

Second Sunday in Lent February 25, 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 cha Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator j 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 ion 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

Holy Spirit, open our hearts to receive your Word, reveal to us the good news, and enable us to trust in the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ. 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

PRELUDE Andante Sarabande Menuet G.P. Tellemann Archangelo Corelli J.B. de Boismortier

Recorder Choir

WELCOME

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + 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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 831 The God of Abraham Praise Verses 1–4, 8



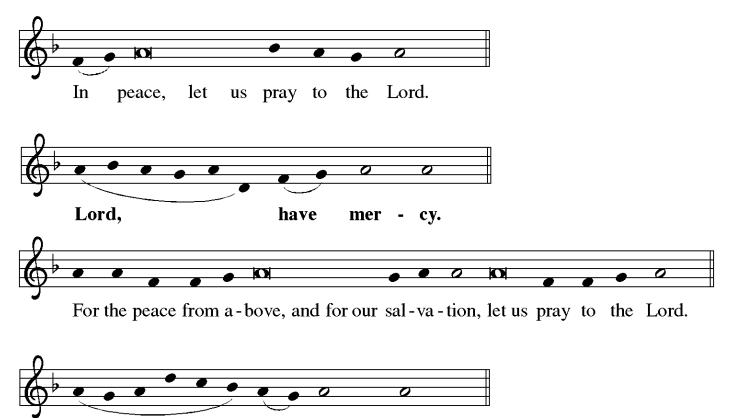
Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the Yigdal, c. 14th cent. Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

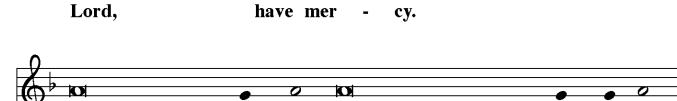
8 The whole triumphant host give thanks to God on high.
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" they ever cry.
Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
I join the heav'nly lays: to you be glory, might divine, and endless praise!

APOSTOLIC GREETING

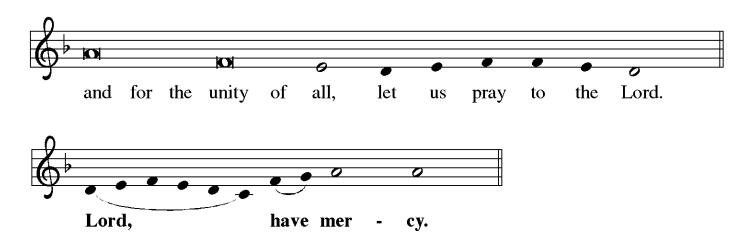
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



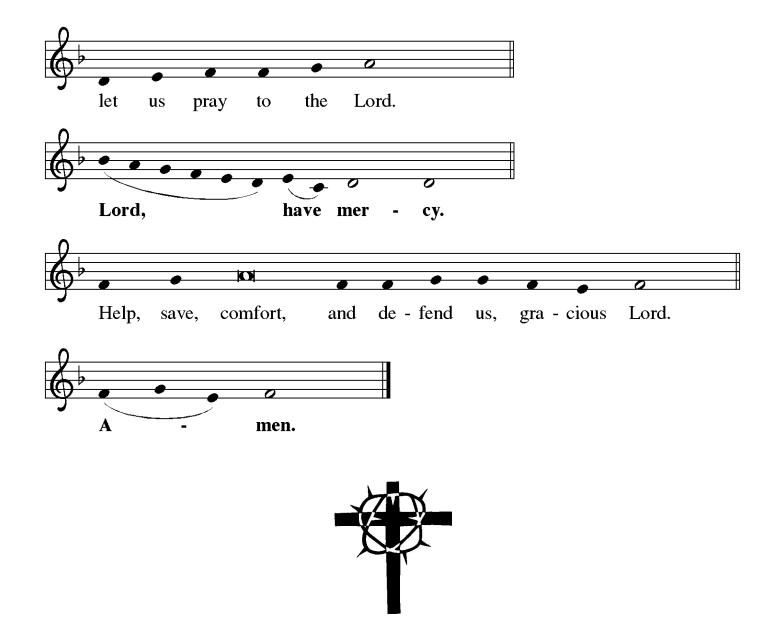


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,





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



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 17:1–7, 15–16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Choir sings light verses, congregation bold verses.



²³You who fear the Lord give praise! All you of Jacob's line give | glory. Stand in awe of the Lord all you off- | spring of Israel.

²⁴For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the Lord's face hidden | from them; but when they cry out the | Lord hears them.

- ²⁵From you comes my praise in the great as | sembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the Lord.
- ²⁶The poor shall eat and be | satisfied, Let those who seek the Lord give praise! * May your hearts | live forever!
- ²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to | the Lord; all the families of nations shall bow | before God.
- ²⁸For dominion belongs to | the Lord, who rules o- | ver the nations.
- ²⁹Indeed all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in | worship; all who go down to the dust though they be dead * shall kneel be- | fore the Lord.

³⁰Their descendants shall serve | the Lord, whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

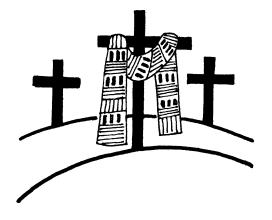
³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet | unborn, saying to them * "The | Lord has acted!"

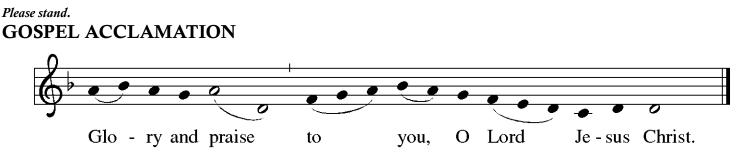
SECOND READING Romans 4:13–25

¹³The 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. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as 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. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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





V. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord ⁺ Jesus Christ,* by which the world is crucified to me, and I ⁺ to the world. *(Gal. 6:14)*

GOSPEL Mark 8:31–38

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

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

Please stand. **HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 750 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: HERZLICH LIEB, B. Schmid, *Orgeltabulaturbuch*, 1577

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of mercy, hear our prayer.





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.



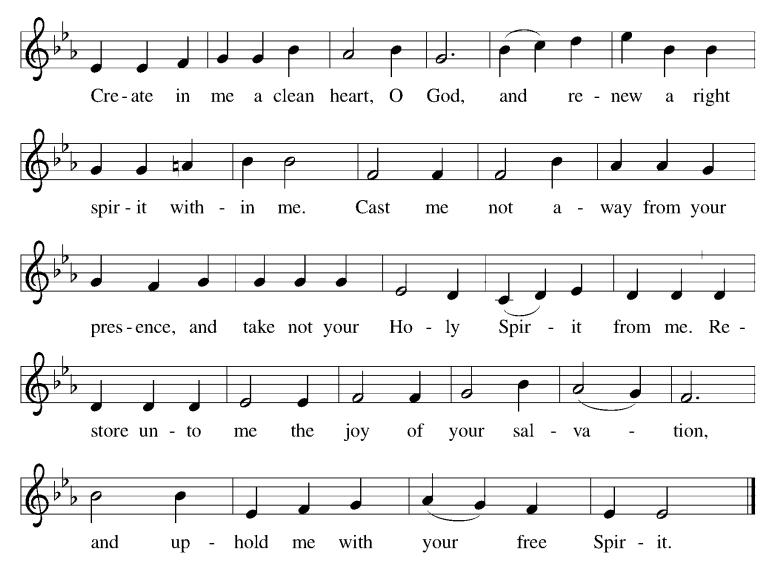
OFFERING ANTHEM Let Us Then with Confidence Draw Near Richard Paul DeLong

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace. That we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Hebrews 4:16



Please stand. **OFFERTORY** ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart

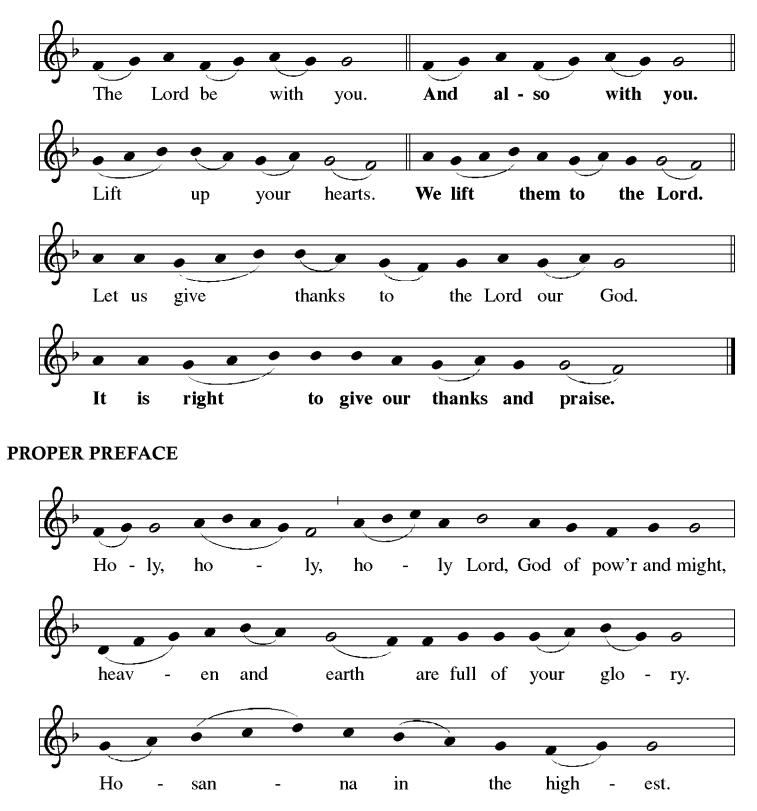


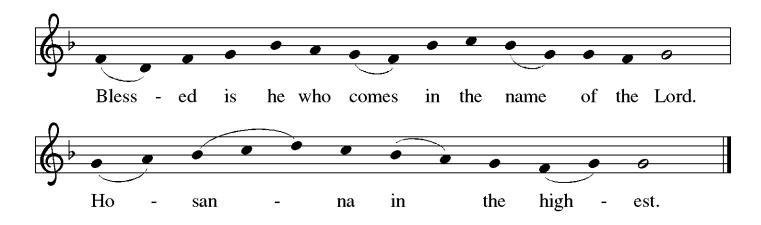
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

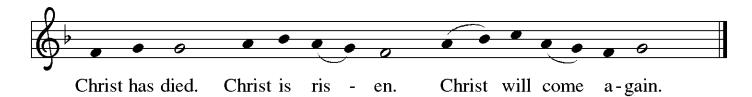
Meal *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

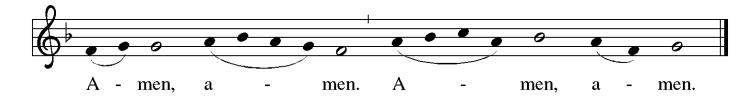




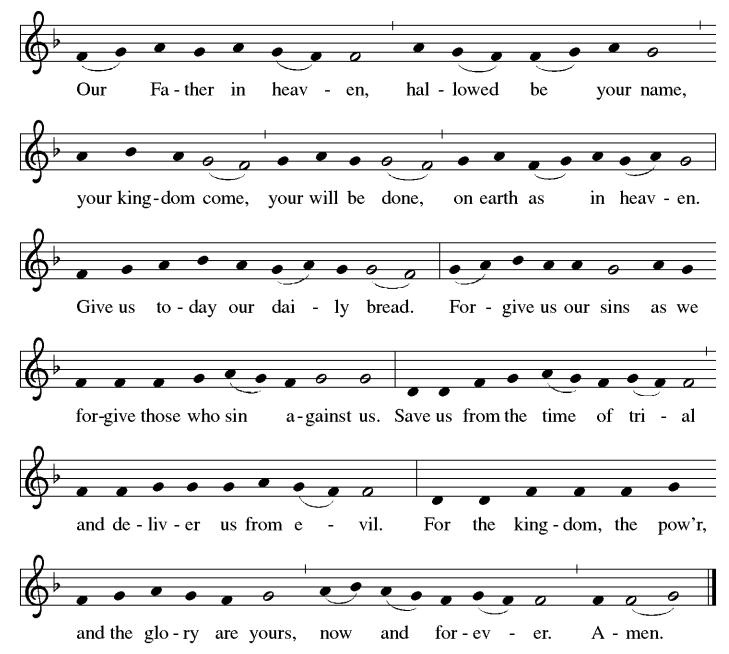
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God . . . For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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

LAMB OF GOD

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, take you the sin of the a - way world; have Lamb of God, you mer - cy us. on 0 0 take the sin of the world; a - way have mer - cy of God, us. Lamb you take a - way the on 0 sin of the world; Α grant us peace. men.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

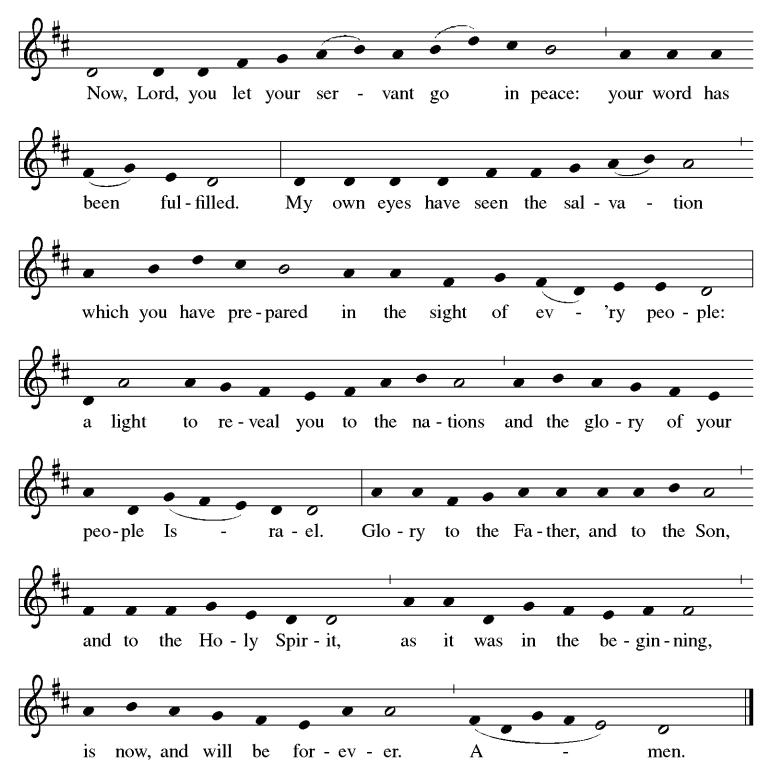


Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Please stand. BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

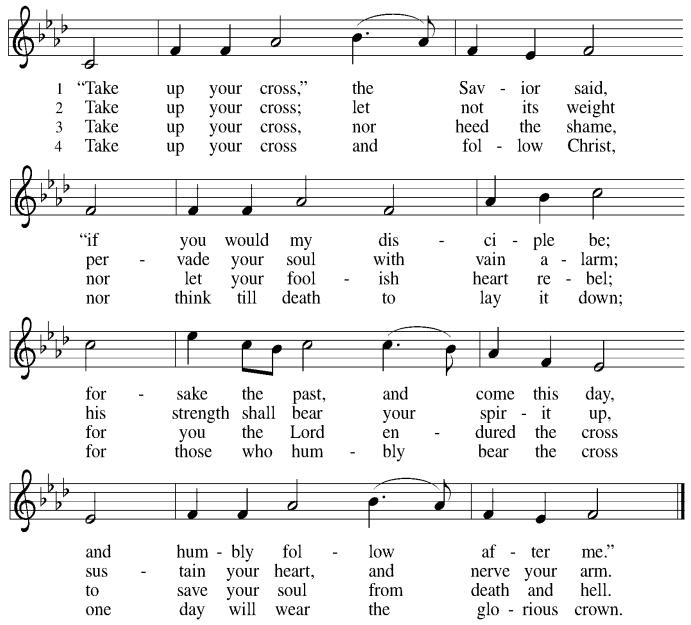
Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

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 667 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said



Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.

Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Prælduium in d minor, wv 34

Heinrich Scheidemann

February 25, 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. 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: 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.

Duo Organists Concert, TODAY 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!

St. John's Visiting Professor, March 2-3: We will gather at **7:00 PM on Saturday, March 2** at the Semlers (30 Myrtle Ave. Summit). Please bring a dish to share. Sign up in the entryway. On **Sunday, March 3**, Pastor Rivera will be our guest preacher and lead the adult forum, "Lutheran Identity and Commitments in an Ecumenical Context."

Property Day, March 16 at 9:00 AM: It is time to spruce up the church before Easter and make some small repairs to the building. There will be jobs for all skill levels and abilities. Sign up in the entryway or in the weekly email. Questions? Contact Jane Bowman (908) 447-8865.

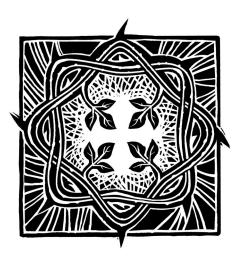
Soup for a Cause, through March 17: We will be selling homemade soups and breads between Sunday services during Lent. All proceeds will go toward the St. Stephan's-Grace Community's outreach programs in the Ironbound neighborhood of Newark. If you are interested in making soup or bread for the sale contact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

Cereal Collection: We are collecting boxed cereal for Loaves and Fishes. Can we collect 200 boxes? More? Collection ends **March 17.**

Shampoo Collection: We have set a goal to collect 100 bottles each of shampoo and conditioner for GRACE by **March 17**.

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.



SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901 stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



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