

# **Second Sunday in Lent**

March 5, 2023 | 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\_ALS to connect. Please use your own headphones to listen.



## Ministers: The People of Saint John's

### Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

[pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org)

Vicar Naeem Harry, Intern

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[jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org](mailto:jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org)

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

[wk154linda@gmail.com](mailto:wk154linda@gmail.com)

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

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

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*From Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A, 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** Be Thou My Vision

arr. B.C. Dockery

Luke Tomlinson and Stephanie Rothman, trumpet

## WELCOME

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **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.**

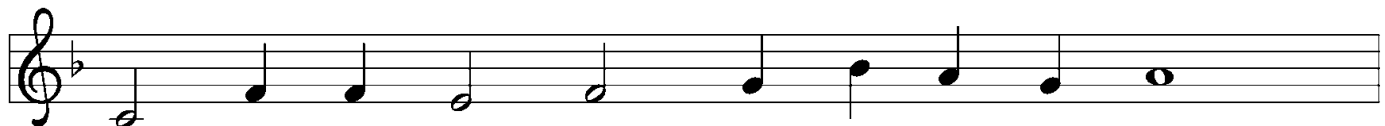
# GATHERING HYMN ELW 321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



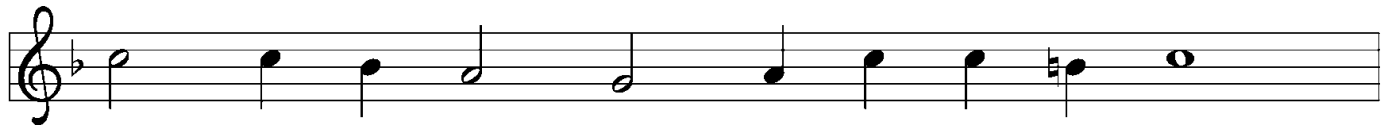
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



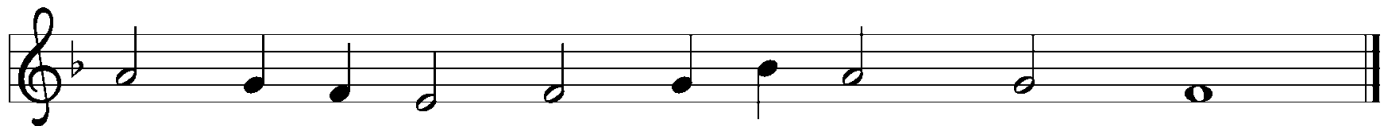
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

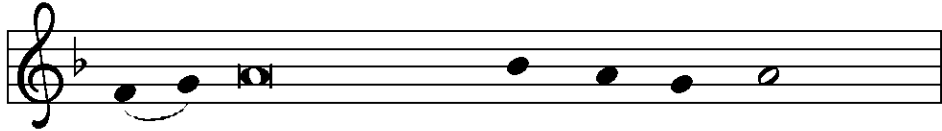
Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

## 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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



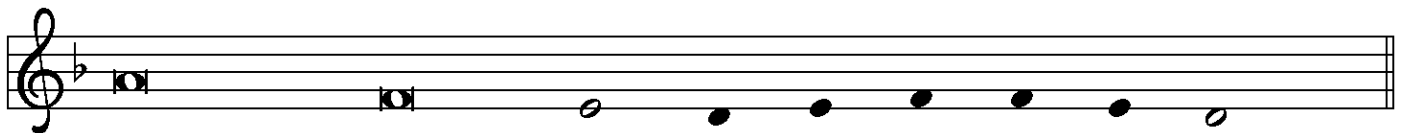
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



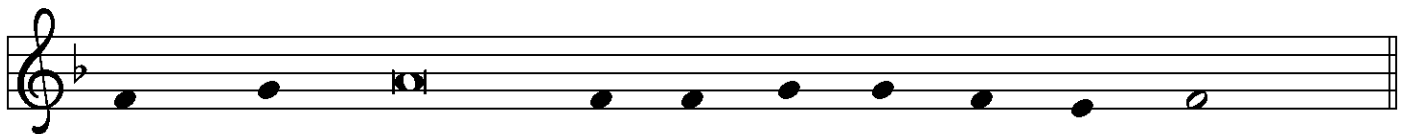
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

## Word

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

*Please be seated.*

### FIRST READING Genesis 12:1–4a

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

### PSALM 121

*Choir sings light verses, congregation bold verses.*



© Saint Meinrad Archabbey

- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes <sup>1</sup> to the hills;  
from where is my <sup>1</sup> help to come?
- <sup>2</sup>My help comes <sup>1</sup> from the Lord,  
the maker of heav- <sup>1</sup> en and earth.
- <sup>3</sup>**The Lord will not let your <sup>1</sup> foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you <sup>1</sup> fall asleep.**
- <sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- <sup>1</sup> er of Israel  
will neither slum- <sup>1</sup> ber nor sleep;**
- <sup>5</sup>the Lord watches <sup>1</sup> over you;  
the Lord is your shade at <sup>1</sup> your right hand;
- <sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike <sup>1</sup> you by day,  
nor the <sup>1</sup> moon by night.
- <sup>7</sup>**The Lord will preserve you <sup>1</sup> from all evil  
and will <sup>1</sup> keep your life.**
- <sup>8</sup>**The Lord will watch over your going out and your <sup>1</sup> coming in,  
from this time forth for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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





*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Refrain sung first by choir, thereafter by all. Verse sung by choir.*

Refrain

Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life;  
Son of God who leads us to free-dom: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

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V. You are the one whom prophets hoped and longed for;  
you are the one who speaks to us today;  
you are the one who lead us to the future: glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## GOSPEL John 3:1–17

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

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

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*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.

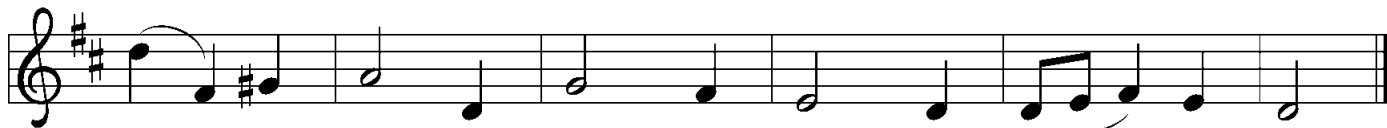
### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 323 God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

## **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.**

*Response at the conclusion of the prayer: Amen.*

## **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](http://www.stjohnssummit.org) or scan this code.*



**OFFERING ANTHEM** God So Loved the World (*The Crucifixion*)

John Stainer

God so loved the world.  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whoso believeth, believeth in him  
should not perish, should not perish  
but have everlasting life.  
For God sent not his Son into the world  
to condemn the world.  
But that the world through him might be saved.  
John 3:16-17

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY** ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. There are several slurs and ties used to connect notes across measures.

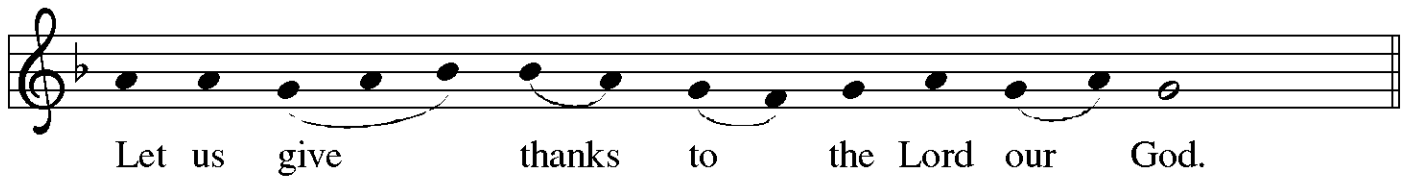
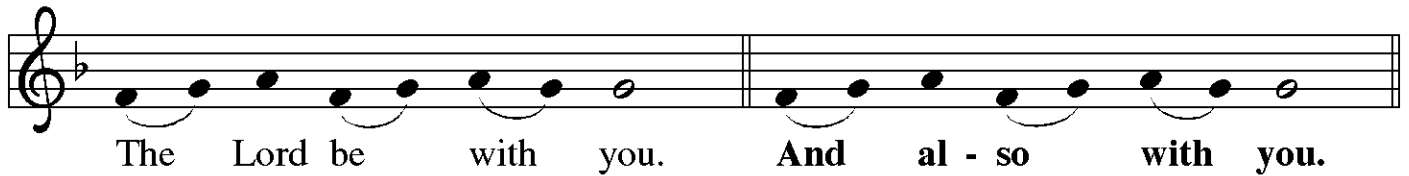
**OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

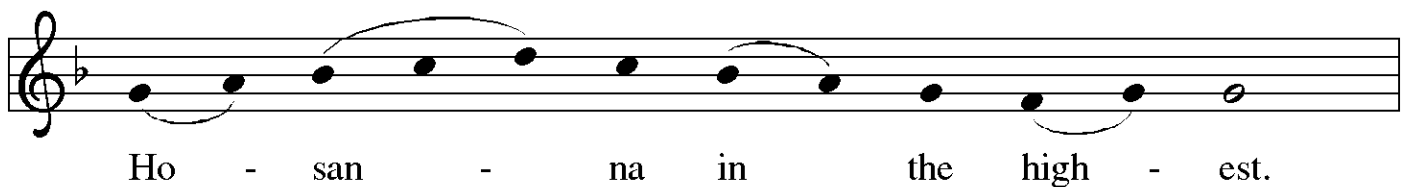
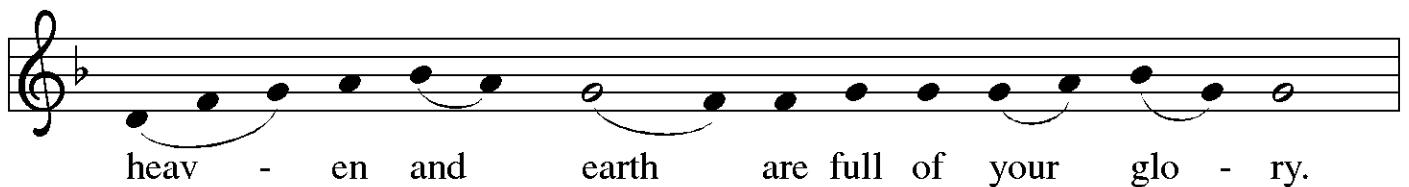
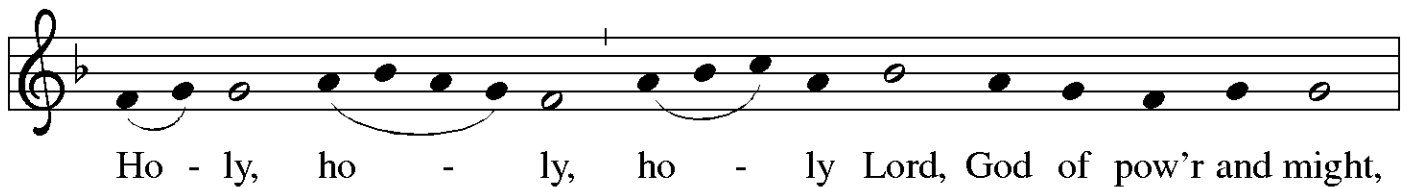
## Meal

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

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



### PROPER PREFACE





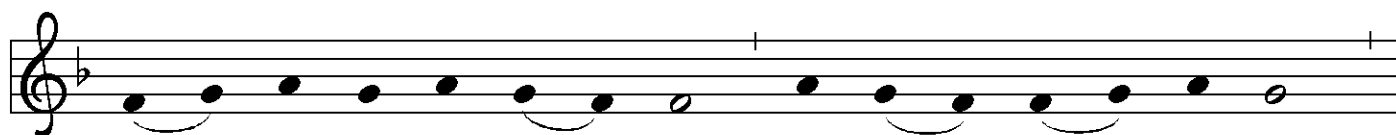
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



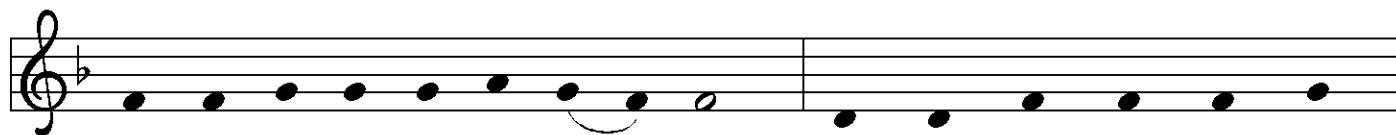
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*Please be seated.*

## RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

*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.  
The vicar serves the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.*

*The assisting minister serves the wine / grape juice 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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 735 Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413

Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.



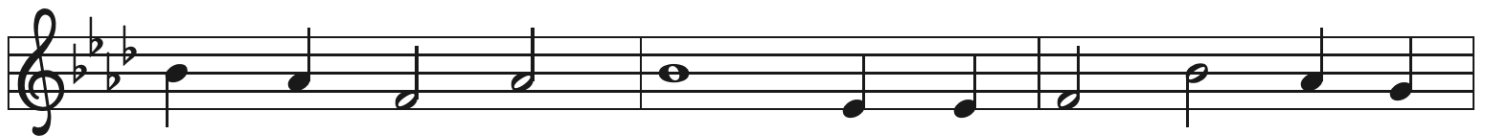
# COMMUNION HYMN ACS 948 Womb of Life and Source of Being



1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - 'ry rest - less  
2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us sec - ond  
3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner, be our  
4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it, On - ly



heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened; you have  
birth, you have come to stand be - side us, know - ing  
friend. When our mem - 'ry fails, re - mind us whose we  
Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er, One - in -



loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren, gath - er  
weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our hu - man  
are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us; aid the  
Three and Three - in - One. We would share your life, your



round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing  
strug - gles, Life of life and Death of death, ris - en  
birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of  
pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er



sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.  
Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.  
ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.  
sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1944–1992

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Music © 1985, 1991 Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo

*Please stand.*

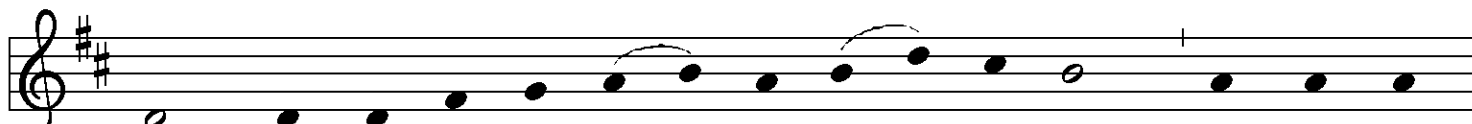
## **BLESSING**

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

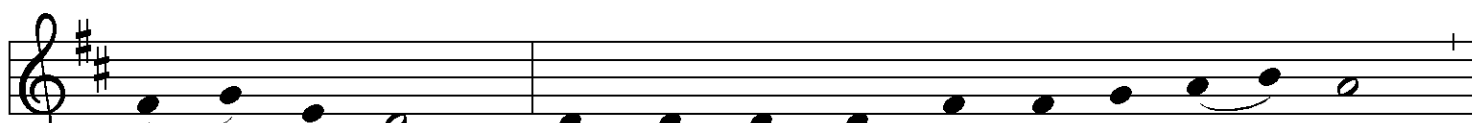
## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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**




Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has



been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion




which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:



a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,



and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,



is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## 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 660 Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE Fugue in A minor, BWV 543

J.S. Bach

**March 5, 2023**

**During the season of Lent**, no flowers adorn the sanctuary but a donation to the Flower Fund has been made to the glory of God and in honor of Julia Coble's birthday by the Coble Family.

**Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief:** Donations can be made to St. John's with gifts designated for "Turkey Earthquake" in the memo line. Your gifts will be used entirely (100%) to provide long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by disasters in the region.

**The Lenten devotional**, *Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*, is available in the narthex. The Lenten brochure was mailed to members' homes or can be downloaded from the weekly email.

**Lent Forums, 9:00: TODAY:** Bethlehem Build Update, **March 12:** Final Witness: Christian Funeral Planning, **March 19:** Sage Eldercare: Resources and Opportunities.

**Soup for a Cause, through March 26:** We will be selling homemade soups and breads between Sunday services during Lent. All proceeds will go toward the **Bethlehem Build Project**. If you are interested in making soup or bread for the sale contact Jane Bowman at (908) 447-8865.

**Lenten Bridges Collection:** We will be preparing 200 sustainable lunches for the April Bridges Run on **March 26 at 9:00 AM** during Faith Formation. Sign up in the narthex to donate items.

**Help us decorate the church** by donating for Easter. To have your dedications or memorials included in the Easter bulletins, you must sign up or contact the church office by **March 26**.

**Lenten Midweek Worship Services on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM**, Soup Suppers and Fellowship at **6:00 PM**. Sign up on the rear entry bulletin board to bring food to ensure we have enough.

**Cereal for Loaves & Fishes Lent 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 for each of the six weeks of Lent. Can we collect 200 boxes?

**Bethlehem Build Lent Collection.** Our partner congregation, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans, is building the 2<sup>nd</sup> affordable house on their property in partnership with Tulane University. Our Council has challenged us to raise \$25,000 between now and Easter. Give online or by check, payable to **St. John's**, "Bethlehem Build" in the memo line.

**First Communion Instruction:** Any age is welcome to join. Parents and children who desire to join should speak to Pastor Scalet or Deacon Linda Walker.