

“The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm... and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.”

Deuteronomy 26:8-11

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent – March 9, 2025
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
www.stjohnchurchmars.org

Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service.*

This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

Jesus went into the city to heal.

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

but Jesus also went to the wilderness.

There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

We are in God's house. Let us worship God.

***GATHERING SONG *Oh, Love, How Deep* (ELW 322)**



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
 he bore the shameful cross and death;
 for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
 for us he went on high to reign;
 for us he sent his Spirit here
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:
 the Trinity whom we adore
 forever and forevermore.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

We come to confession not to wallow in our own guilt. God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So, we come to confession not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because we know that change starts with being honest. There is healing here. There is life to be gained here. Let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it, trusting in God's abundant, overflowing grace.

Holy God,

We confess: we do not turn to you fully. Instead of trusting that we are made good, instead of trusting that we are loved simply because we are yours, we stockpile our value in earthly things – in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power. We share with you only the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are – including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt. Forgive us. Teach us a new way. Teach us your way. Teach us to love as you love. Give us hearts that long to turn fully to you.

Amen.

Family of faith, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. No matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even in our fear or shame, even when we sin, we belong to God. Siblings in Christ, know this: in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, you are freed, forgiven, and claimed with all that you are.

Now say it with me:

God loves us, chooses us, and wraps us in grace.

We are claimed. We are drenched in mercy. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



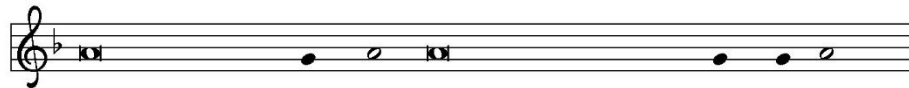
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *Glory To God

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
- ² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰ **no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹² **Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ **I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
- ¹⁶ **With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

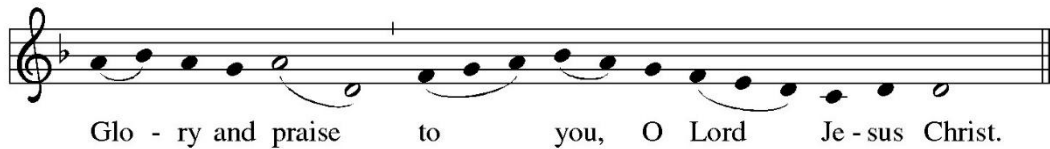
A reading from the book of Romans.

- ^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.

⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written,

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

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Signs and Wonders* (ELW 672)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)



1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,
3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell - ing here;
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be - yond the gar - den wall:
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid - night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.
beau - ti - ful the feet pro - ceed - ing with good news of death's de - feat - ing.
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember in our hearts. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of the wilderness, we give you thanks for your overflowing, abundant mercy and your steadfast presence. Receive the prayers of your people. *(blue prayer cards are read)* Draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

**Rise on 3rd verse*

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

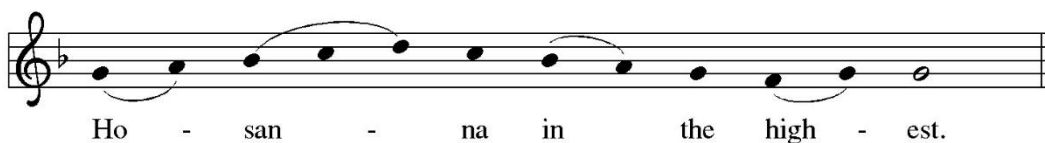
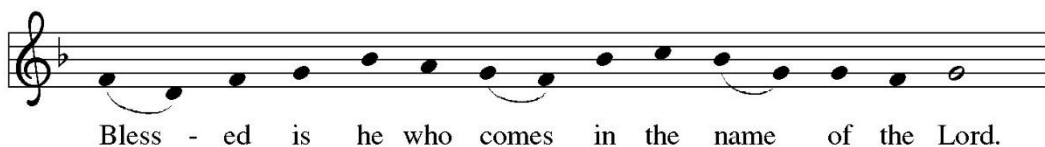
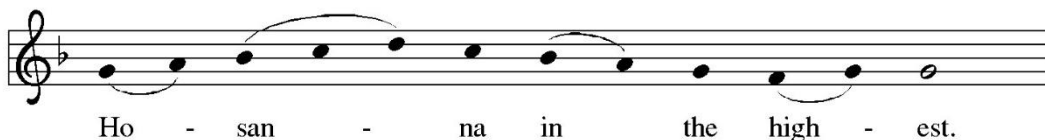
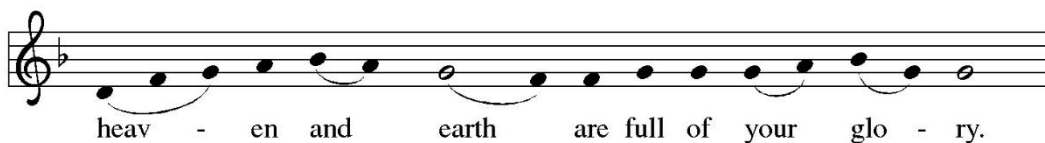
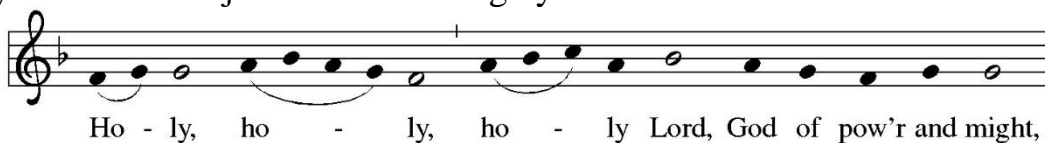
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your love never runs out, your hope never runs dry, your joy never gives up.

Even as your Son gathered with his friends for one more meal,
as he prepared to give the full measure of his devotion and love to this broken world,
just before his own friend betrayed him,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

God of Life, in a world that loves scarcity, your abundance is shocking.
In a world that knows fear, your joy is compelling.
In a world that knows anxiety, your peace is captivating.
We long for these things.

So today we ask you:
When compassion fatigue rears her head, **be with us.**
When stress makes it hard to breathe, **be with us.**
When self-doubt pushes in close, **be with us.**
When exhaustion becomes our constant or when loneliness becomes our norm, **be with us.**
Be with us, and show us the way to the life you long for us.

Show us a life of expansive faith.
Show us a life of overflowing joy.
Show us a life of absorbing beauty.
Show us a life of engrossing purpose.
Show us a life that is honest, abundant, and meaningful in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Breathe new life into us.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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;

**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**

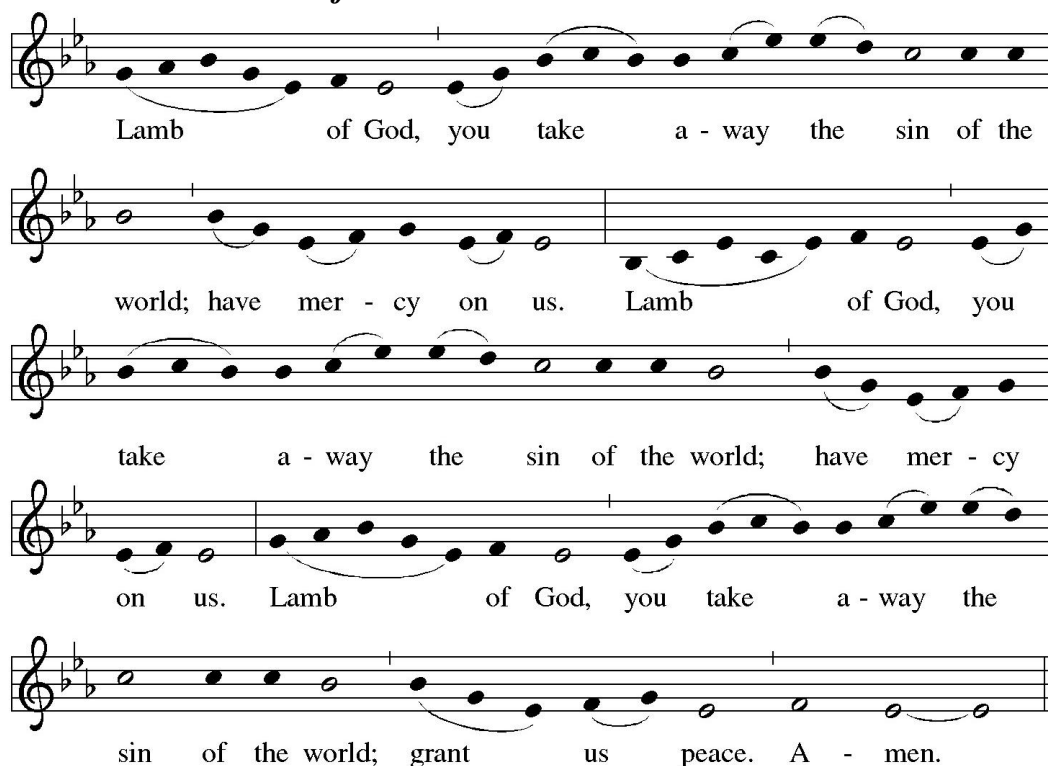
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to this meal of grace. Every one of us – with our doubts, our fears, our scars, our joy, our dreams, our hopes, our questions – we are invited to God's table. For here we will be fed and given a taste of an expansive life that is full to the brim with love, overflowing with joy. Now come. Not because you must, but because you can. Come. You are invited. This meal is for you.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

COMMUNION HYMN *God Extends an Invitation* (ELW 486)



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
 God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
 a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
 gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - nión; pues a - sí es la co - mu - nión.
 feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace.
Amen

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

May God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, +
fill you to the brim with grace and blessing now and forever

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Now Is the Time of Grace* (ACS 918)**

Repeat several times

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

***DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness. In the grace of God be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; and love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Valerie C

Acolyte: Jules K

Ushers: Volunteer

Offering: Anna K & Nathan K

Attendance last week: 62 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Even in the desert, Jesus expands our definitions of a full life. It's not the life the Tempter presents: a life defined by excess power, control, or reign. Jesus sees beyond this facade and says, even in the midst of fasting, "One does not live by bread alone" (Luke 4:4). Excess is not abundance. There is a fuller life we are called to live. Even in the midst of struggle, oppressive forces, hardship, and grief—God's promises spill over, like the bounty of the first fruits from the ground. Even in the desert, we are called to the water to be washed by grace

Today's Music

Oh, Love, How Deep. Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt., Music: English ballad, 15th cent.. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Signs and Wonders. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, Music: Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

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God Extends an Invitation. Text: Miria T. Kolling; English and Spanish tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Music: Miria T. Kolling. Augsburg Fortress.

Now Is the Time of Grace. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9, Music: Marty Haugen. Augsburg Fortress.

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Next Week's Readings:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 *The covenant with Abram and his descendants*

Psalm 27 *In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter (Ps 27:5)*

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1 *Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior*

Luke 13:31-35 *God has desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood*