

First Sunday in Lent February 18, 2024 | 10:30 AM



All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-

racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love.

Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. Our programs are open to all and you are invited to participate. We hope you will worship with us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

To assist you during worship: Large print worship bulletins are available from the ushers. Please inform an usher if you would like the pastor to commune you at your pew.

Offerings: St. John's is a tithing church. We dedicate a percentage of our offerings to the mission of the wider church through the NJ Synod of the ELCA and to many other mission partners. We are able to support these ministries because of your offerings and tithes.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_





Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org crothman@stjohnssummit.org jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org wk154linda@gmail.com

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

Prayer Before Worship

Gracious God, in rushing waters and in dry wilderness, in every season and circumstance, we need your sustaining word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, proclaim the good news among us today so that we may repent and believe and see anew how the time is fulfilled and the kingdom has come near; in Jesus Christ your Son, our Savior. Amen.

From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year B, Vol. 1

Gathering

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

ELW Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Red Book
ACS All Creation Sings: Purple Book

Luther Ringers

PRELUDE How Can I Keep from Singing?

Sondra K. Tucker

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**





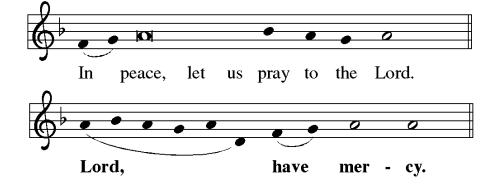
- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed, he bore the shameful cross and death; for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign; for us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad: the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt. Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



Word

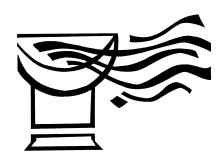
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8–17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹²God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.



Choir sings light verses, congregation bold verses.



© Saint Meinrad Archabbey

- To | you O Lord, I lift | up my soul.
- My God I put my trust in you * let me not be | put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph | over me.
- Let none who look to you be | put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are | treacherous.
- Show me your ways | O Lord, and teach | me your paths.
- Lead me in your | truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; * in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- Remember O Lord your compassion | and love, for they are from | everlasting.
- Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love * and for the sake of your good- | ness O Lord.
- You are gracious and upright | O Lord; therefore you teach sinners | in your way.
- You lead the low- | ly in justice and teach the low- | ly your way.
- All your paths O Lord are steadfast love and | faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.

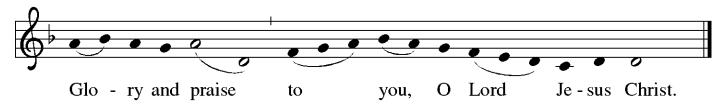
SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18–22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



V. One does not live by | bread alone,* but by every word that comes from the | mouth of God. (Matt. 4:4)

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel is proclaimed, concluding: The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 192 Baptized into Your Name Most Holy



Text: Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt. Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Kornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1705–1773

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

These people have been elected or appointed to positions of leadership in this congregation. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4–7)

You have been elected or appointed to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world. You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been elected or appointed? *Response:* I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

Please stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE ELW 784 Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord



Text: Medieval antiphon, adapt. Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Laudamus*, 1952 Music: VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN, plainsong mode I; *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676 Text © Lutheran World Federation.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

Please be seated.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MISSION

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.

OFFERING ANTHEM Jesus, So Lowly

Jesus, so lowly, Child of the earth: christen me wholly, bring me new birth.

Jesus, so lonely, weary and sad; teach me that only love maketh glad.

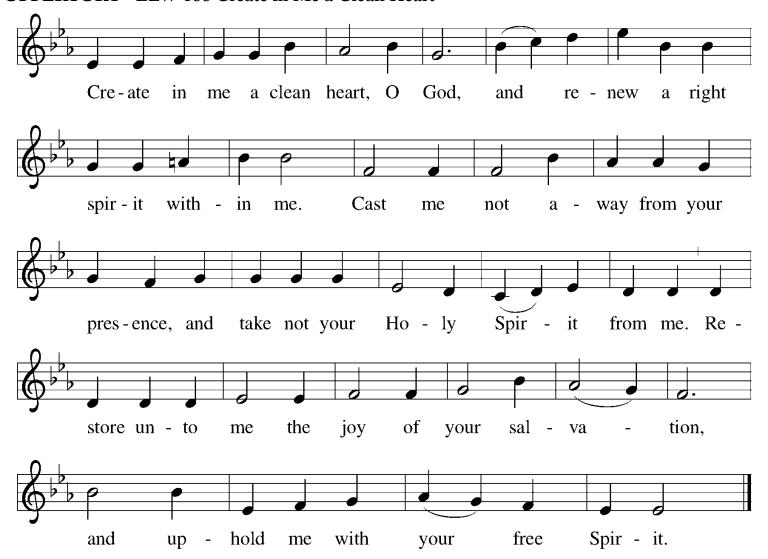
Jesus, so broken, silent and pale; be this the token love will not fail.

Jesus, victorious, mighty and free; teach me how glorious death is to be.

– Edith Williams

Please stand.

OFFERTORY ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart



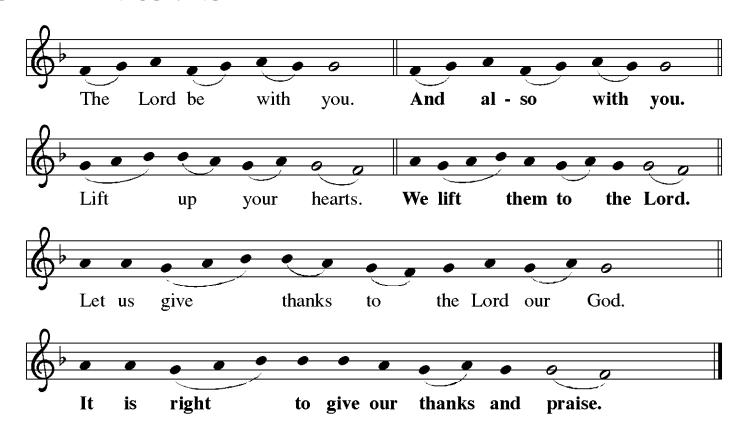
OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

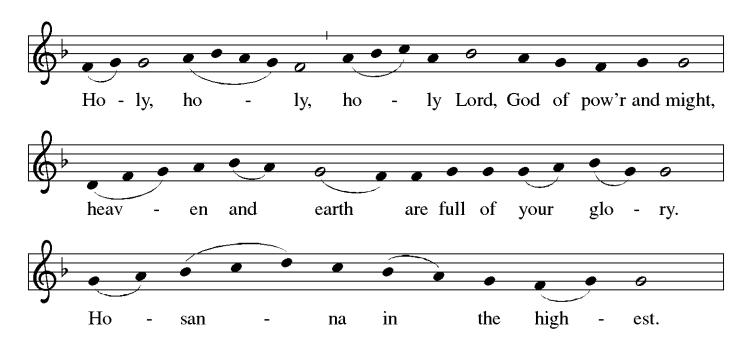
Meal

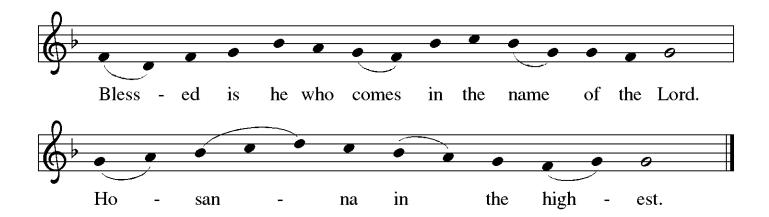
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE

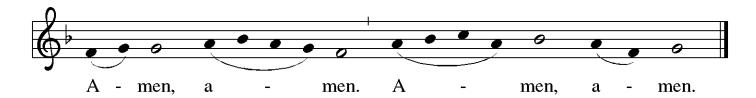




You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God . . . For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

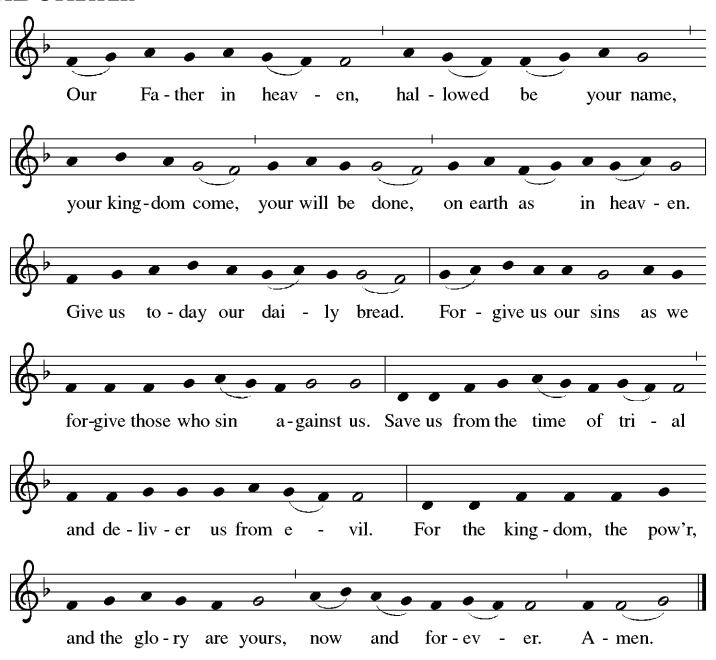


Remembering, therefore, his salutary command . . . To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.





LORD'S PRAYER





Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

If you wish to receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time.

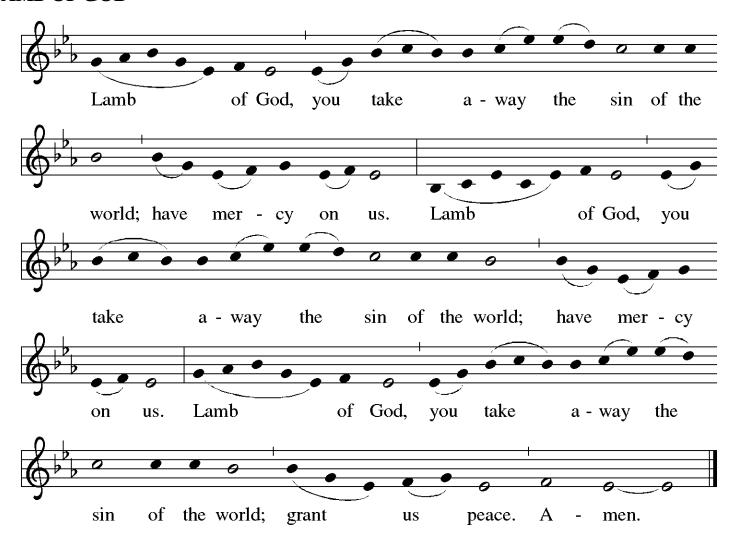
The pastor will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ACS 922 When We Are Tested



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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Please stand.

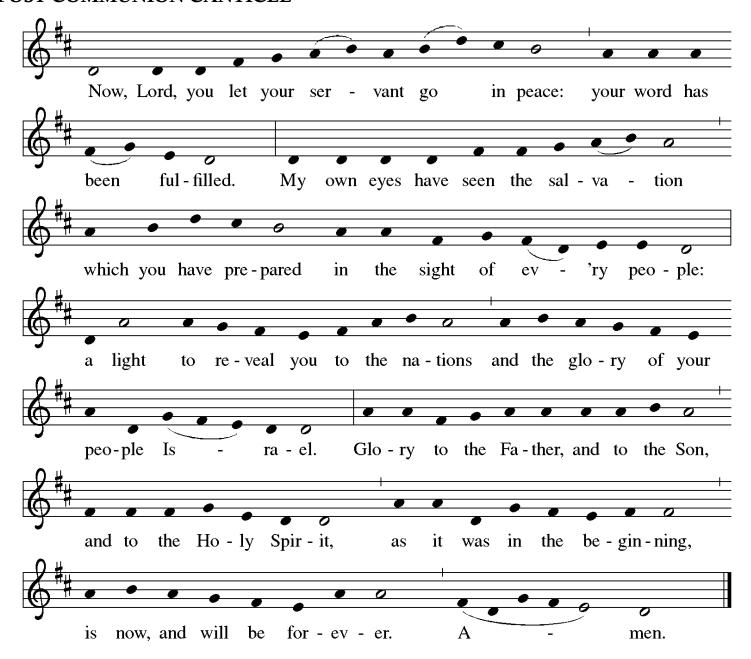
BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. 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, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

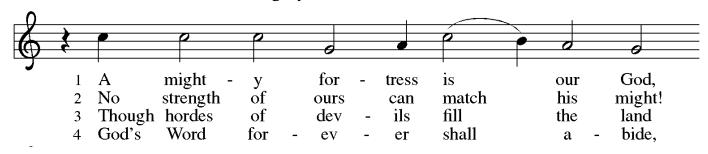
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

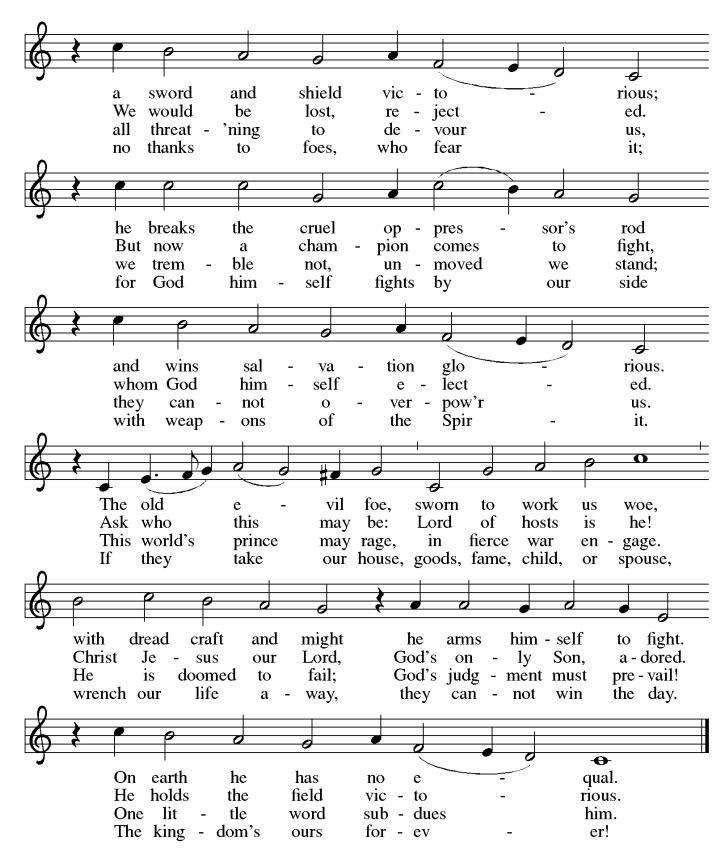


BLESSING

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 503 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther Text @ 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

February 18, 2024

Lenten Soup Suppers and Midweek Services: Join us for Wednesdays in Lent for Soup Supper at 6:00 PM followed by Services at 7:00 PM, beginning February 21. Help is needed to provide soup, salad, bread or dessert and to help with set-up/clean-up. Sign up in the entryway.

Forum, Sunday, TODAY, 9:00 AM: The Anti-Racism Committee will be showing episodes from the series, "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man" by Emmanuel Acho, followed by discussion. Other upcoming forums: **February 25:** Understanding the Housing Situation with Vito Gallo (Housing Part 1); **March 3:** St. John's Visiting Professor; **March 10:** A Faithful Foundation for Discussing Housing (Housing Part 2); **March 17:** Where Do We Go from Here? (Housing Part 3).

Children's Choir TODAY at 9:30 AM and Faith Formation at 10:00 AM. All children are welcome. Contact Christopher Harlow-Jennings or Deacon Walker for more information.

St. John's Visiting Professor, March 2-3: The. Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera. Our 2024 Saint John's Visiting Professor is The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera. There will be a social gathering on the evening of **Saturday, March 2**. Then on **Sunday, March 3**, Pastor Rivera will be our guest preacher and lead the adult forum, "Lutheran Identity and Commitments in an Ecumenical Context."

Soup for a Cause, through March 17: We will be selling homemade soups and breads between Sunday services during Lent. All proceeds will go toward the St. Stephan's-Grace Community's outreach programs in the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark. If you are interested in making soup or bread for the sale contact Jane Bowman.

Duo Organists Concert, February 25 at 4:00 PM: Christopher & Brian Harlow-Jennings will present a concert for four hands, two pipe organs, and piano with music by Calvin Hampton, Francis Jackson, and Charles Callahan. A light reception will follow. Please invite friends and neighbors to this exciting event.

Cereal Collection: A traditional Lenten discipline is to give to those in need. We have been asked to collect boxed cereal for Loaves and Fishes. We ask everyone to bring at least one box of cereal each week of Lent. Can we collect 200 boxes? More? Collection ends **March 17.**

Lenten Collection: Summit's GRACE helps to meet community needs for our vulnerable and underserved neighbors. They have asked for shampoo and conditioner which aren't covered by SNAP. We have set a goal to collect 100 bottles each by **March 17**.

The Lenten devotional "Psalms Anatomy of the Soul" is available in the narthex. This year's daily devotional is based on the Psalms.

Easter Decorations: To have your dedications or memorials included in the Easter bulletins, you must sign up or contact the church office by **March 17.**

Time to think about Summer Camp: See the weekly email to register for Cross Roads many available options for grades 2–8, Middle School, and High School age youth.

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