

Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 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

Holy Spirit of God, let the words of my mouth and the mediations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. 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 Psalm Prelude, set 1, no. 1

Herbert Howells

'I called to the Lord in my affliction, and the Lord heard my voice.' Psalm 34:1

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.

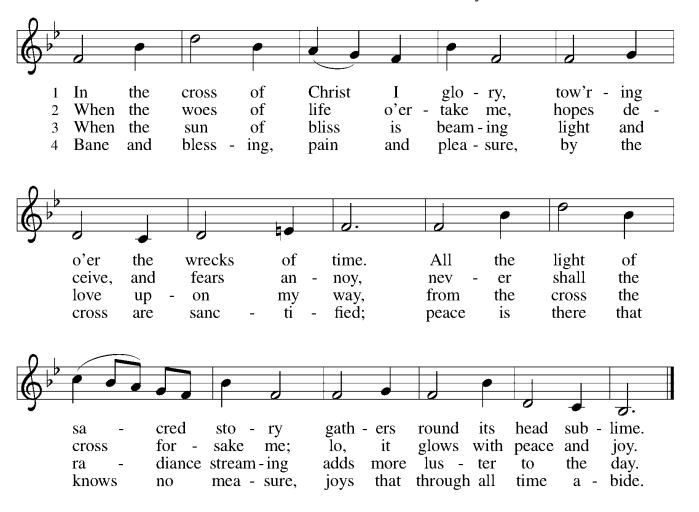
Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



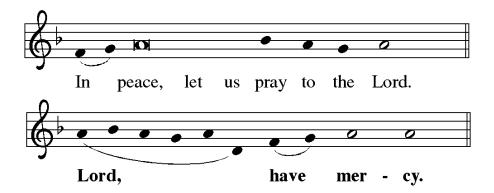
Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

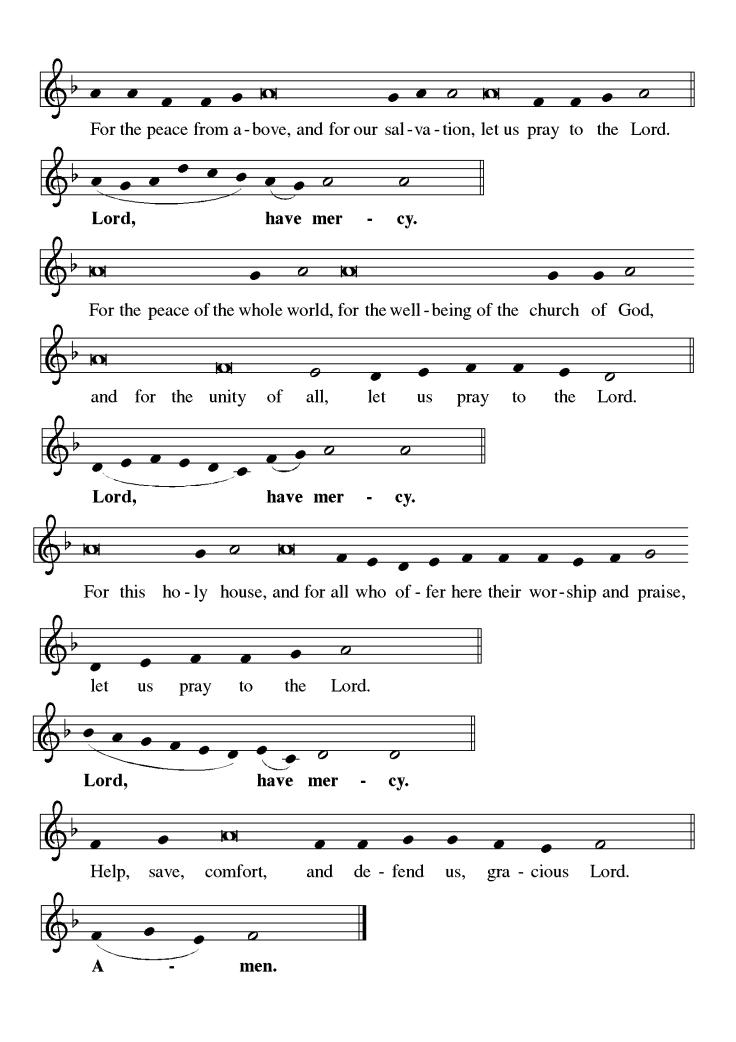
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 Exodus 20:1–17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

PSALM 5:1–5a Hear My Words, O Gracious Lord Children's Choir

Stephen Paulus

Hear my words, O gracious Lord, to my thoughts attentive be. Hear my cry, my King, my God, I will make my prayer to thee.

With the morning light, O Lord, thou shalt hear my voice arise; and expectant I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice.

Thou art holy, O my God, thou delightest not in sin; evil shall not dwell with thee, nor the proud thy favor win.

Psalm 5, alt. Paulus

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18–25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

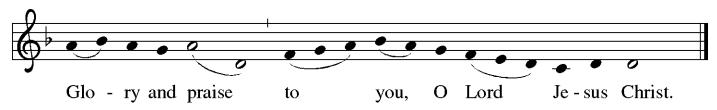
"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



V. We proclaim Christ | crucified,* the power of God and the wis- | dom of God. (1 Cor. 1:23, 24)

GOSPEL John 2:13–22

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

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Please be seated.

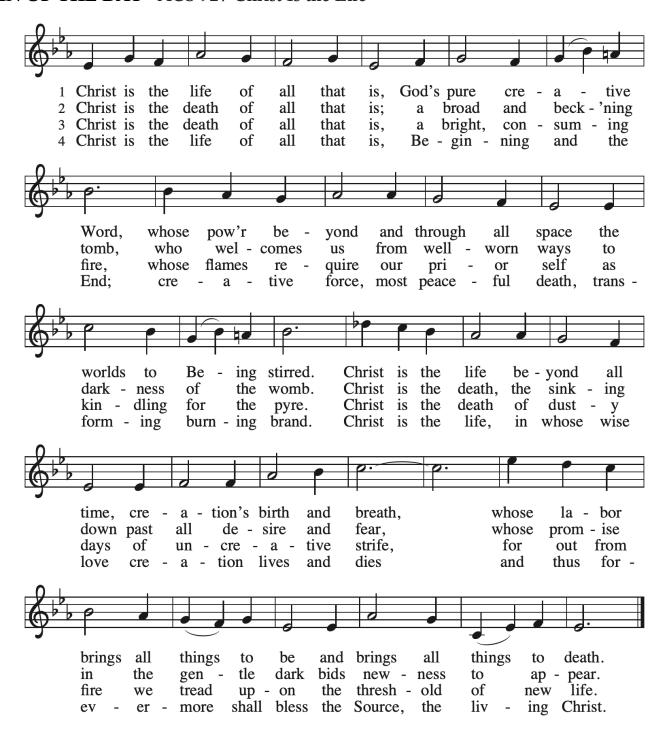
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera

Saint John's Summit Visiting Professor, 2024, United Lutheran Seminary

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 927 Christ Is the Life



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991 Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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.

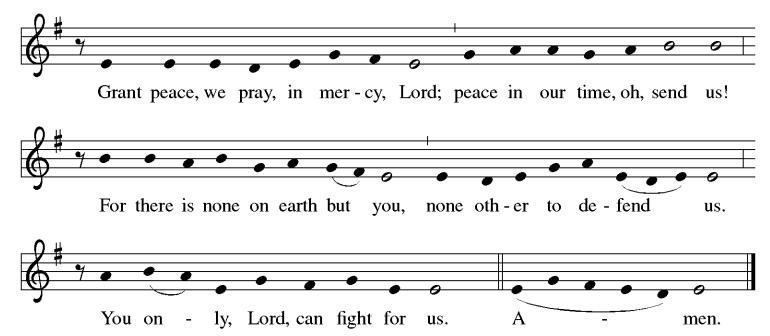
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate 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.

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 Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré

Verbe égal au Très-Haut, notre unique espérance, Jour éternel de la terre et des cieux, De la paisible nuit nous rompons le silence: Divin Sauveur, jette sur nous les yeux.

Répands sur nous le feu de Ta grâce puissante; Que tout l'enfer fuie au son de Ta voix; Dissipe le sommeil d'une âme languissante Qui la conduit à l'oubli de Tes lois!

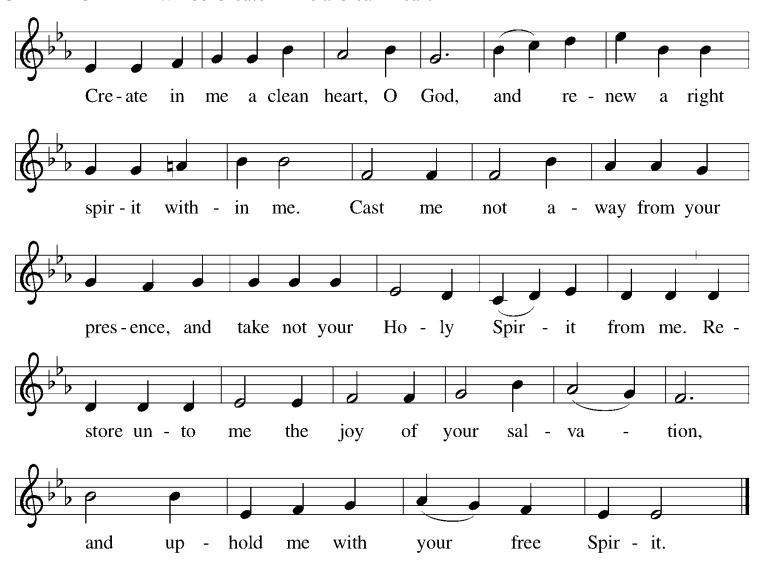
Ô Christ! sois favorable à ce peuple fidèle, Pour Te bénir maintenant rassemblé; Reçois les chants qu'il offre à Ta gloire immortelle, Et de Tes dons qu'il retourne comblé. Word of the Highest, our only hope, eternal day of earth and the heavens, we break the silence of the peaceful night; Savior Divine, cast your eyes upon us!

Pour on us the fire of your powerful grace, that all hell may flee at the sound of your voice; banish the slumber of a weary soul, that brings forgetfulness of your laws!

O Christ, look with favor upon your faithful people now gathered here to praise you; receive their hymns offered to your immortal glory; may they go forth filled with your gifts.

- Paraphrase of the Latin hymn for matins 'Consors paterni luminis' by Jean Racine

OFFERTORY ELW 188 Create in Me a Clean Heart



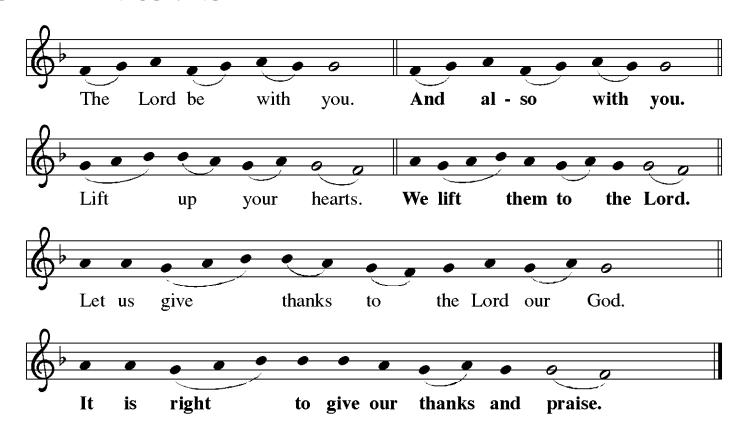
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

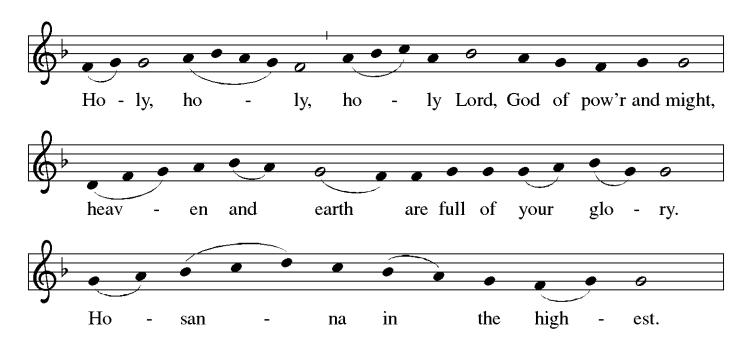
Meal

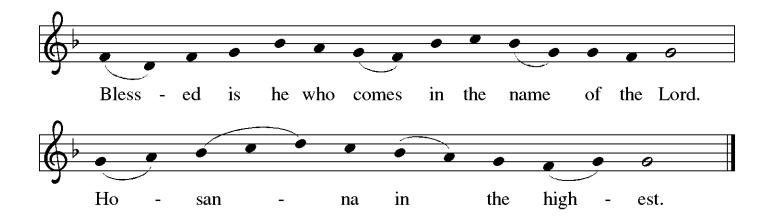
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PROPER PREFACE





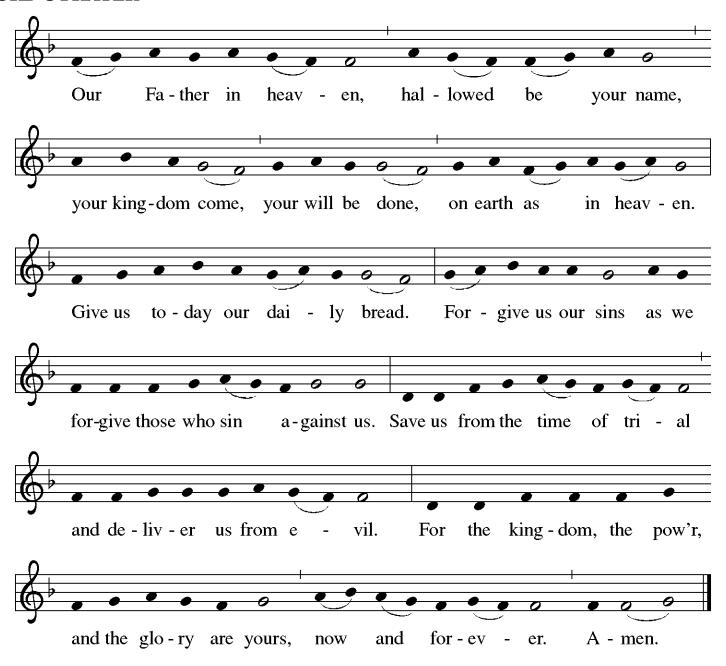
You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God . . . For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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





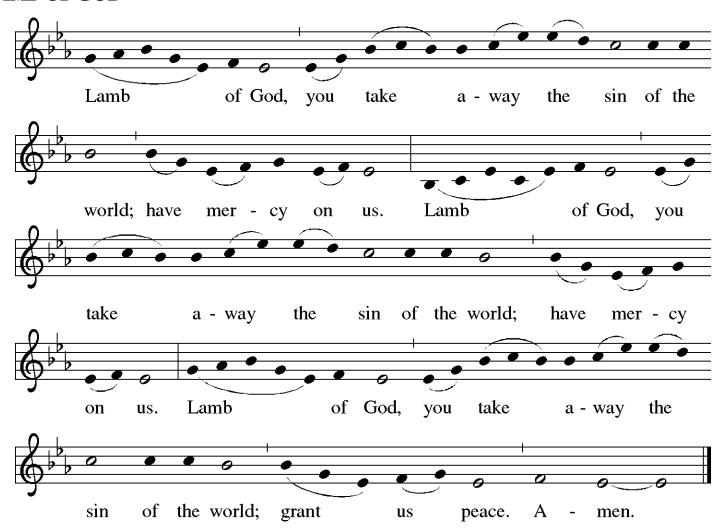
Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNON

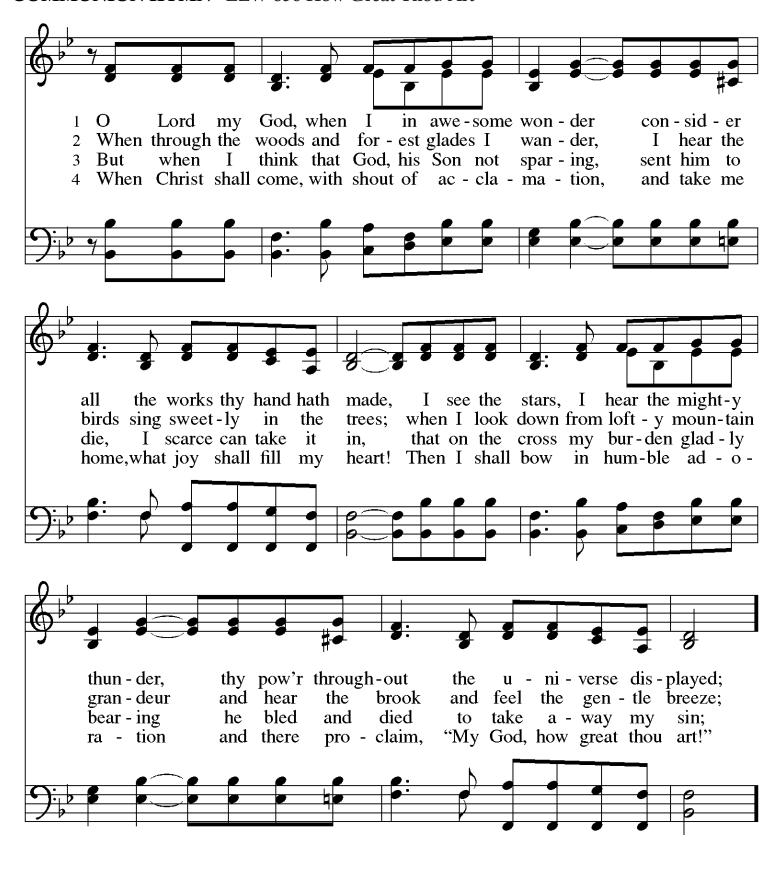
To receive communion, please approach the pastor one at a time, who will place a wafer in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer. Wine is served from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup. Wine and grape juice are available in pre-filled individual cups.

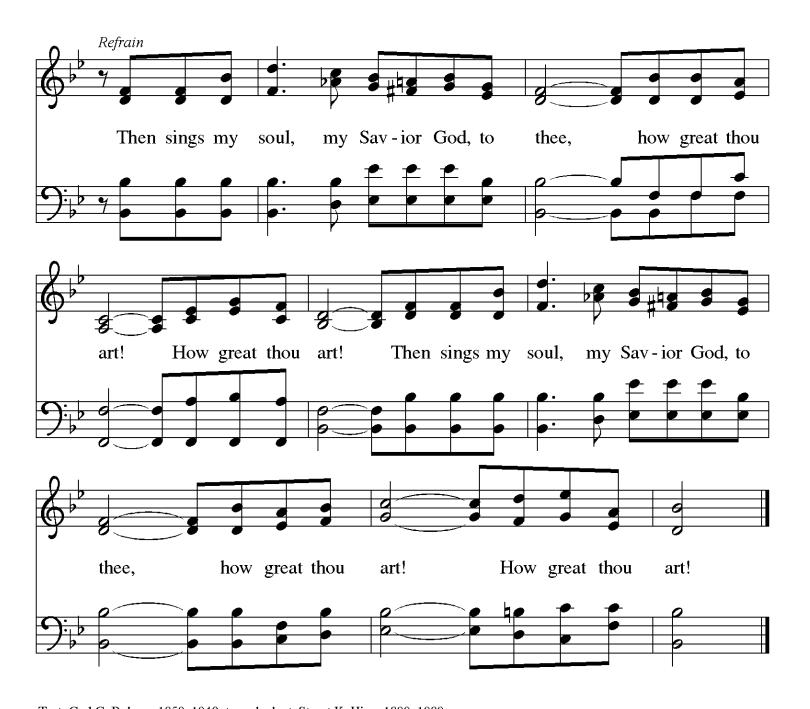
All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 856 How Great Thou Art





Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

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.

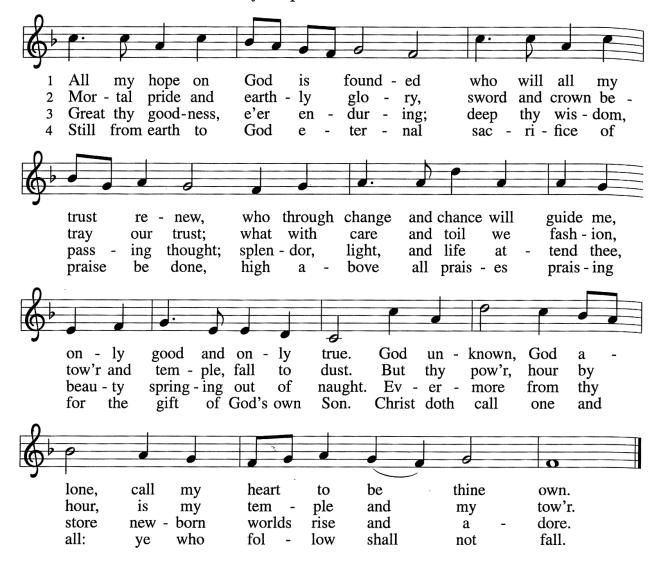
Sending

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 757 All My Hope on God Is Founded



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1690; para. Robert Bridges, 1844–1930, alt. Music: Herbert Howells, 1892–1983

Music © 1968 Novello & Co. Ltd., London

MICHAEL 8787337

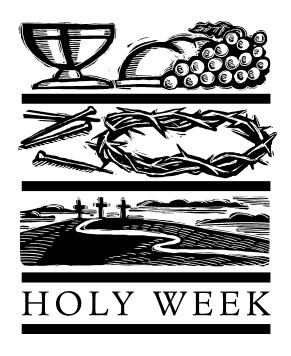
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Allegro (from Concerto in b minor after Vivaldi)

Johann Gottfried Walther



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

March 24

8:00 AM

Worship Service

10:30 AM Worship Service with Palm Procession

Maundy Thursday

March 28

5:30 PM Children's Service

6:00 PM Communal Dinner

7:30 PM Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Good Friday

March 29

12:00 PM Liturgy for Good Friday

7:30 PM Choral Liturgy for Good Friday

Easter Vigil

March 30

7:30 PM Festival Worship Service with reception

Easter Sunday

March 31

8:00 AM Worship Service

9:00 AM Easter Brunch

9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt

10:30 AM Festival Worship Service

March 3, 2024

Although no flowers adorn our chancel during Lent, a donation to the Flower Fund was made by the Coble family in celebration of Julia's birthday.

Please welcome Rev. Dr. Nelson Rivera as our guest preacher this morning. He will be leading a forum **at 9:00 AM** "Lutheran Identity and Commitments in an Ecumenical Context."

Confirmation Class TODAY from **5:30-7:30 PM**. Pray for our young people as they continue to prepare to affirm their baptism.

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.

Upcoming Forums: 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.

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 with proceeds going to the St. Stephan's-Grace Community in Newark. If you are interested in making soup or bread for the sale contact Jane Bowman.

Cereal Collection for Loaves and Fishes. Can we collect 200 boxes by March 17?

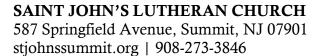
Shampoo Collection: We have set a goal to collect 100 bottles each of shampoo and conditioner for GRACE by **March 17**.

NJ Synod Zoom Listening Sessions, Commission for a Renewed Church: March 17 at 6:00 PM. You must register in advance via the weekly email.

Help needed for Holy Week services - 9 services in 8 days! We need ushers, assisting ministers, readers, candle preparers, chair arrangers, and more! All skill levels welcome. Please check out the sign-up sheet located in the narthex or in the weekly email.

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.**







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