March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Divine Service:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am
Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am

+

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

Organist:
Patty Barnes

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 8, 2026

✠ PREPARATION ✠

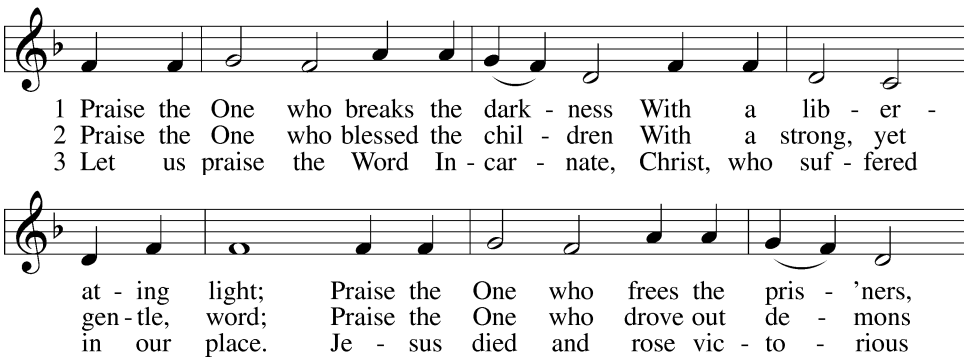
Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

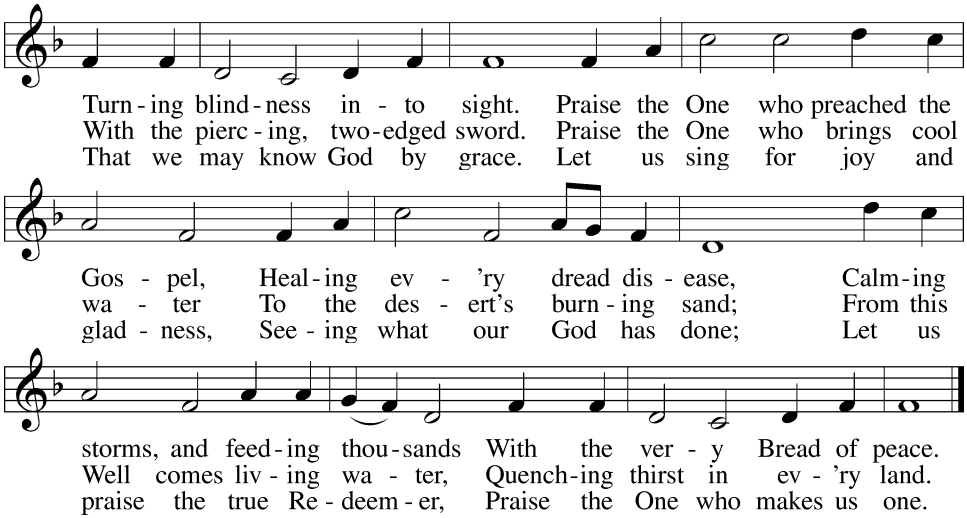
PRELUDE "A Celebration of Praise" J. Denton
"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" arr. D. Paxton

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ***LSB 849***





Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955, Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
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INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 84:4–5

P Blessed are those who dwell in Your house ever singing Your praise!

C **Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose hearts are the highways to Zion.**

Silence for meditation and reflection.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

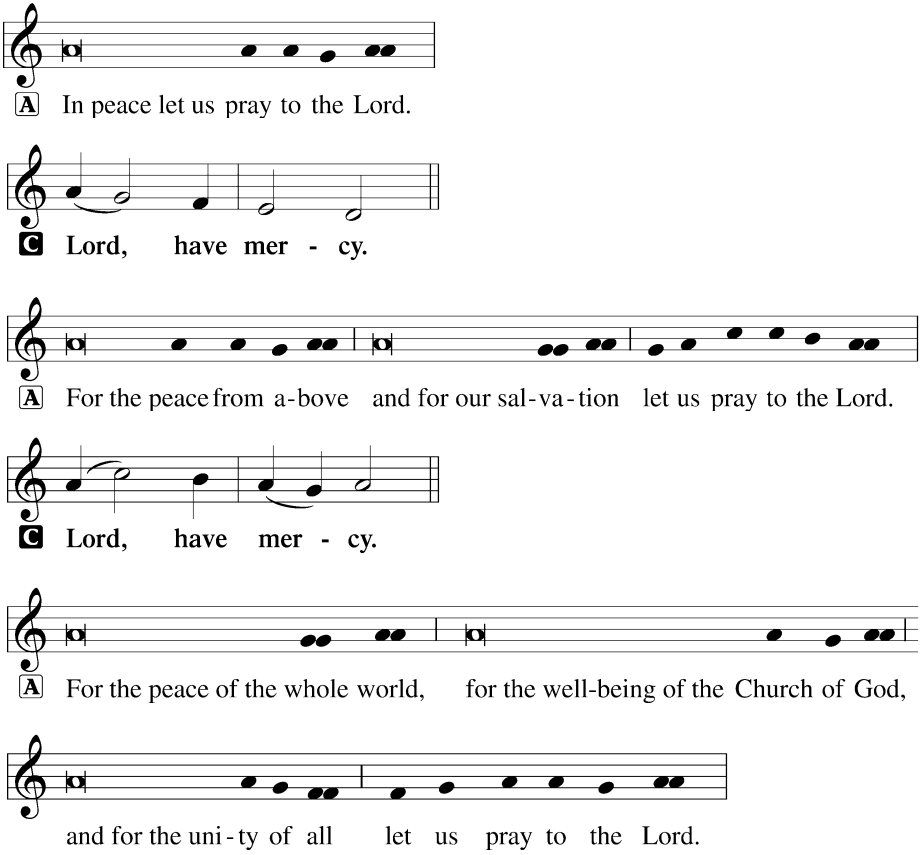
C **Amen.**

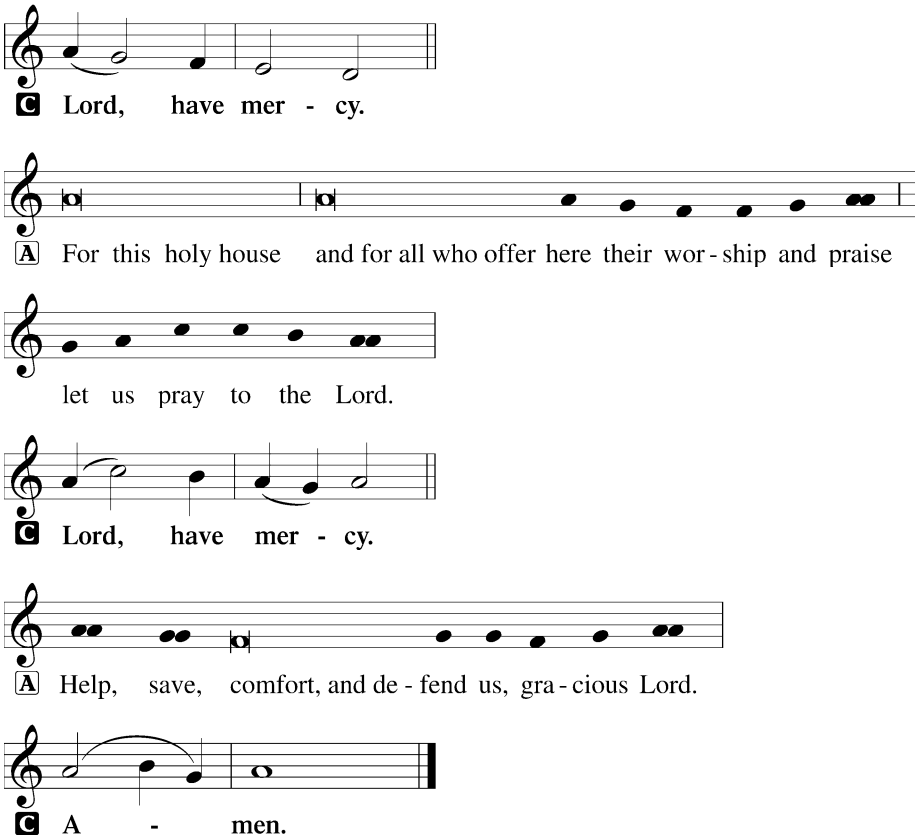
P May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

KYRIE *LSB 168*





SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

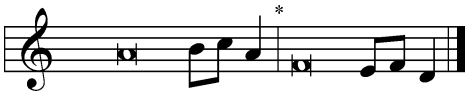
Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 17:1–7*

The Word is read…

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 95:1–9; antiphon: v. 6*



[1]Oh come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal- | vation!
[2]Let us come into his presence with thanks- | giving;*
let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!
[3]For the LORD is a | great God,*
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
[4]In his hand are the depths | of the earth;*
the heights of the mountains are his | also.
[5]The sea is his, for he | made it,*
and his hands formed the | dry land.

[6]Oh come, let us worship and | bow down;*
let us kneel before the LORD, our | Maker!
[7]For he | is our God,*
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep | of his hand.
Today, if you | hear his voice,*
[8]do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the | wilderness,
[9]when your fathers put me | to the test*
and put me to the proof, though they had | seen my work.

EPISTLE *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

The Word is read…

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

VERSE *John 4:23a*

C **The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.**

HOLY GOSPEL *John 4:5–26*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

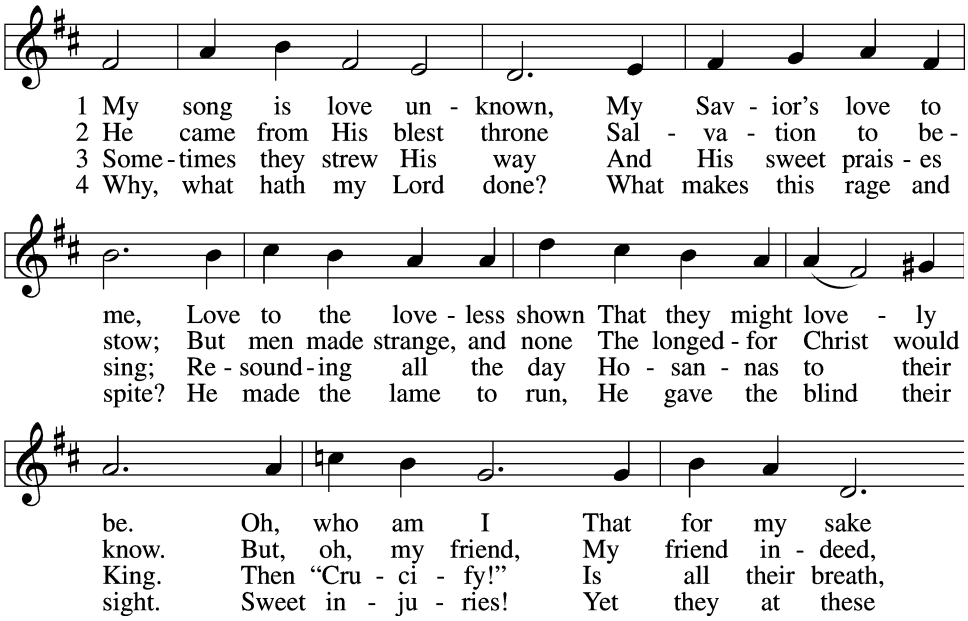
The Word is read…

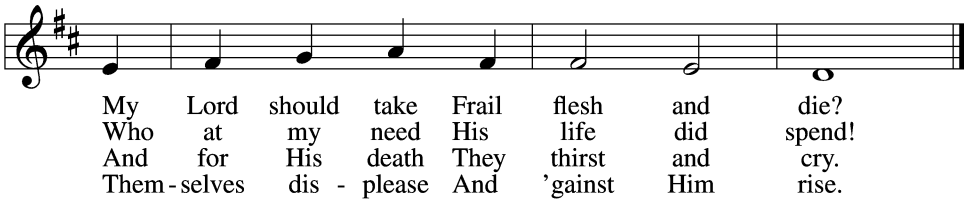
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

HYMN "My Song Is Love Unknown" ***LSB 430***





5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962
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SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Having been led through the wilderness and brought into the light of God's presence, let us not fail to pray for the church, for our nation, for all the needs of the people, and for ourselves.

That we long for the true and living water that is Jesus Christ and build our hopes upon Him who is the rock of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A That our curiosity for the things we are not given to know not distract us from Him whom we do know and that we dwell on Christ—the glory of the Father and the revelation of the Holy Spirit—that we might believe and be saved, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we address all the peoples of every nation with the Word of Christ and that they know with us the blessing of forgiveness, the gift of life, and the joy of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A That the pastors and church workers serve with faithfulness and that many be called and those preparing for church work blessed in their calling, and that all the schools of our church be blessed as they teach and learn God's Word with joyful hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That the Lord visit with His mercy those of every need, relieving the suffering, giving peace to the dying, and consoling the grieving, [*especially* . . .], let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A That we be readied by the Spirit to receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood in this Sacrament and that we live lives worthy of our calling as the people of His promise and the recipients of His mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we rejoice at the daily bread supplied to us and remember to be grateful to the Lord who supplies all things needed for this body and life and be generous to those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Having known the goodness of the Lord in providing what we neither deserve nor dare ask apart from Christ, let us rejoice in His blessing and follow where He leads to everlasting light, as we look forward to the blessed reunion with those whom we love that have departed this life in faith; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

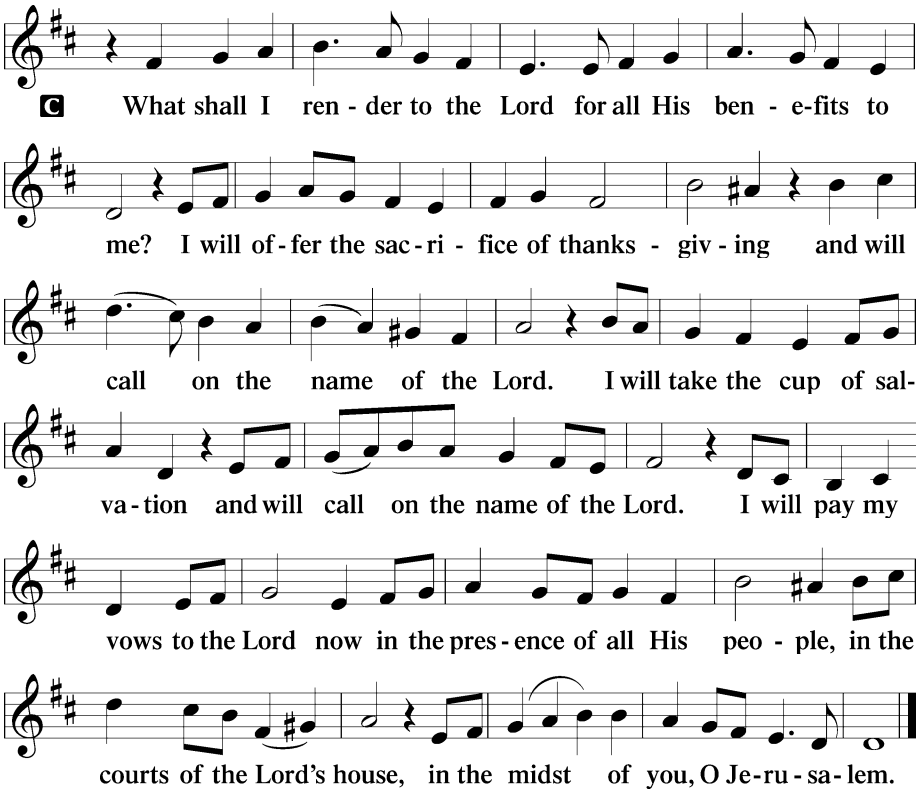
Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY "My Song is Love Unknown" setting: W. Held

Stand

OFFERTORY *LSB 176*



✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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.

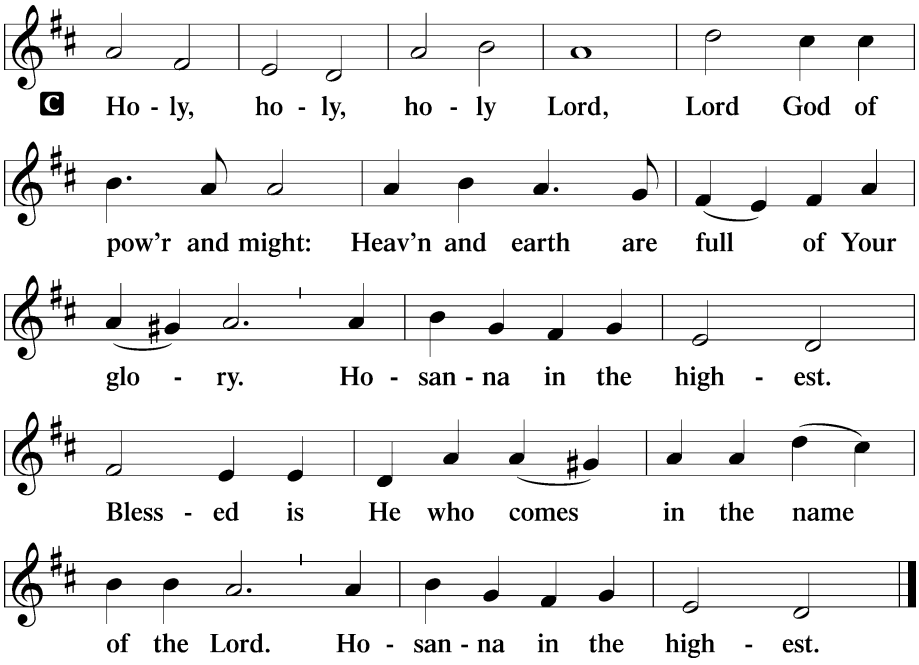
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

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

SANCTUS

LSB 178



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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

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

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

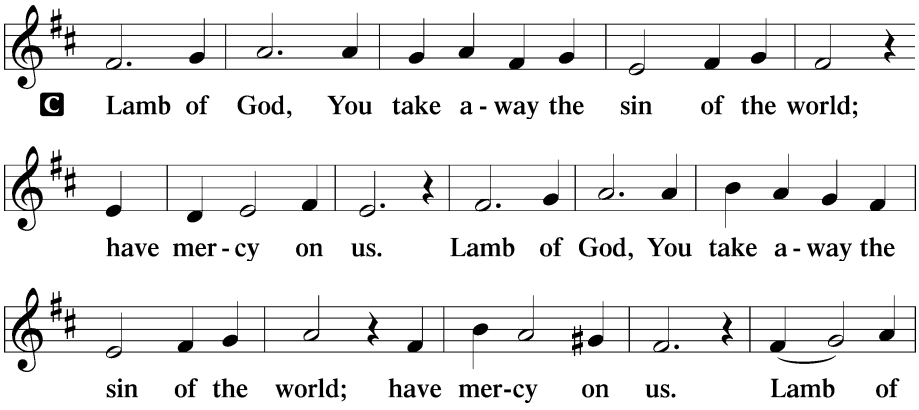
C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is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

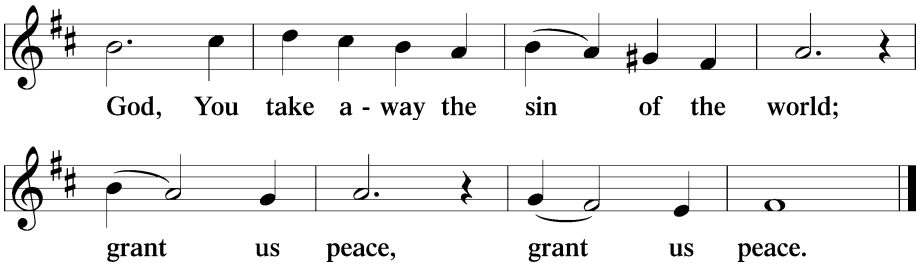
PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

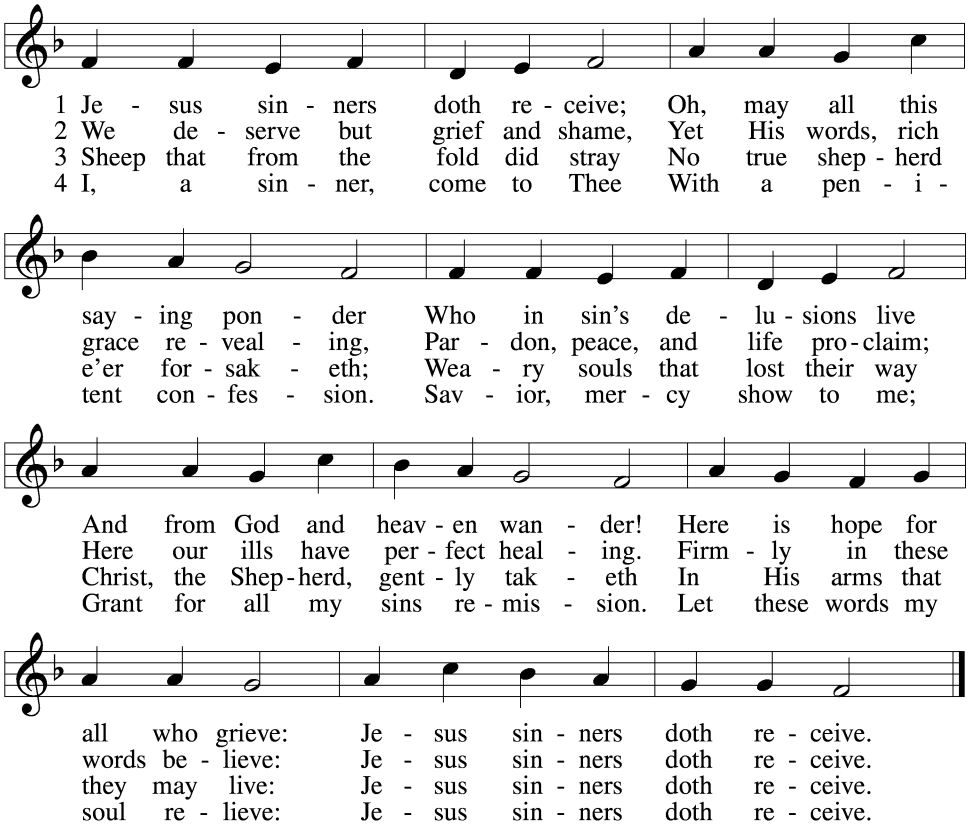
LSB 180





Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" ***LSB 609***



5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

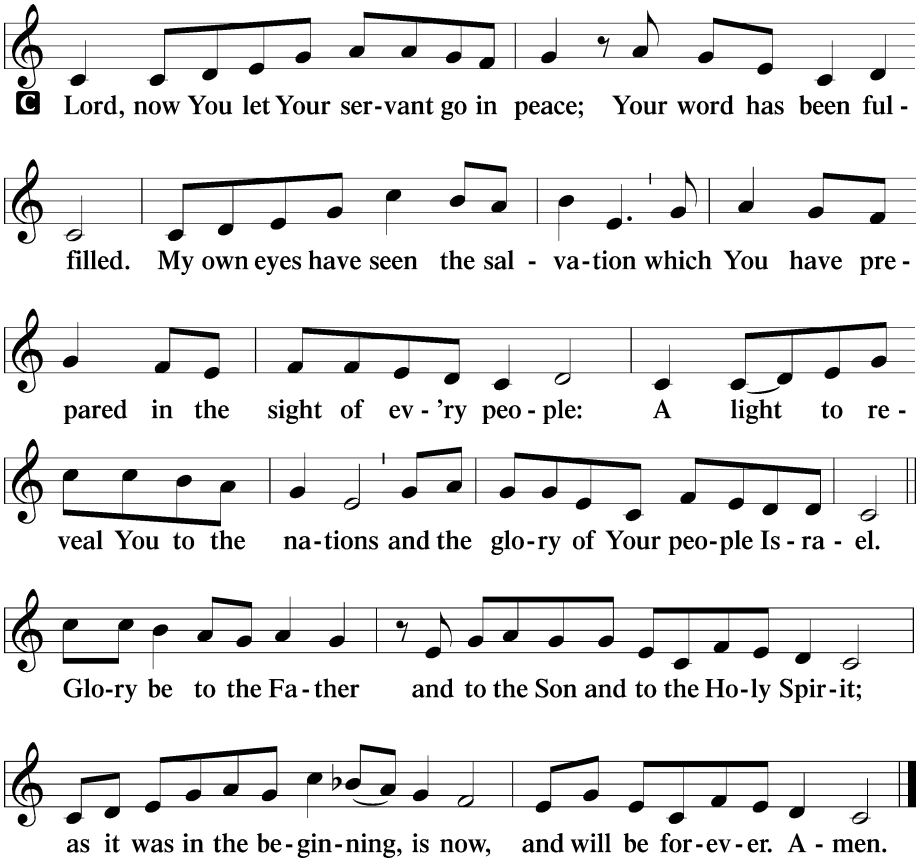
7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

VOLUNTARY "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" setting: R. Powell

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *LSB 182*



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, You have called Your church to worship Your Son in spirit and truth and fed and nourished us upon the Word of life and the body and blood of our Savior. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, so that we may be partakers of His divine life and inherit the Kingdom promised for those who drink from the water of life; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

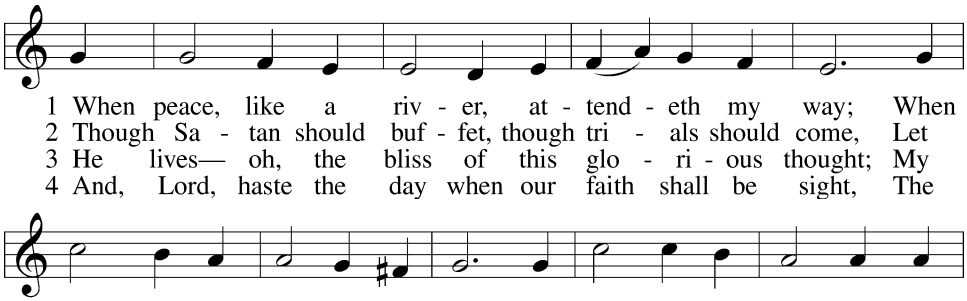
P Let us bless the Lord.

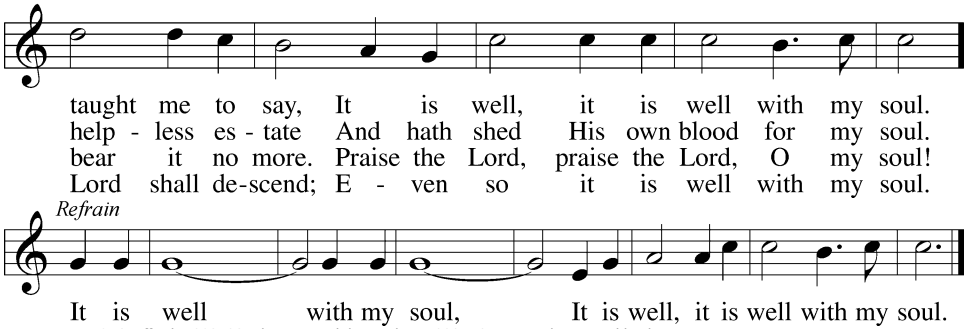
C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN "When Peace, like a River" *LSB 763*





Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt., Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76, Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

A Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Great is the Lord" Arr. C. Tornquist, M. Smith, D. Smith

Acknowledgements

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.
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