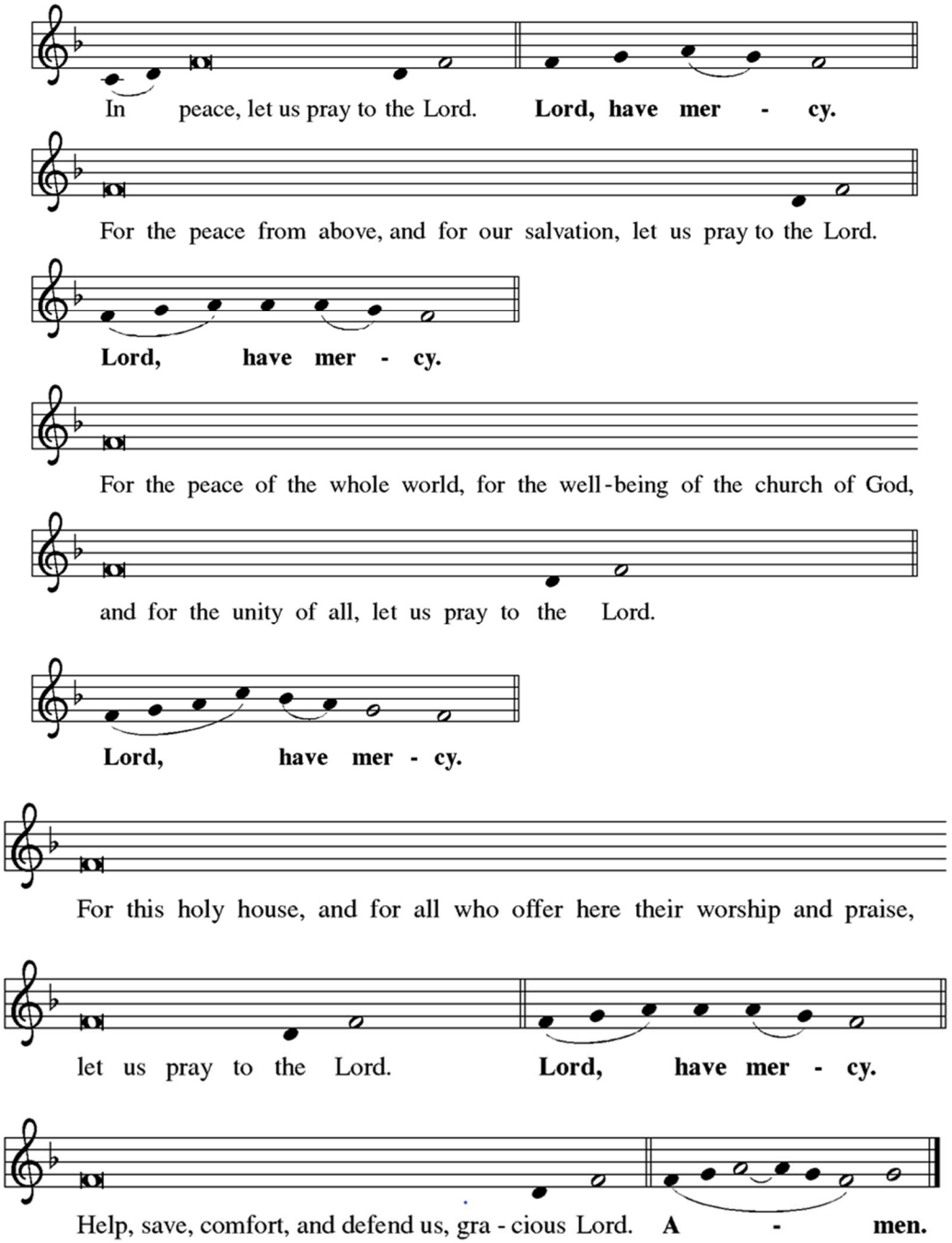
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

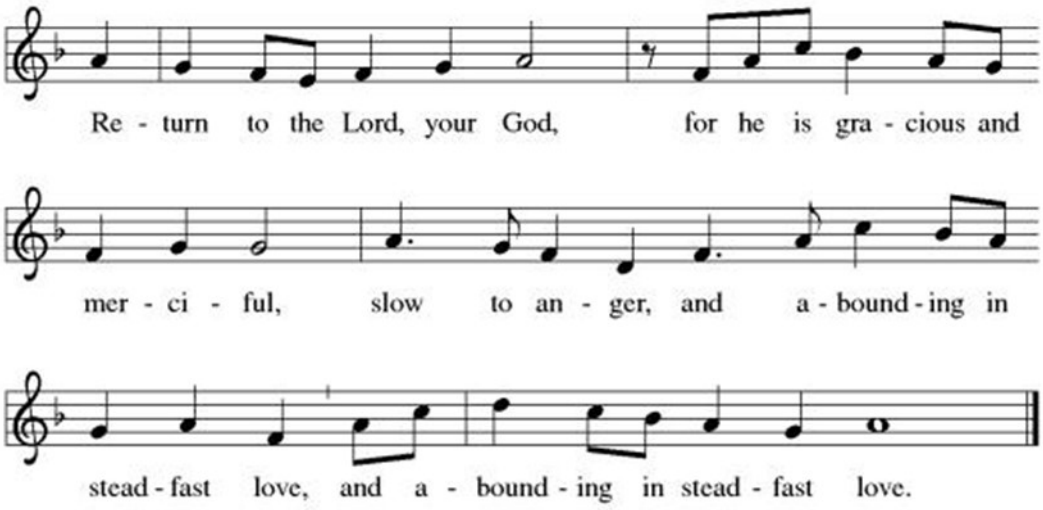
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

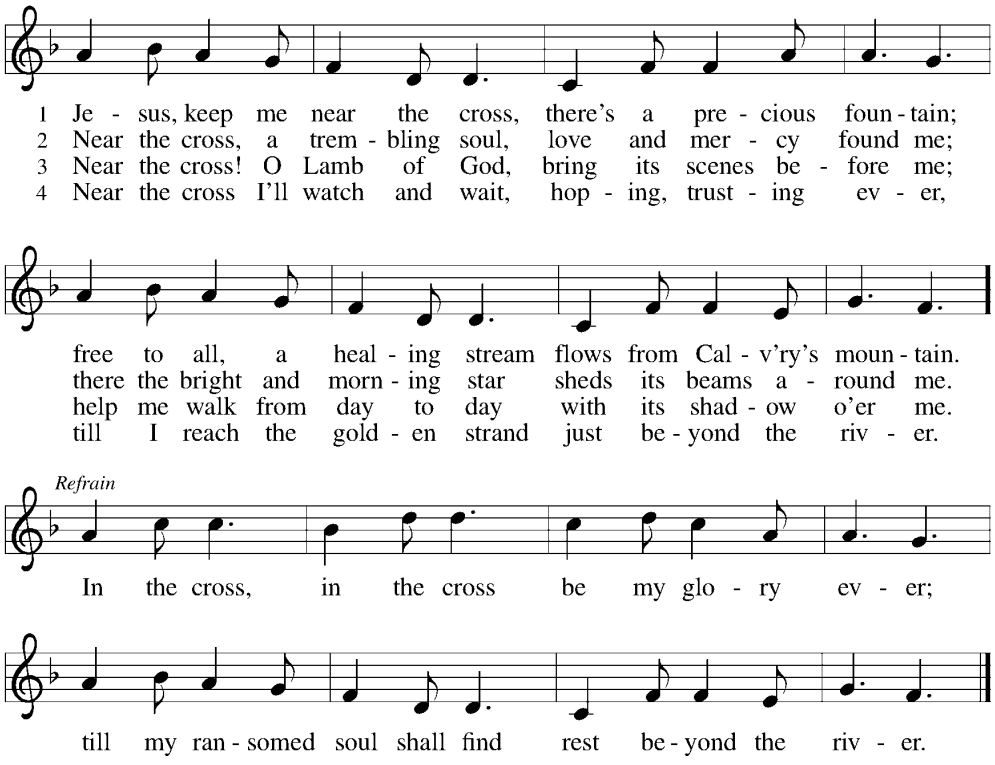
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

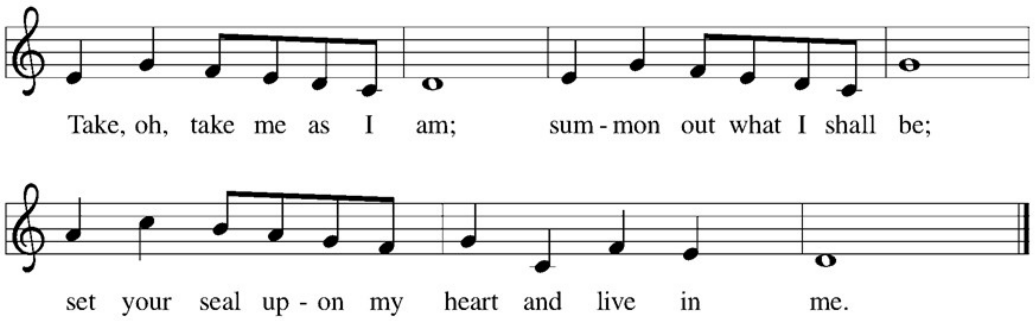
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

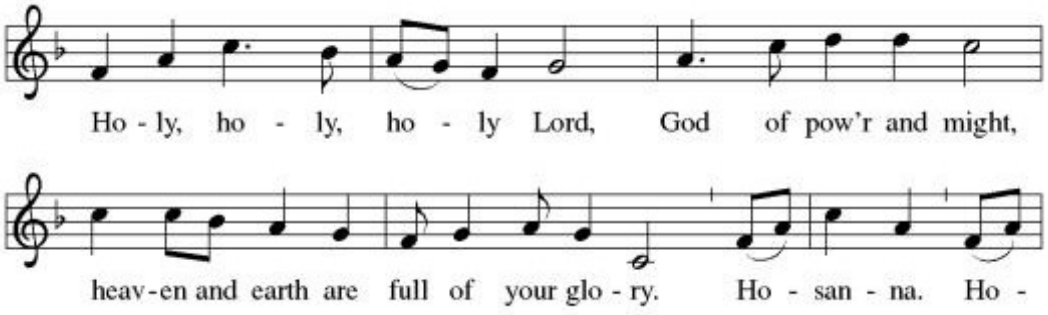
P: Lift up your hearts.

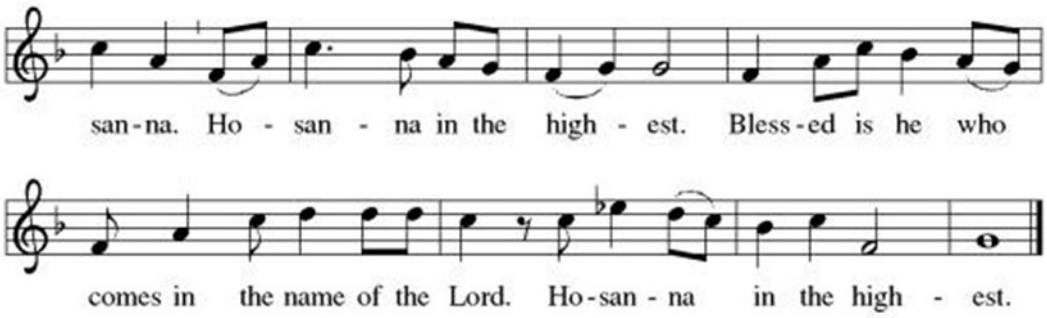
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

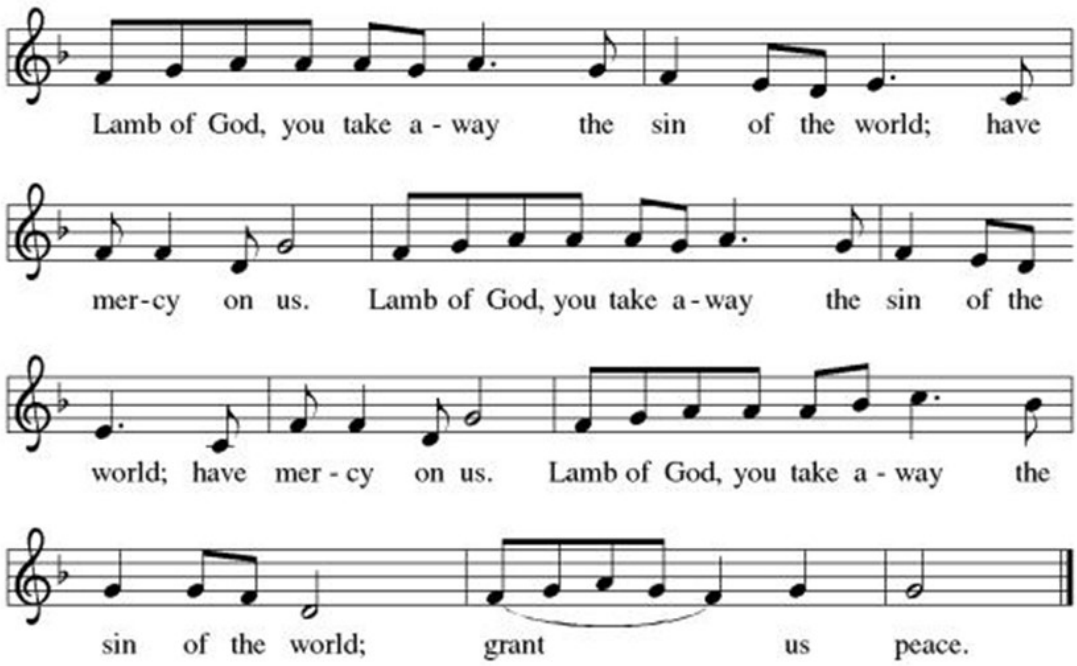
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
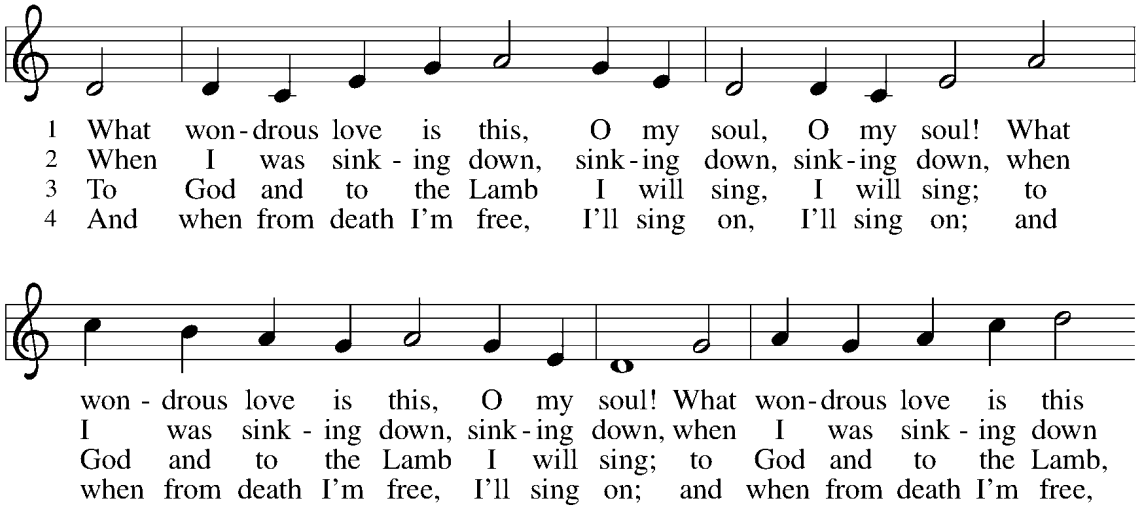
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



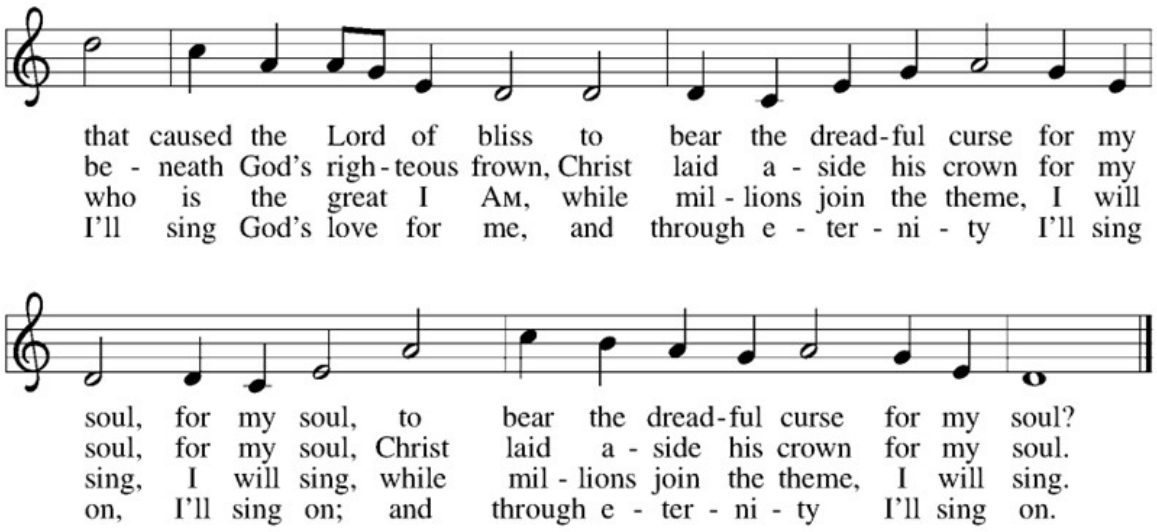
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

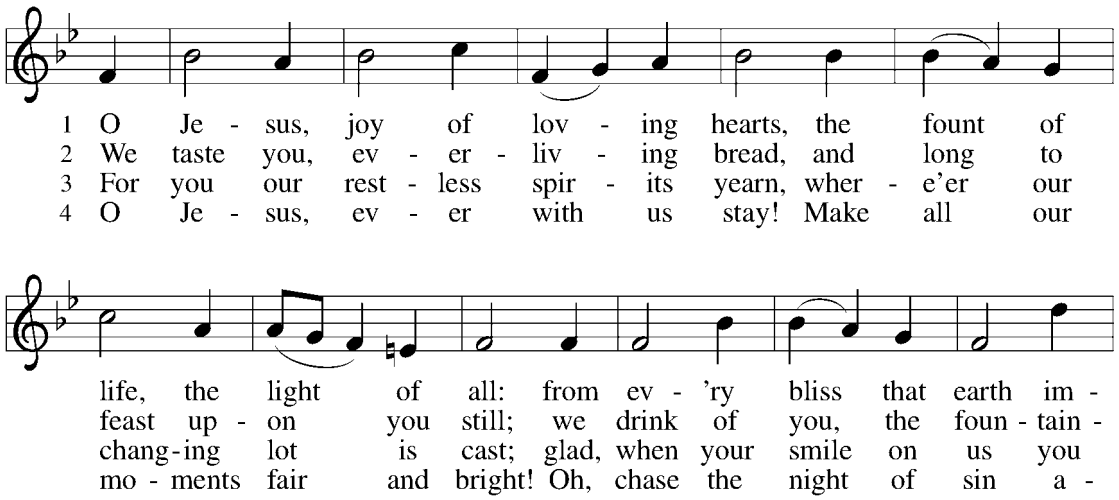
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
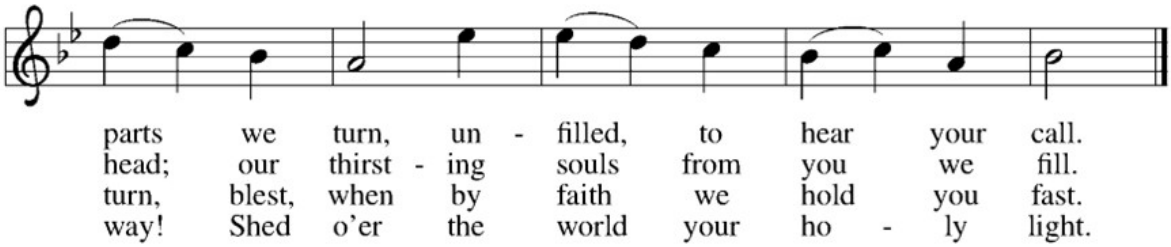
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

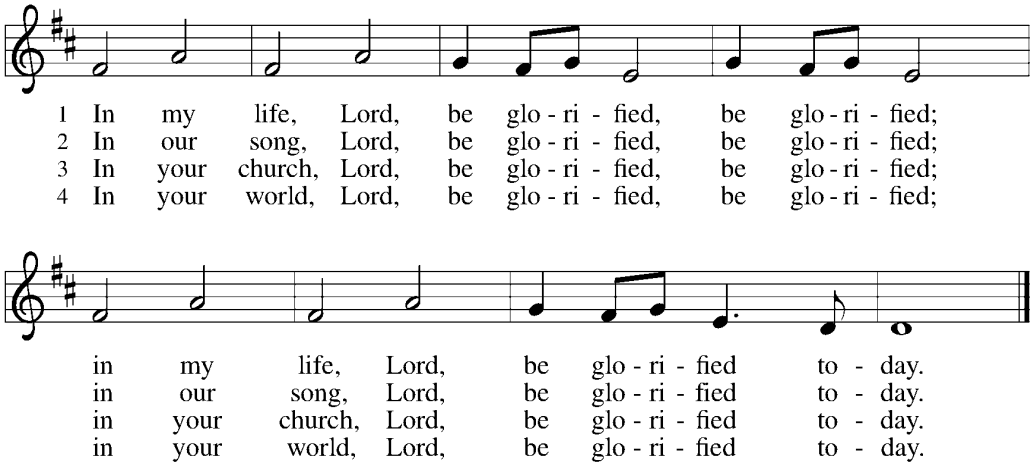
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

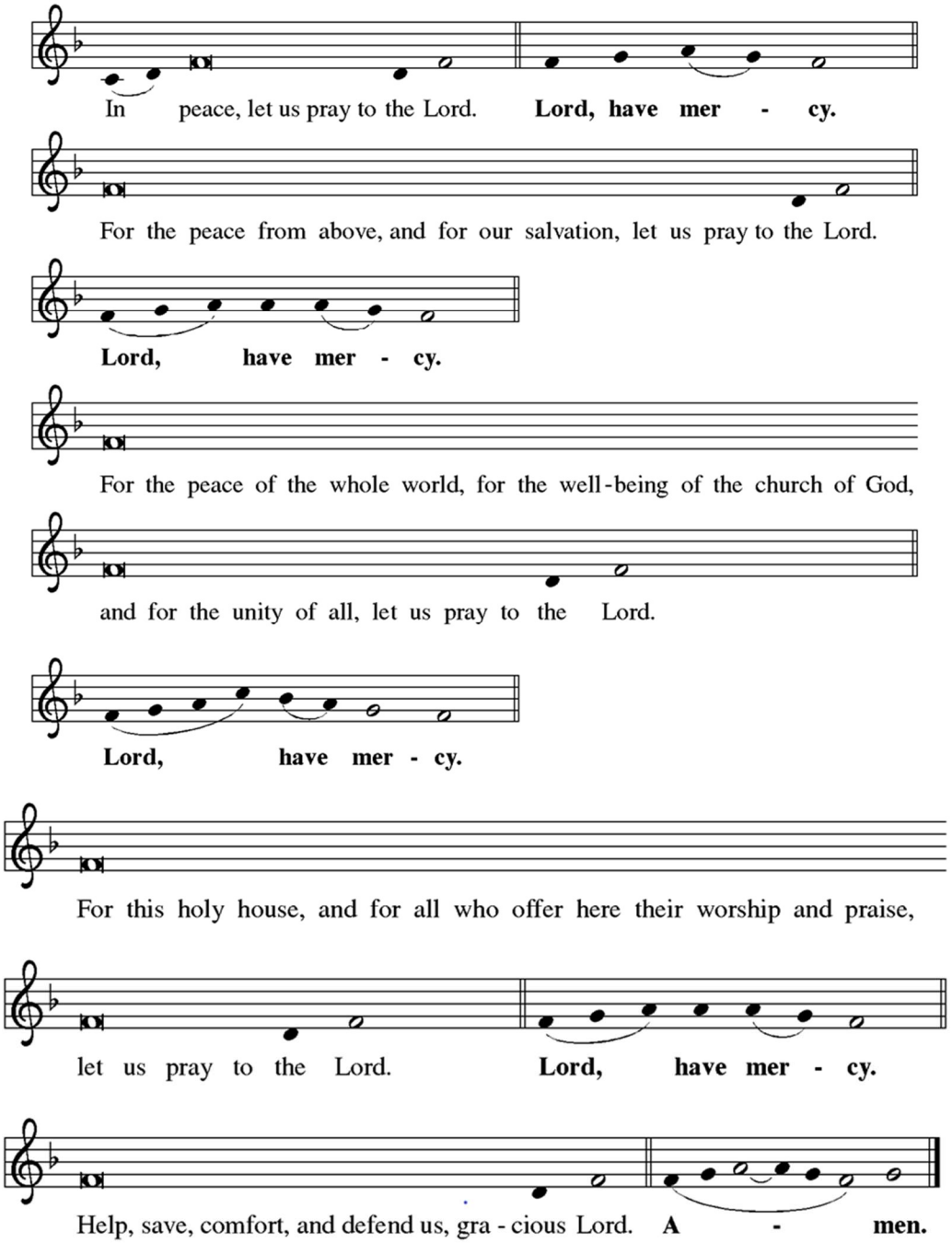
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

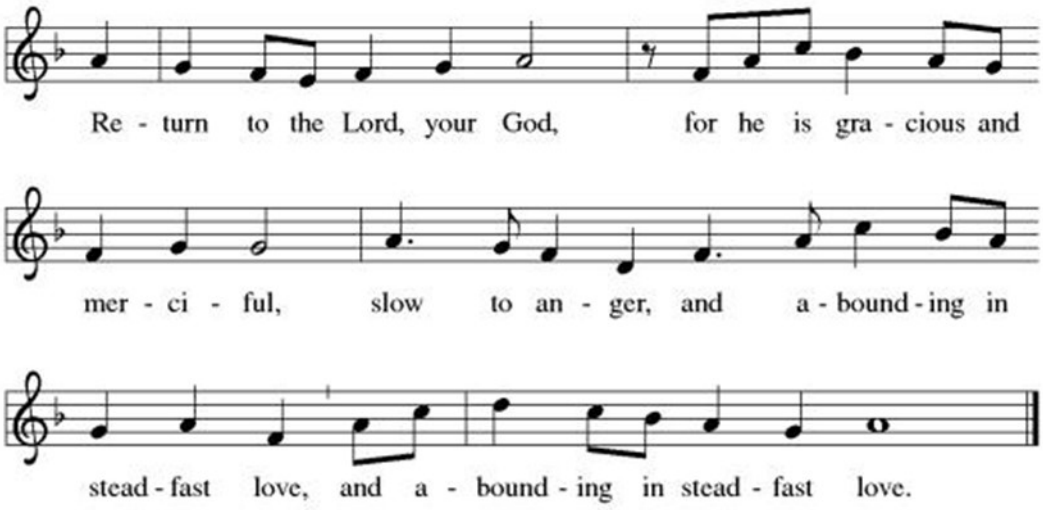
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

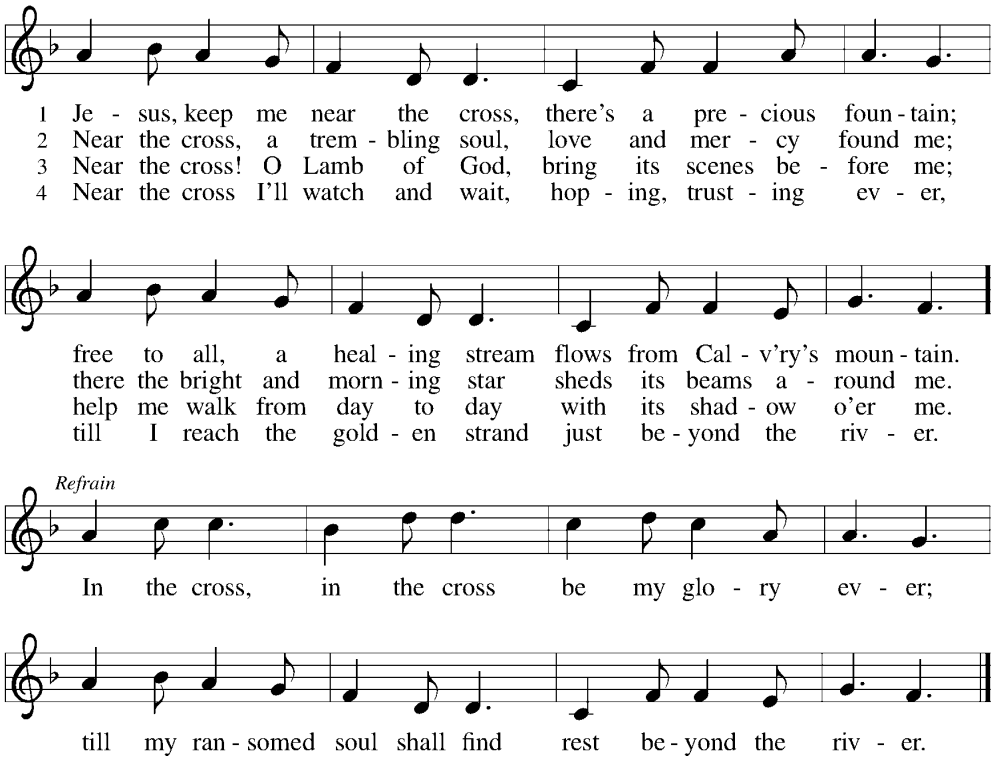
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

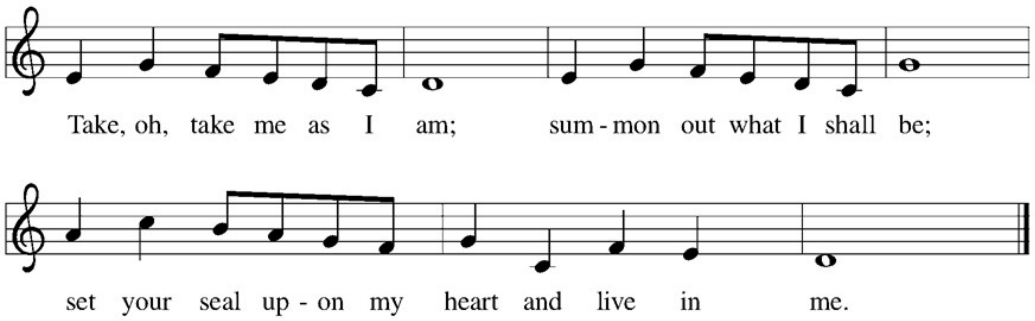
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

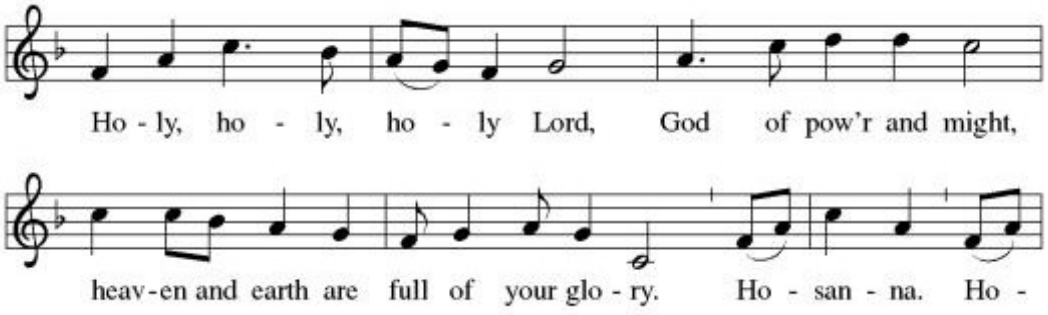
P: Lift up your hearts.

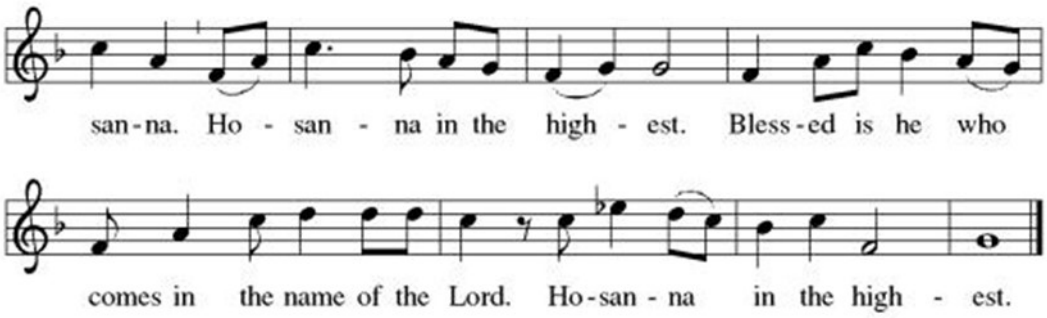
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

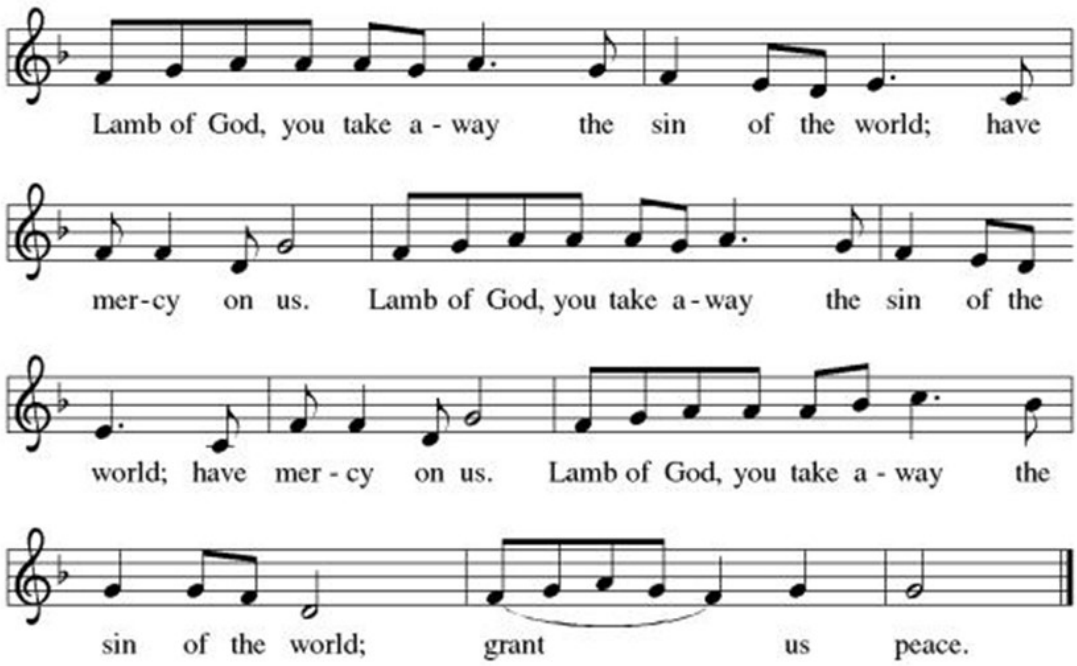
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
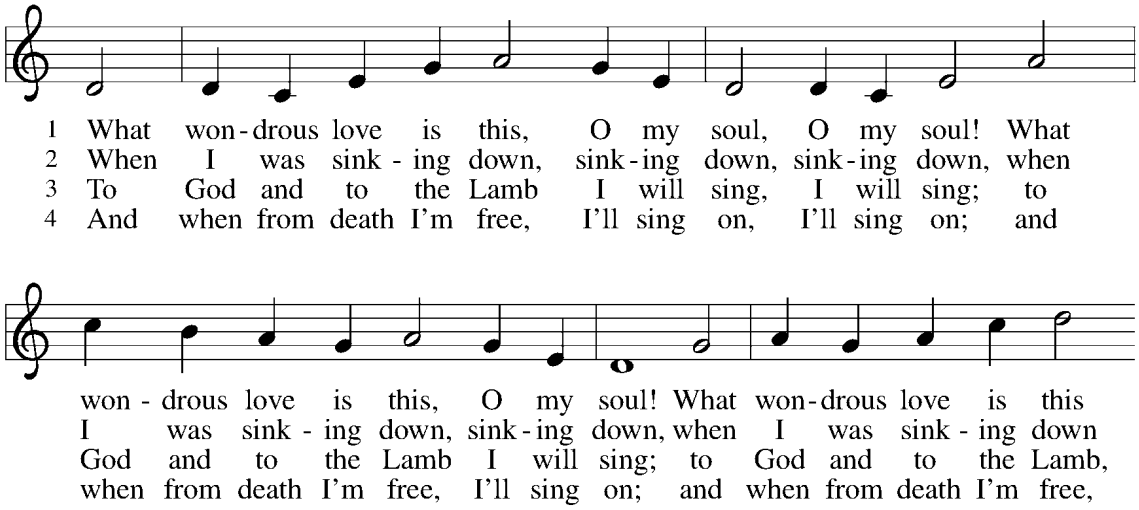
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



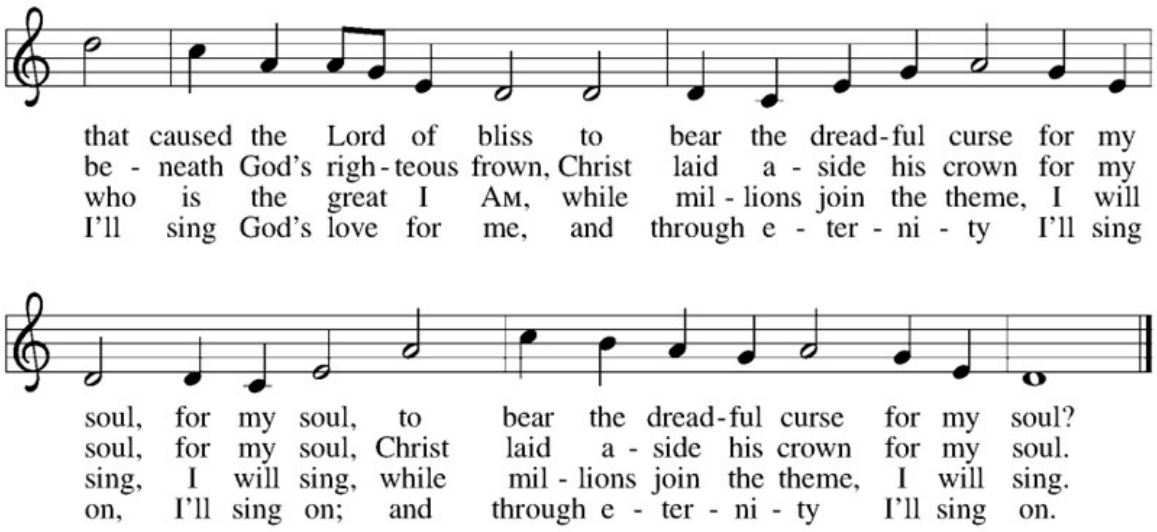
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

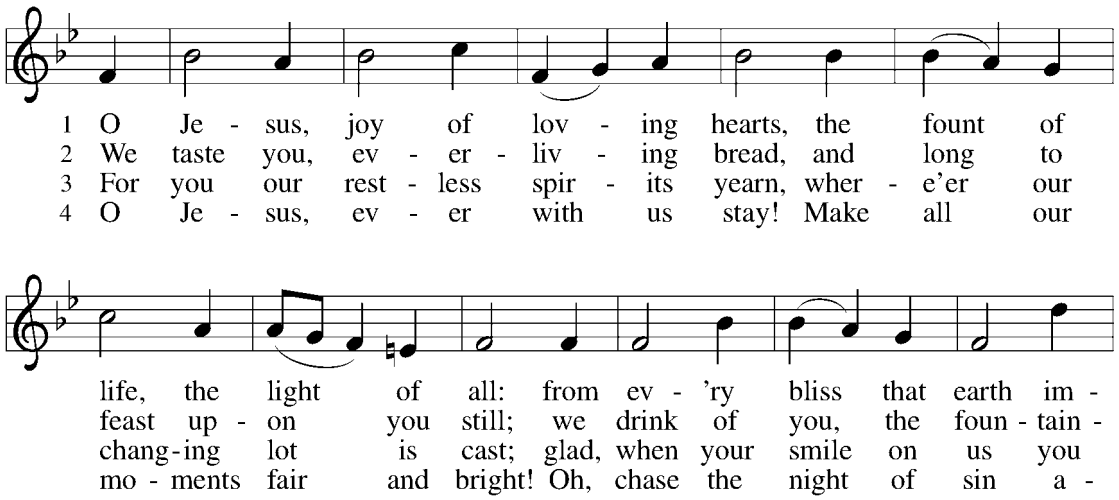
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
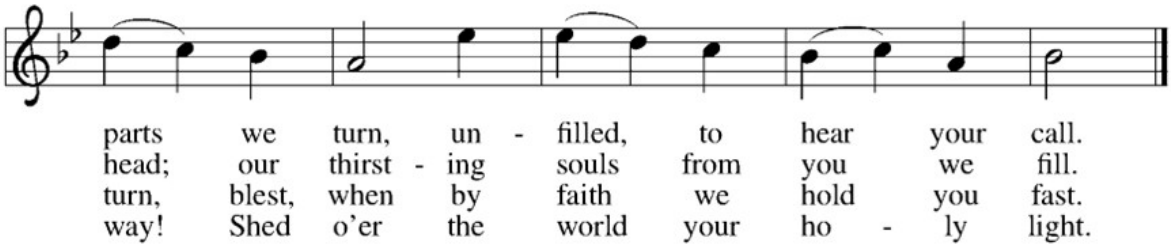
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

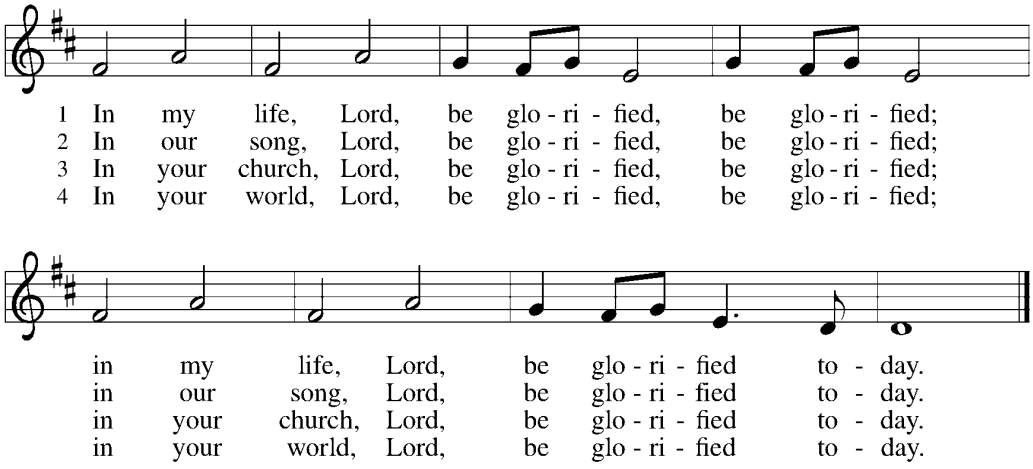
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

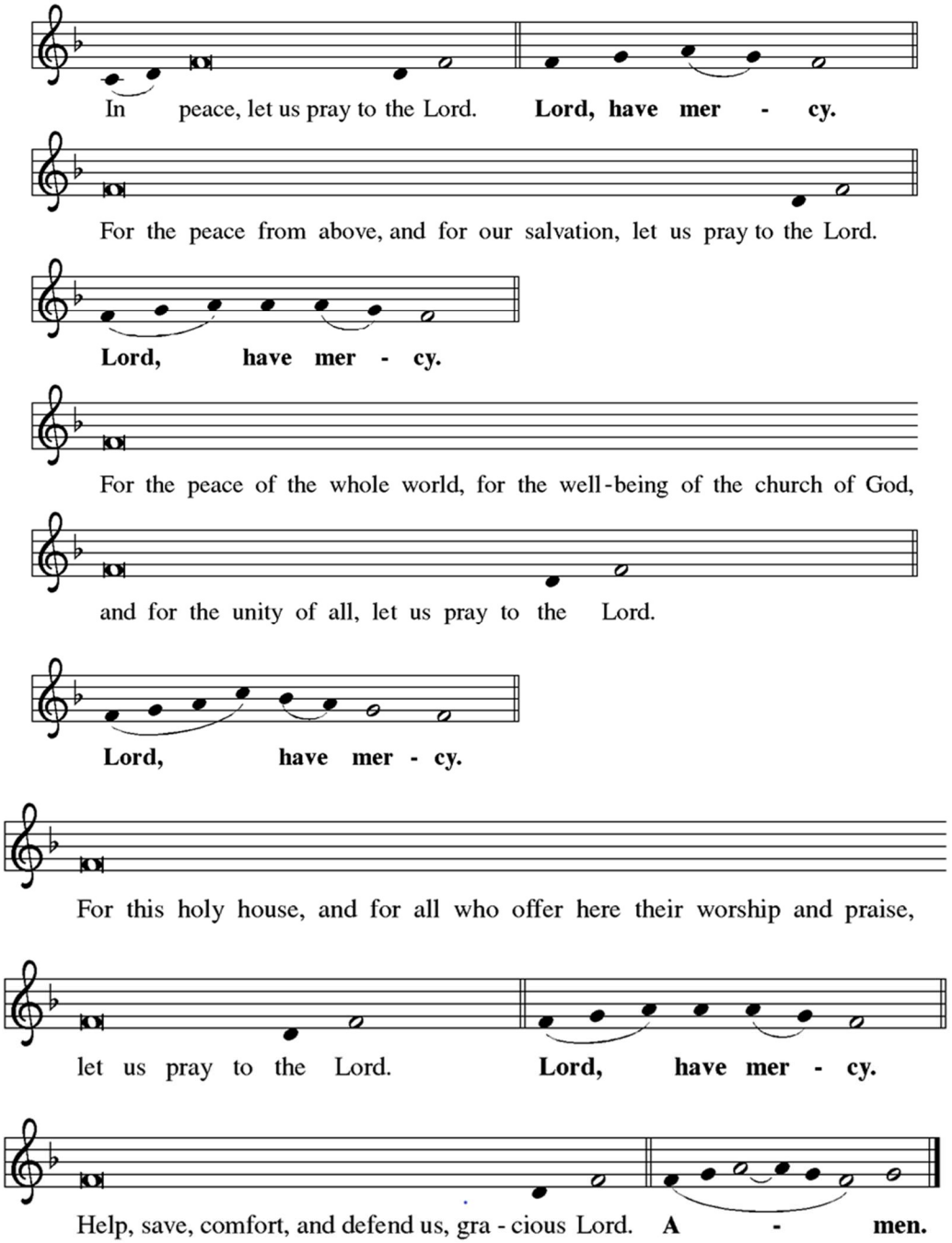
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

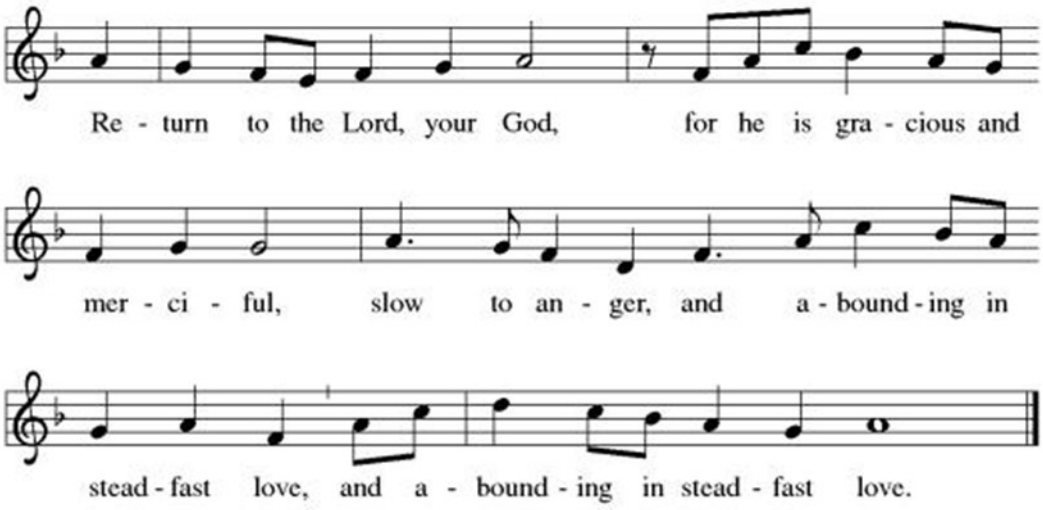
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

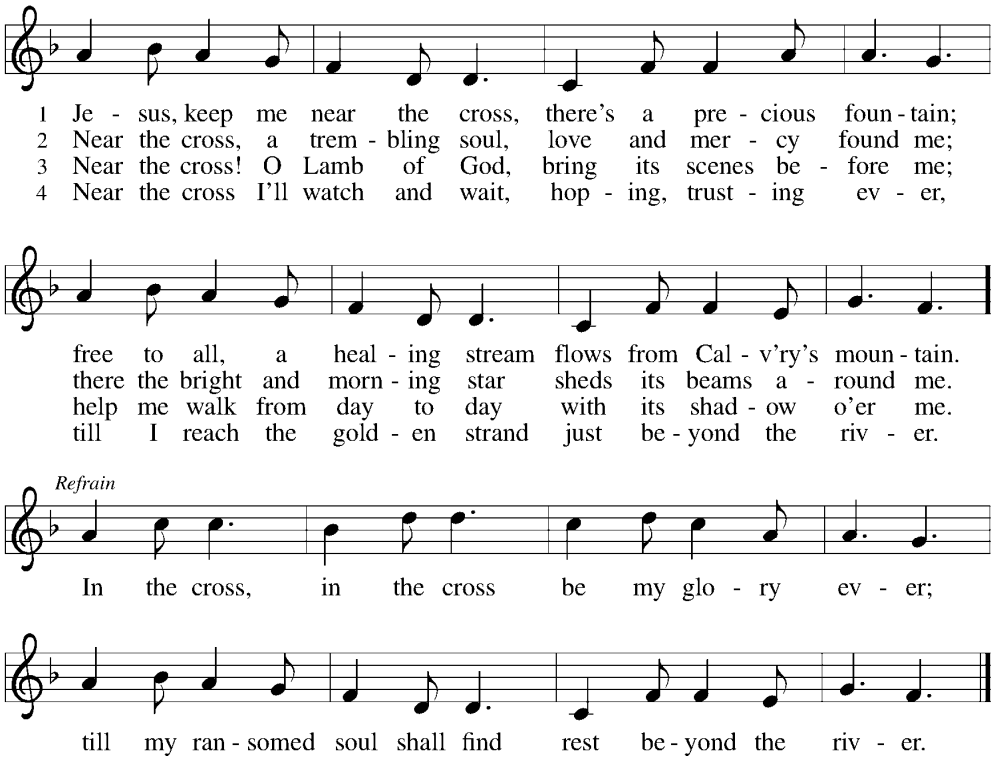
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

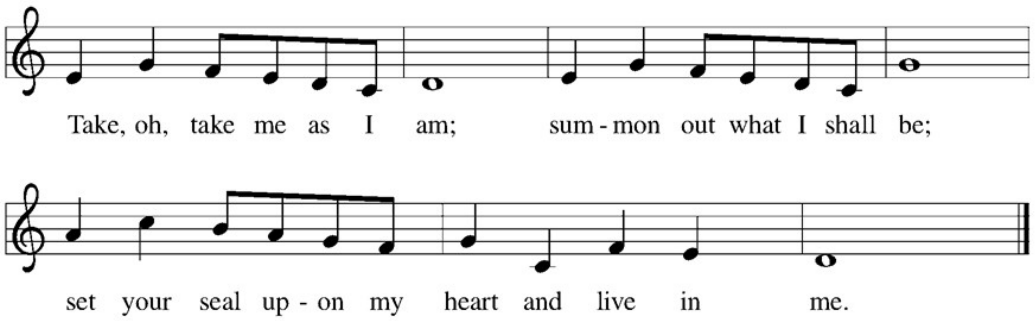
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

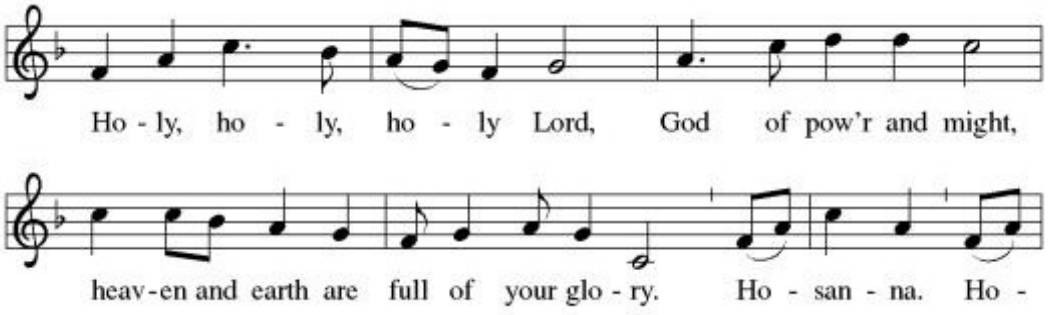
P: Lift up your hearts.

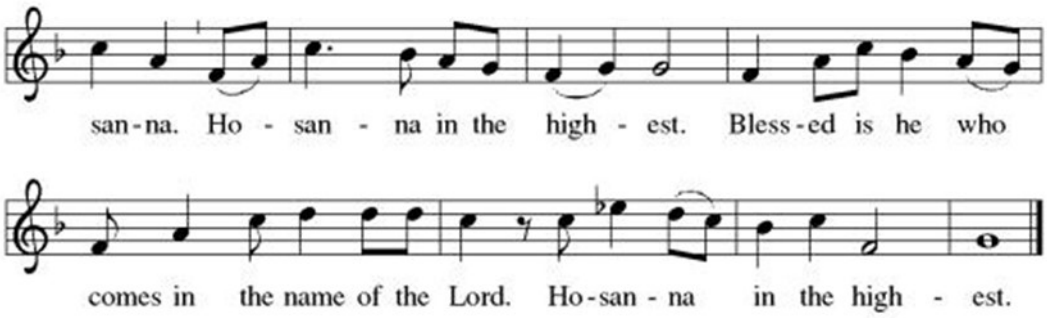
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

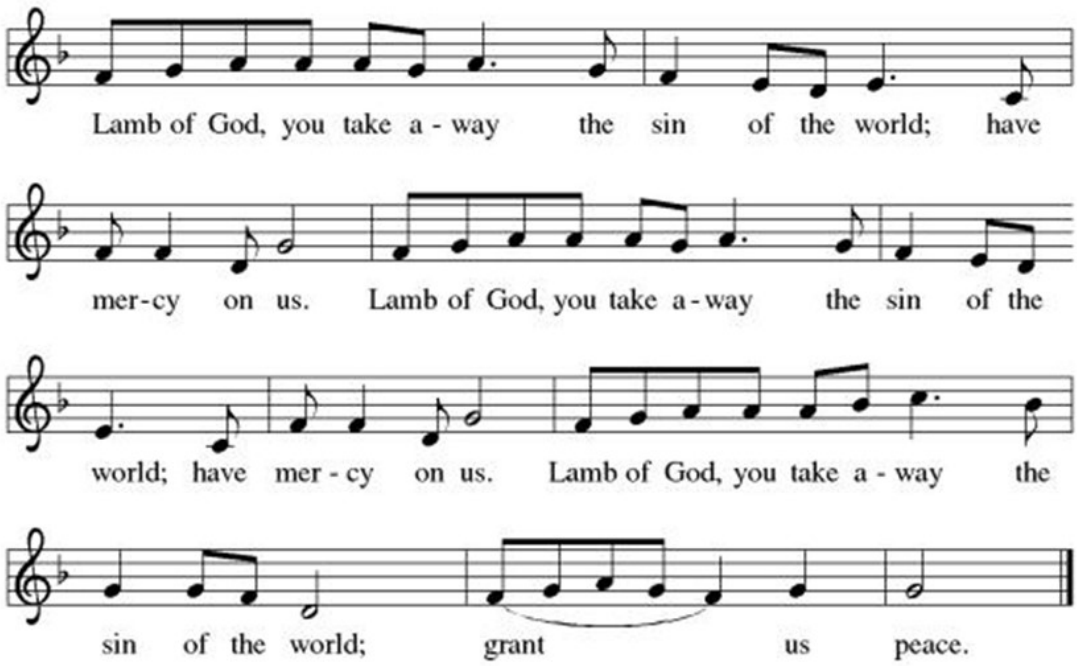
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
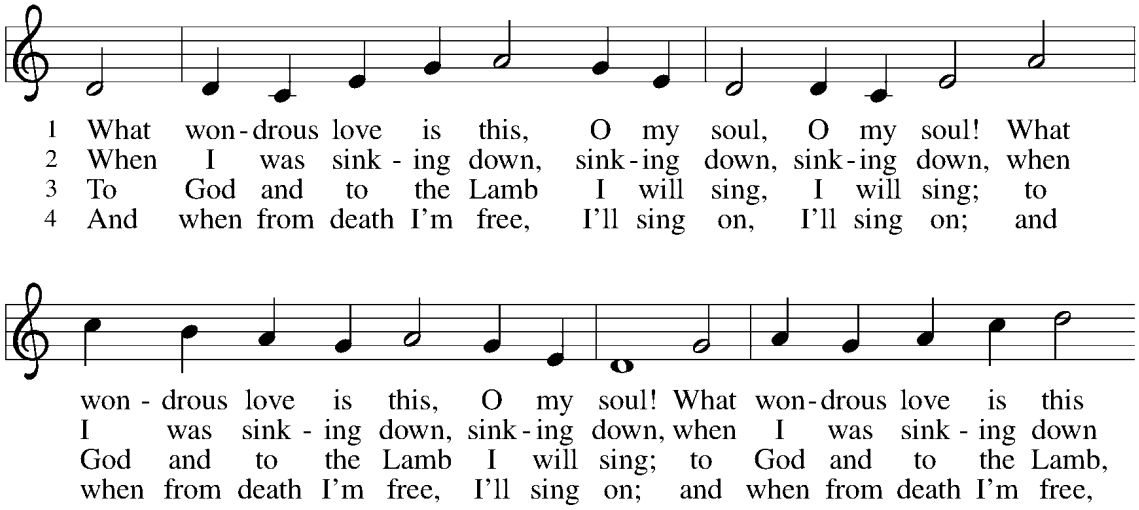
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



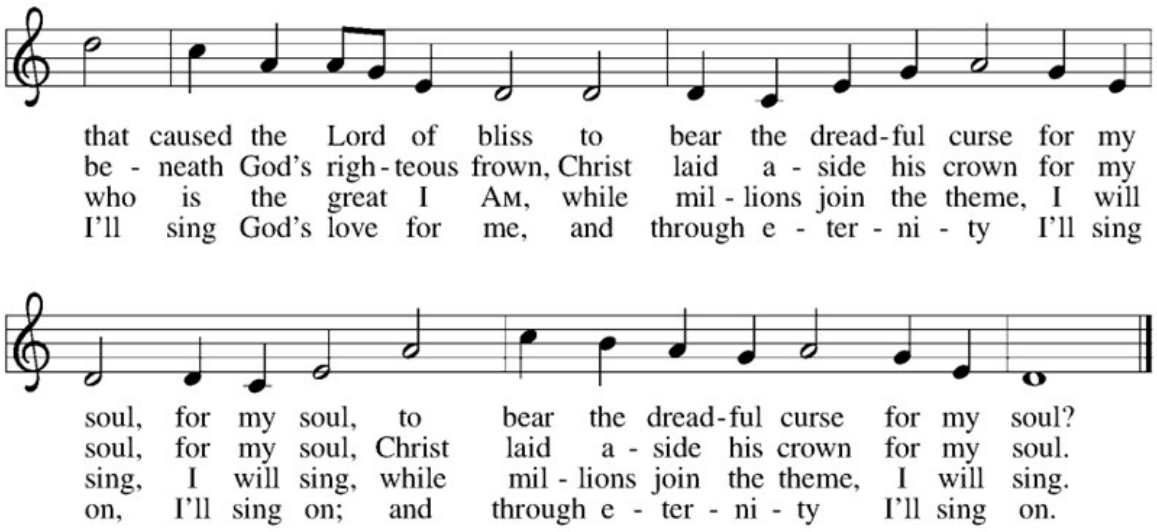
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

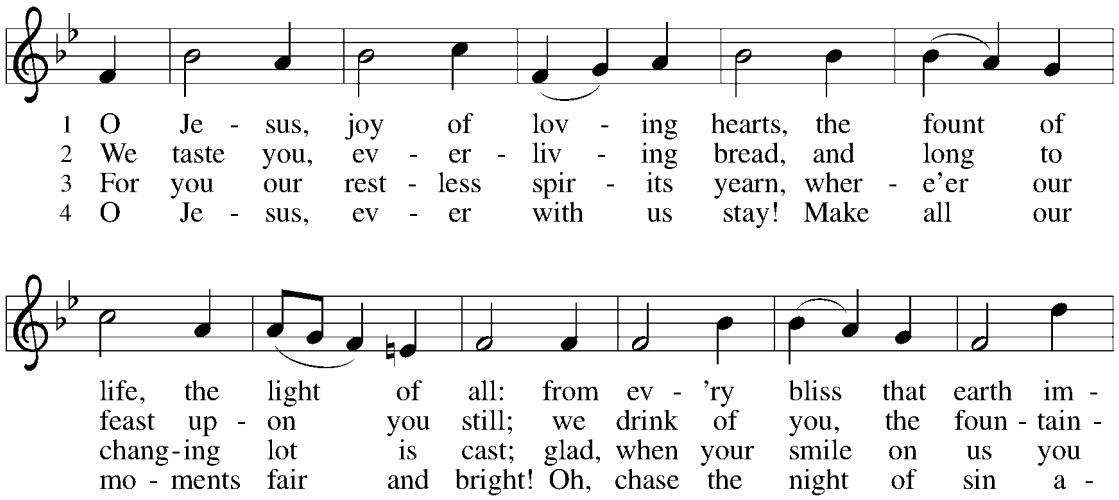
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
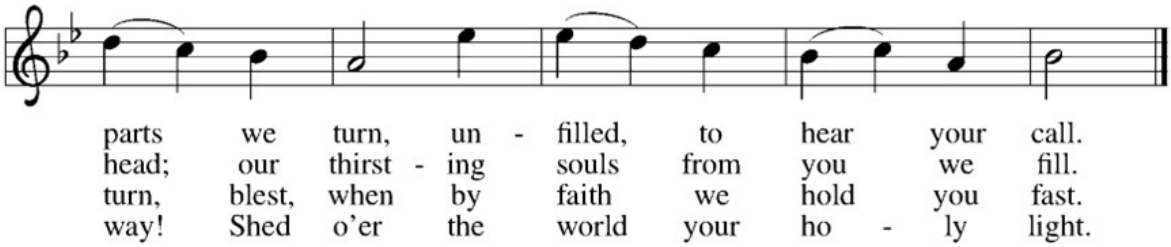
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500
durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor
267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

You can find the live stream at the following location:
www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

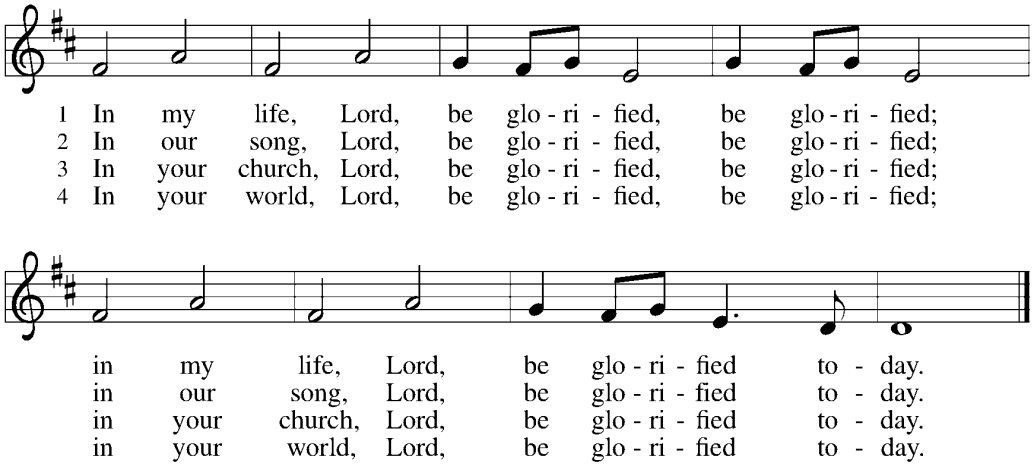
P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 744 Lord, Be Glorified



Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952
Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick
Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

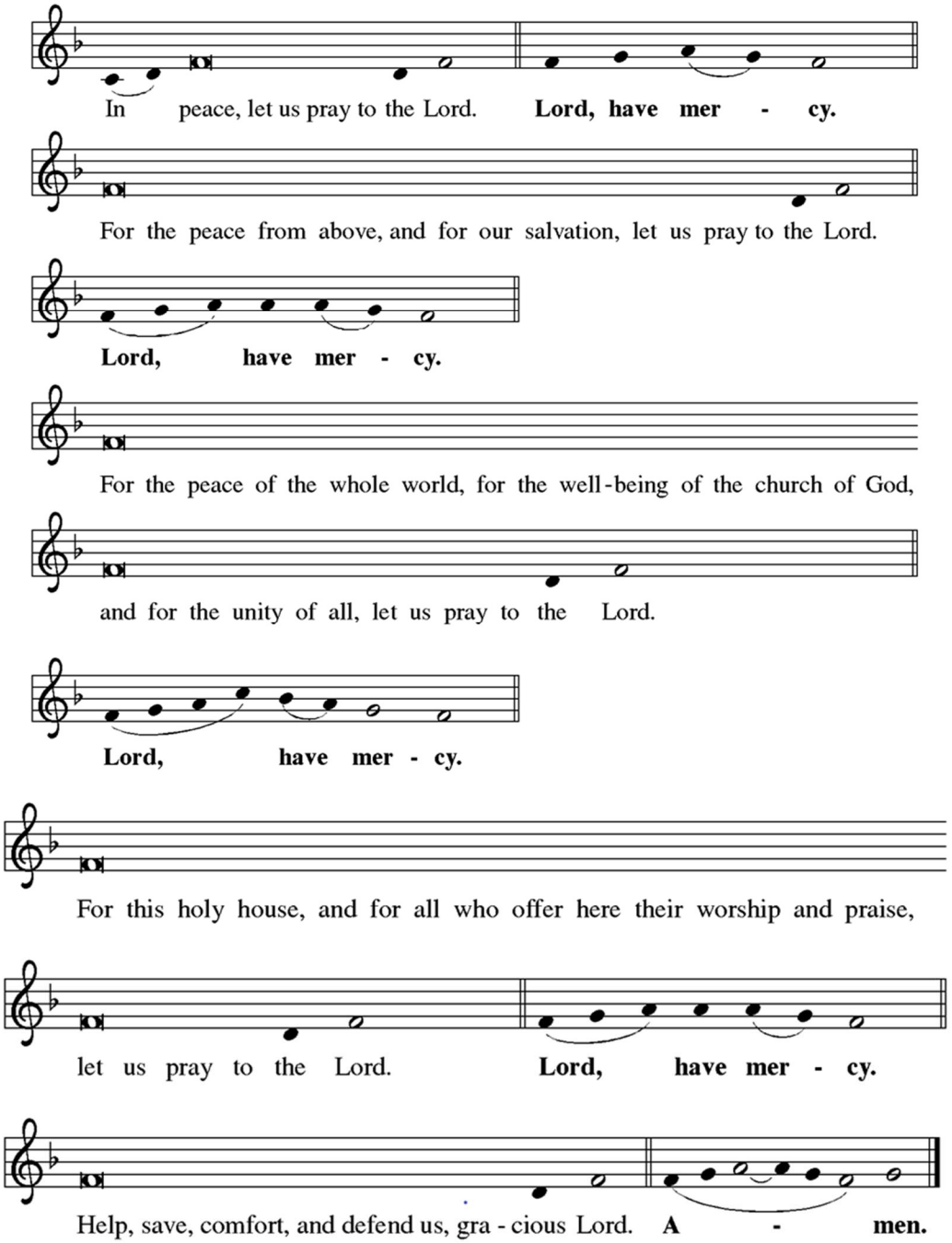
Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

INVOCATION

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.

KYRIE- Congregation sings response "Lord, have mercy."



Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray,
O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L: A reading from the twelfth chapters of Genesis.

[1] The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. [2] I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. [3] I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

[4a] So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: Word of God, Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

L: [1] I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
C: [2] My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
L: [3] The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
C: [4] Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
L: [5] the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
C: [6] the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
L: [7] The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
C: [8] The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading- Romans 4:1-5,13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

L: A reading from the fourth chapter of Romans.

[1] What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." [4] Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. [5] But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] For if it is the

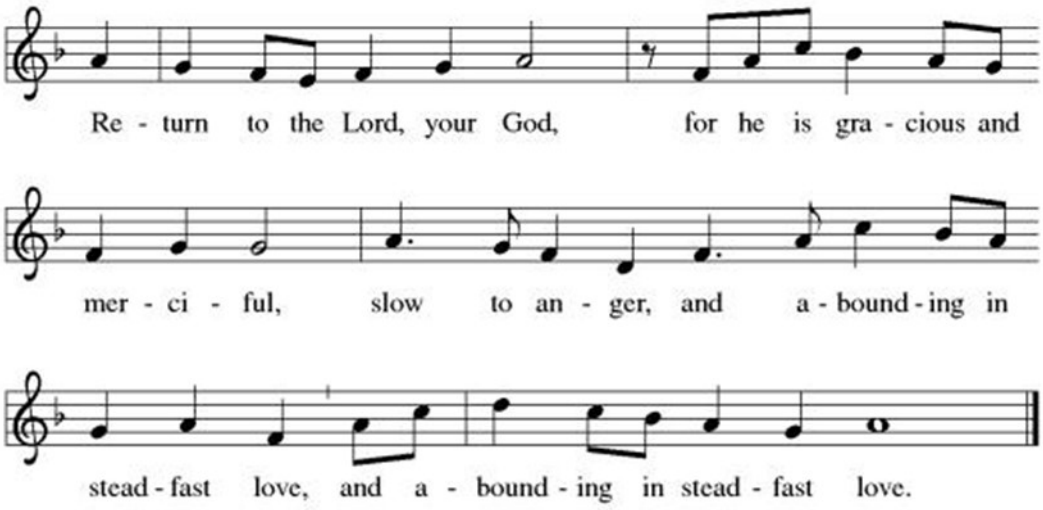
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

[16] For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, [17] as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: *(Stand if you are able)*



The Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: [1] Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. [2] He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." [3] Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." [4] Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" [5] Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. [6] What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. [7] Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' [8] The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." [9] Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" [10] Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

[11] "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. [12] If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? [13] No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. [14] And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

[17] "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

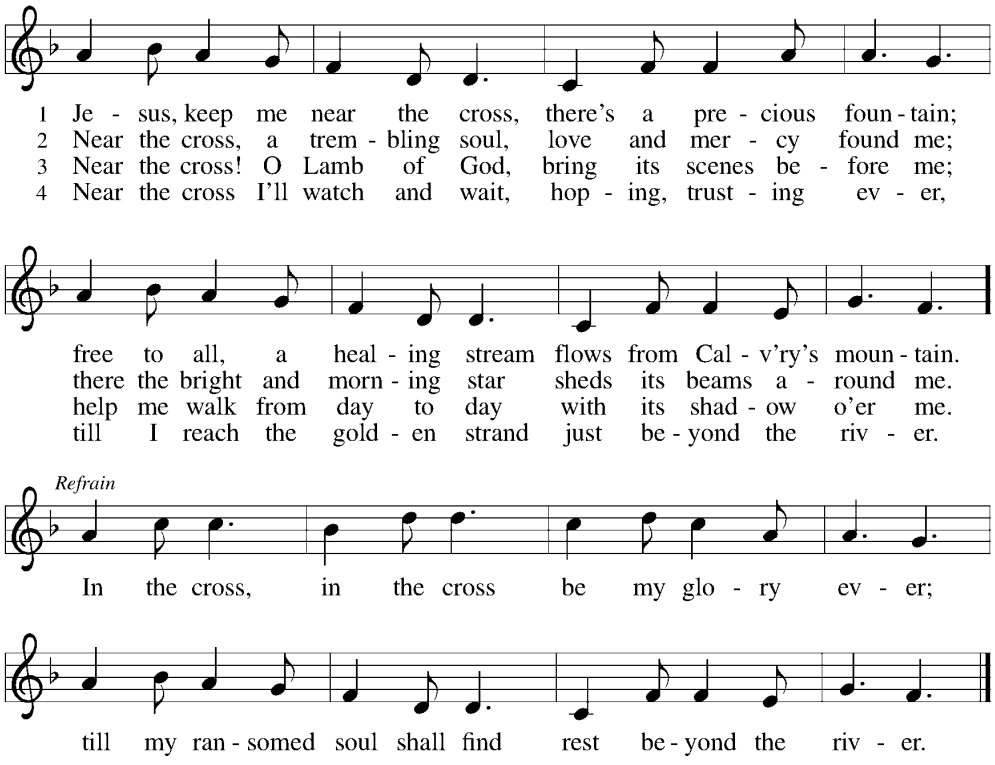
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: **ELW 335** *(Stand if you are able)*

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially those we mention now*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

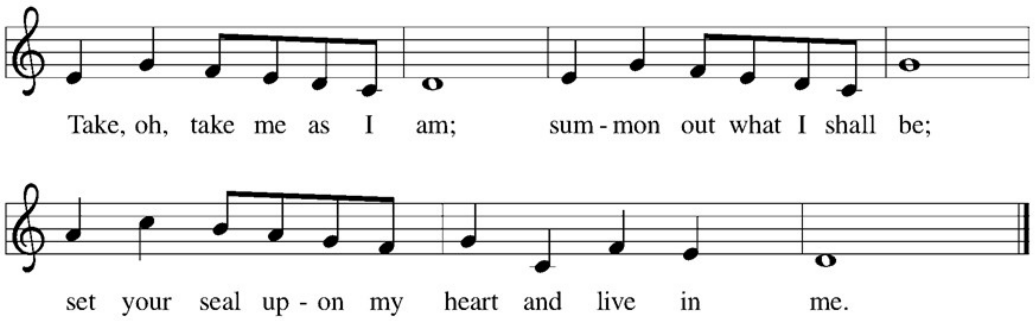
OFFERING -

Choir Anthem: "The Cross" – Craig Courtney

Scan this QR code to give electronically

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS- Please sing this verse two times

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell
Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

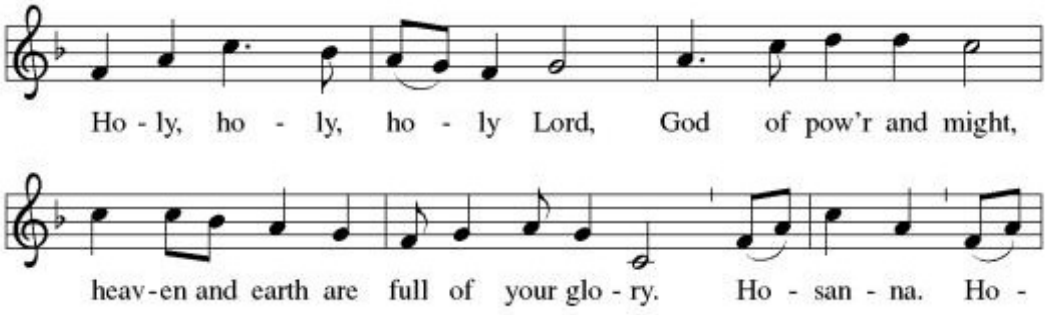
P: Lift up your hearts.

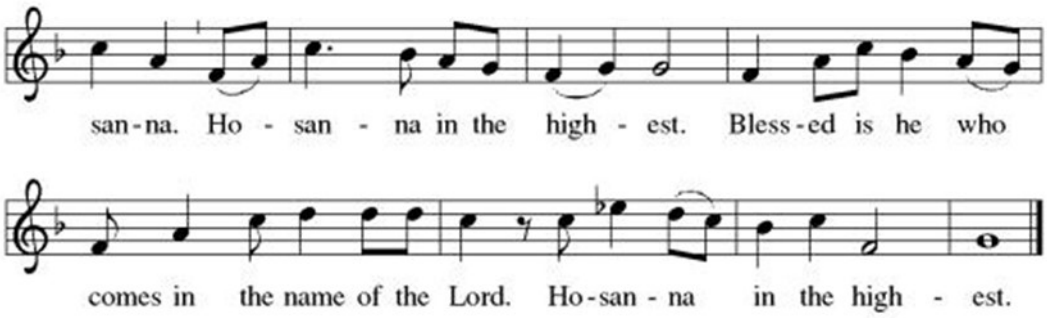
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

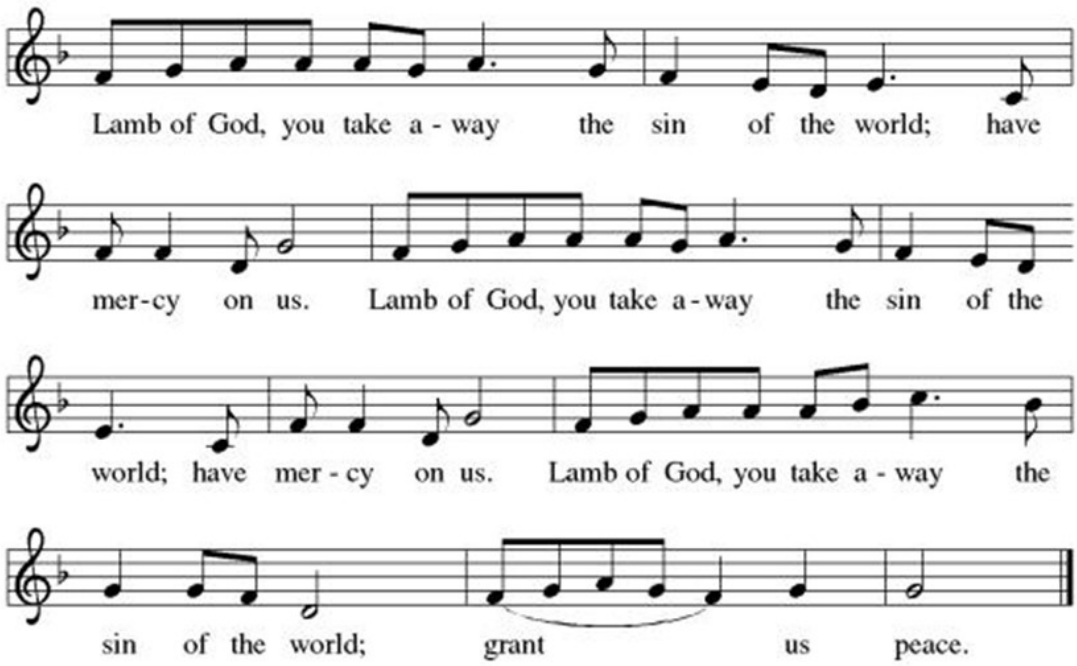
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
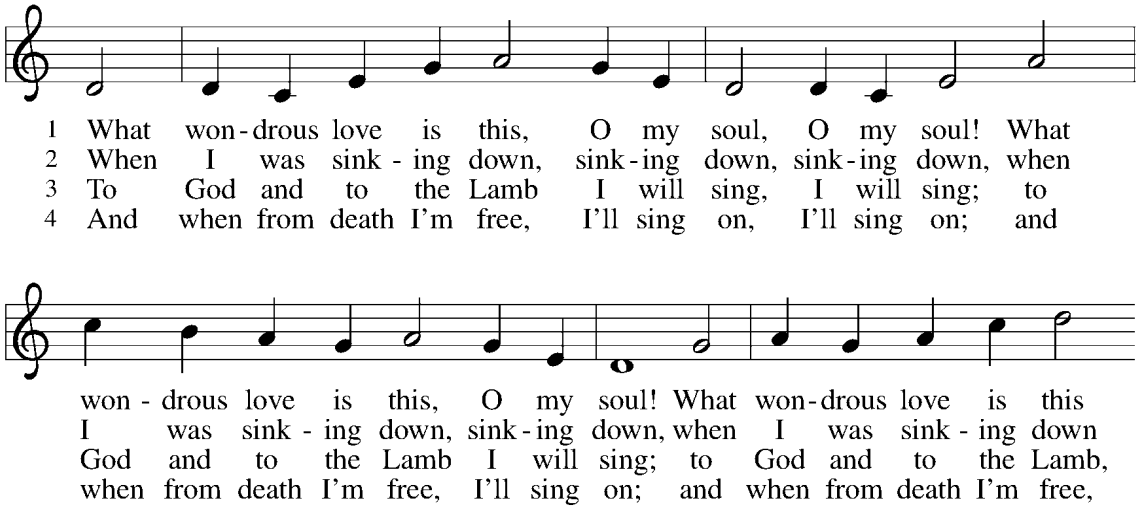
P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.



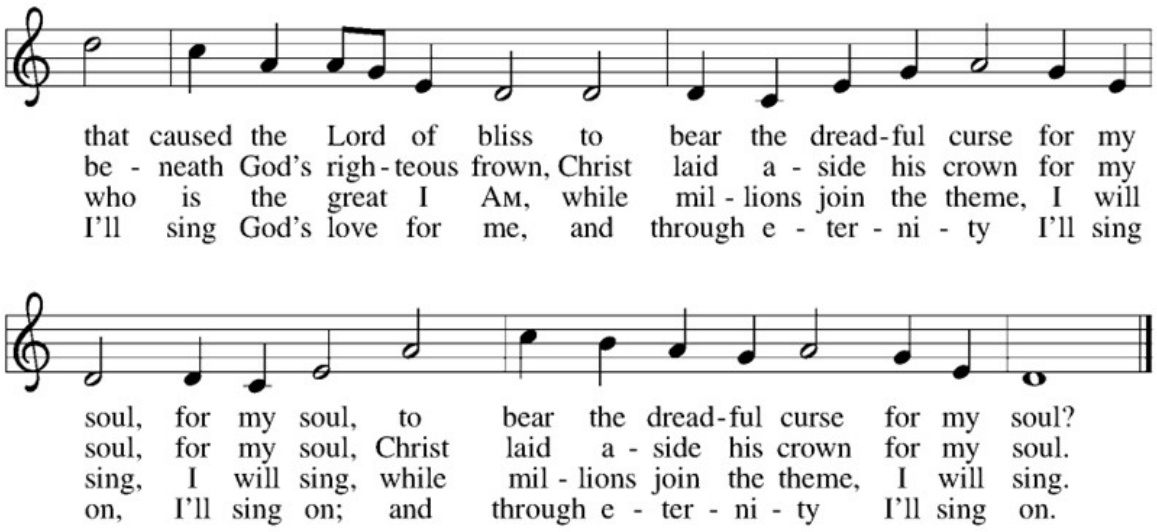
Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This



Cont'd on next page



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

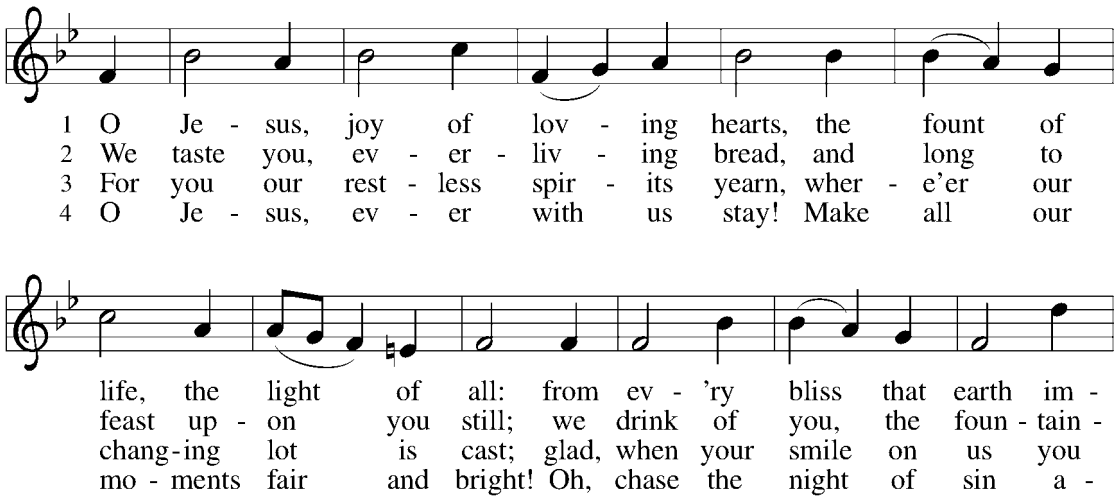
BLESSING

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.
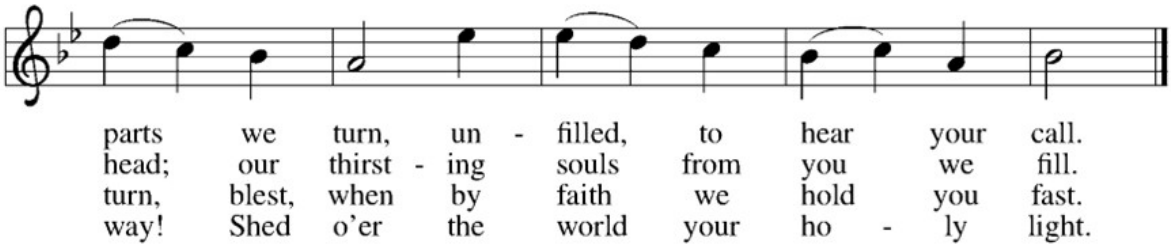
C: Amen

Sending Song:ELW 658

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



Cont'd on next page



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes for March are supporting Lutheran Disaster Relief.

ANNOUNCEMENTS			
March	**BIRTHDAYS**	**ANNIVERSARIES**	**BAPTISMS**
1			Mike Rhine
2	Michael Altemus		
4	Amanda Harrison		
6	Gladys Nicholas		
7	Kenneth Crouse		



For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Kat Wagner; Jill Williams; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Michael Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Linda Lyle; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

THIS WEEK AT CHURCH

Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00-7:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ Trinity
Monday, March 2	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM 6:00 PM	Admin Office Hours Building Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 4	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Luke Ferndale
Thursday, March 5	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

**No choir practice this week!

UPCOMING WEEKS

Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 2:00 PM- 4:00 PM	**Communion Worship** Upper Bucks Conference Assembly HERE!
Monday, March 9	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, March 10	7:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 11	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at Trinity Pleasant Valley
Thursday, March 12	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Friday, March 13	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home

Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent	**10:00 AM** 5:00PM-7:00PM	**Communion Worship** Confirmation Class @ ELC Durham
Monday, March 16	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, March 18	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 6:00 PM-7:30PM	Office Hours Lenten Soup Supper at St Peter's Riegelsville
Thursday, March 19	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Saturday, March 21	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Jayne Miller



Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist and Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Altar Guild	Kris Simmons and Linda Sauter
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick
Acolyte	Lilly and Evalynn Obrien
Lector	Pat Zion
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick
Council Communion	Bea vonWatzdorf, Cathy Mueller, Mark Harwick
Counting Team	Cathy Mueller and Pat Zion
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner
Custodian	Dawn Margeson