

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024 | 10:30 AM



Hear God's Word. Reflect God's Grace.
Share Christ's Love.

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	pastorbscalet@stjohnssummit.org
Christopher Harlow-Jennings, Director of Music	charlowjennings@stjohnssummit.org
Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator	crothman@stjohnssummit.org
Jama Bowman, Communications Coordinator	jamabowman@stjohnssummit.org
Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation	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

Almighty God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, open your Word and illumine our darkened world, that we may see clearly and live faithfully by the light of your truth 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 Chorale Prelude on *Let Us Break Bread*

Martha Sobaje

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 666 What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

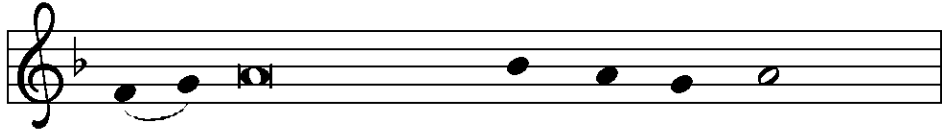
Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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.



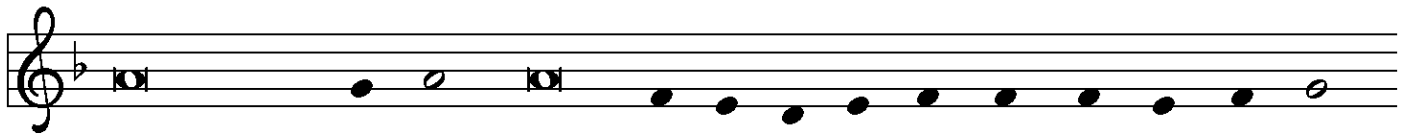
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



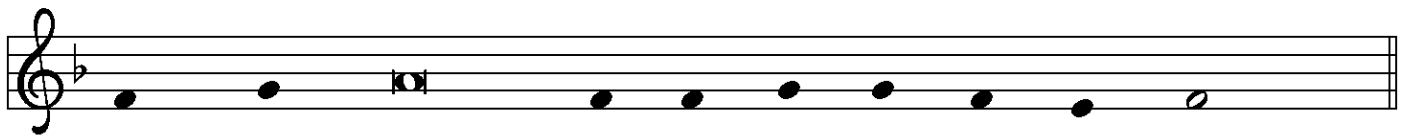
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



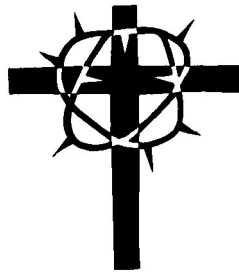
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

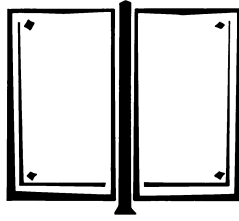


A - men.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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 Numbers 21:4–9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Choir sings light verses, congregation bold verses.



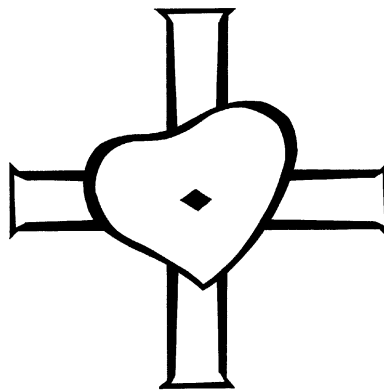
© Saint Meinrad Archabbey

- ¹Give thanks to the Lord for the | Lord is good,
for God's mercy en- | dures forever.
- ²Let the redeemed of the | Lord proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,
- ³**Gathering them in | from the lands;
from the east and from the west *
from the north and | from the south.**
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;
through their sins they | were afflicted.**
- ¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death's door.
- ¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried | to the Lord
and you delivered them from | their distress.
- ²⁰**You sent forth your | word and healed them
and rescued them | from the grave.**
- ²¹**Let them give thanks to you Lord for your | steadfast love
and your wonderful works | for all people.**
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy.

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:1–10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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



Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

V. God so loved the world that he gave his | only Son,*
so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have e- | ternal life. (John 3:16)

GOSPEL John 3:14–21

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

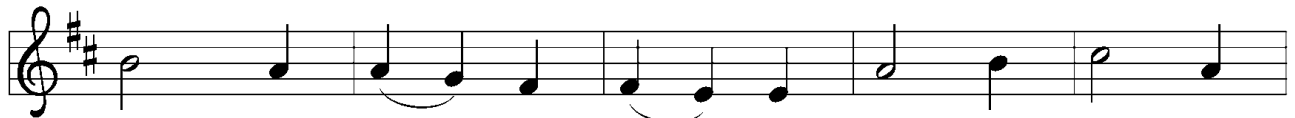
The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

Please stand.

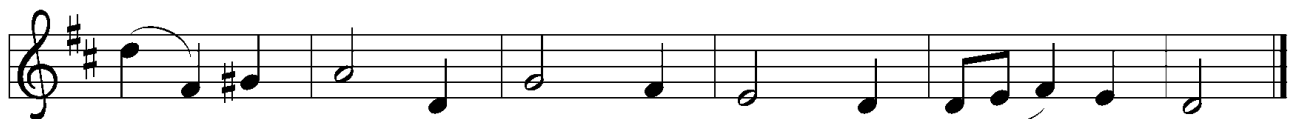
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 323 God Loved the World



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.**

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



Grant peace, we pray, in mer - cy, Lord; peace in our time, oh, send us!



For there is none on earth but you, none oth - er to de - fend us.



You on - ly, Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

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 The Secret of Christ

Richard Shephard

For a long time I have held my peace, but now will I speak.
I will lead the blind in a way they know not,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them.
I will turn their darkness into light,
and I will not forsake them.
And he showed me a pure river of the water of life,
clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God;
and on either side of the river was there a tree of life,
and the leaves of the trees were for the healing of nations.
Help us, Lord, to persevere in prayer with minds
awake and thankful hearts,
that we may share the secret of Christ
with those we meet on our earthly pilgrimage,
following in the steps of Jesus,
our master and our friend. Amen.

– “The Pilgrim Prayer,” Derrick Walters

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.

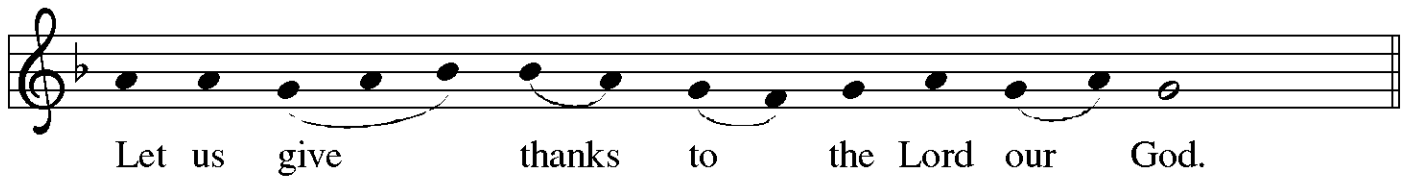
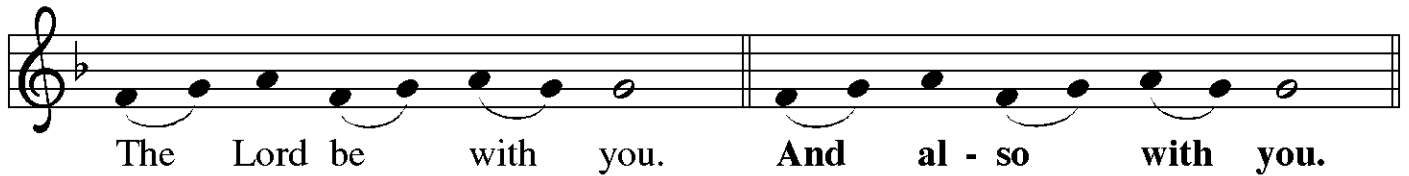
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

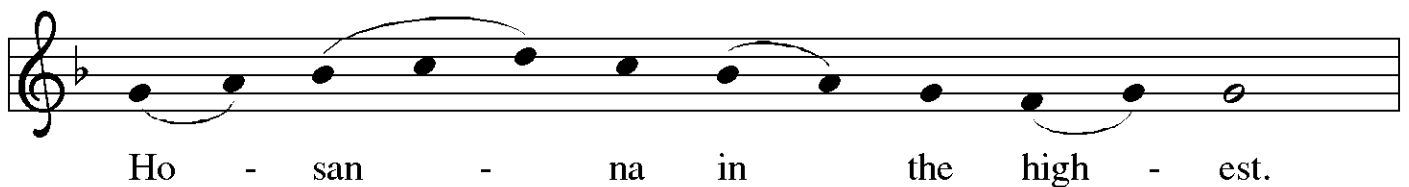
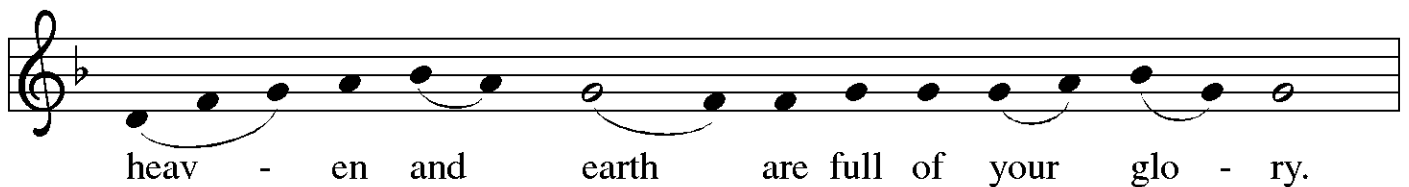
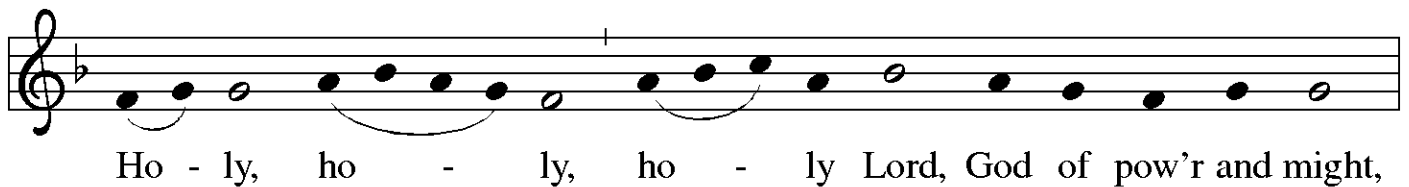
Meal

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.

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.

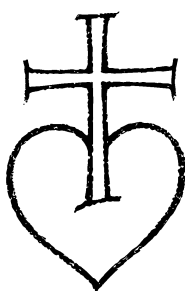


Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

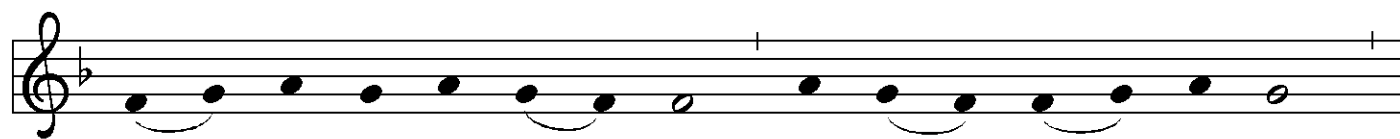
Remembering, therefore, his salutary command . . . To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



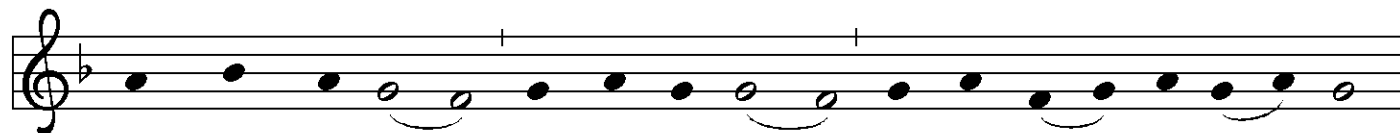
A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.



LORD'S PRAYER



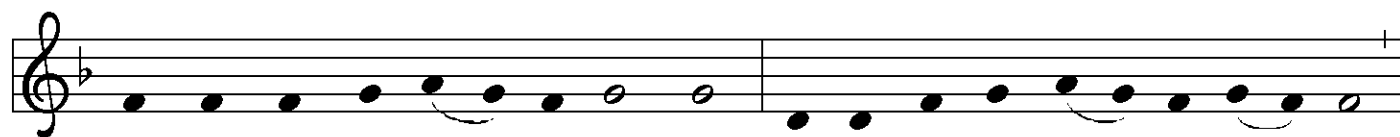
Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



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



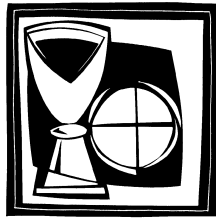
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



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.

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

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 ACS 963 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er
3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:
4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;
5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,



took our sin a - way for - ev - er,
here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.
Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken
all your bur - dens I will car - ry.
bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.



bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,
Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.
by all those with hearts dis - tressed,
There is noth - ing you can do
Those you serve can taste from you



free - dom from death for us to gain.
My blood I give for you in wine."
by all who yearn for peace and rest.
to earn this mer - cy; take it new."
what won - ders God in love will do.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940

Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524

Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Please stand.

BLESSING

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

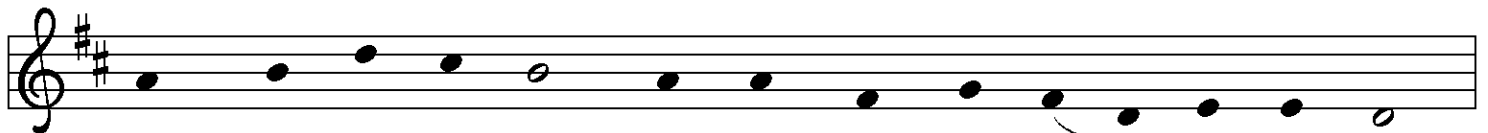
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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.

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.**

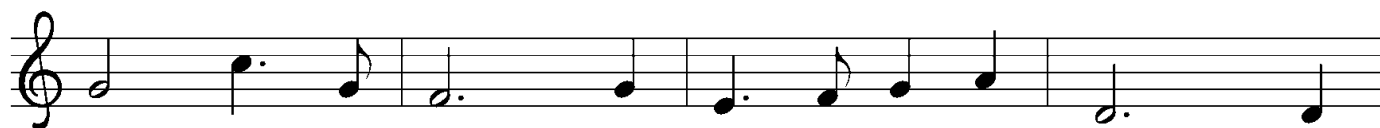
Sending

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 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

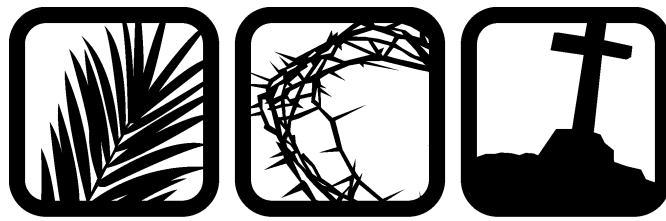
Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Prelude in F

Fanny Mendelssohn-Hensel

The Prelude and Postlude today are in honor of Woman Composer Sunday



HOLY WEEK

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 10, 2024

Although no flowers adorn our chancel during Lent, a donation to the Flower Fund was made by Paula Cerdas in celebration of her birthday.

SJSM Forums: TODAY, *A Faithful Foundation for Discussing Housing*: March 17: *Where Do We Go from Here*: A discussion about how as Christian citizens we work for housing justice.

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.

Lenten Soup Suppers and Midweek Services, Wednesdays in Lent. Soup Supper at 6:00 PM followed by **Services at 7:00 PM.**

Property Day, March 16 at 9:00 AM: 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: Buy homemade soups and breads between Sunday services during Lent. If you are interested in making soup or bread for the sale contact Jane Bowman.

Cereal Collection Update: We have 139 boxes so far. Can we collect 200 boxes by **March 17?**

Shampoo Collection Update: We've currently collected 119 bottles of our goal of 100 bottles each of shampoo and conditioner for GRACE by **March 17.**

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.**

Warm Hearts Meal needed for March 21 to serve 16 people and contain no pork. You can bring an entire meal or just a portion. See the weekly email to sign up.

Time & Talent Census due March 24: Each member is being asked to reflect on their participation in the work of the congregation. Please fill out a Time & Talent Census in the weekly email. For more information about ways to serve, see our Ministry Opportunities Booklet.

Easter Brunch Food Donations: Baked goods are needed by **March 30** and casseroles on **March 31 by 8:45 AM.** Gluten free, nut free, etc. are also needed. Sign up in the rear entry.

Fellowship Time Help Needed: Sign up to provide homemade or store-bought baked goods/bagels, fruit/veggies, and cheese & crackers, etc. This is a major community building endeavor of the church that we all enjoy and requires all of us to help. See the weekly email to sign up.

SO LOVED
THE WORLD
THAT
HE GAVE
HIS ONLY SON
SO THAT
EVERYONE
WHO
BELIEVES IN HIM
WILL NOT
BUT PERISH
HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE

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