

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 10, 2024

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

O Christ, Our Hope (ELW 604)



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, adapt.
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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.



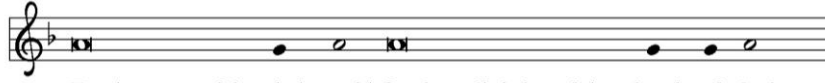
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



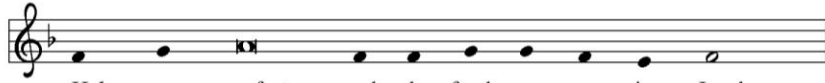
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



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 together,

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.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING I

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

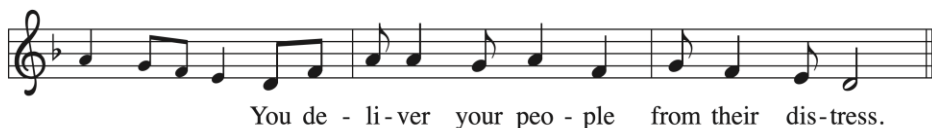
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

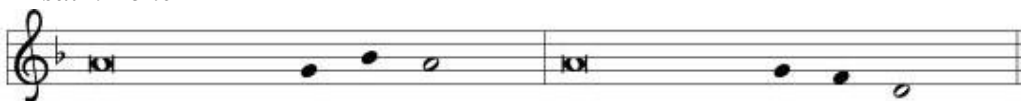
Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,
for God’s mercy en- | dures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

³gathering 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. Refrain**

¹⁸They loathed all man- | ner of food
and drew near | to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD
and you delivered them from | their distress.**

²⁰You 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. *Refrain*

READING II

Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians

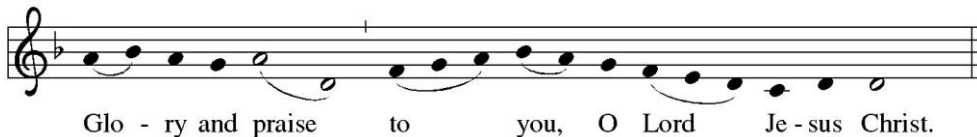
¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.



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 of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.
Vicar Alex Linn

HYMN OF THE DAY

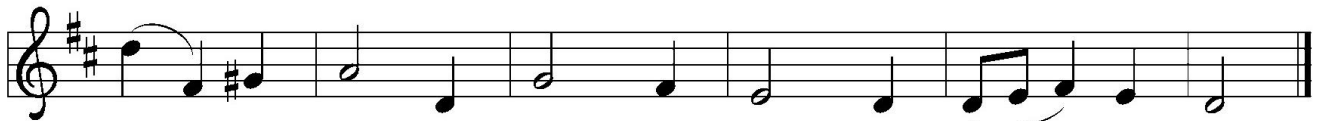
The congregation may be stand.
God Loved the World (ELW 323)



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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holding onto God's Promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the world God loves. You are invited to pray through standing, kneeling, or sitting. Let us pray,
Pause

As we journey through the 40 days, guide us to seek new missions for the church. Pray for the work of God's people... *pause*
Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Through the wilderness of this earth, you have called us to discipleship.
Pray for God's creation... *pause*
Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

We live together in our own towns, yet we are a people of your divine dominion. Pray for our communities... *pause*
Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

O God, we often fail to see your image in one another causing us to fall into sins of racism, sexism, hate, and all that we do to separate us from each other. Pray for transformation... *pause*
Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

For those who heart in mind, body, spirit, we pray for your hand. Pray for the healing of one another... *pause*
Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Pray for what you wish to share today...

pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Trusting God who raises us out of death, we give thanks for the people who have gone before us into your embrace. Pray for our beloved dead... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

A Prayer of St. Columba

Cecilia McDowall

Be thou a bright flame before us,
Be though a guiding star above us,
Be thou a smooth path below us,
And be a kindly shepherd behind us,
Today, tonight, and forever.

Drive from us all temptation and danger,
Surround us on the sea of unrighteousness,
And in narrows, crooks, and straits
Keep thou our coracle, keep it always
Today, tonight, and forever

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.

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 to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and the host of this meal.

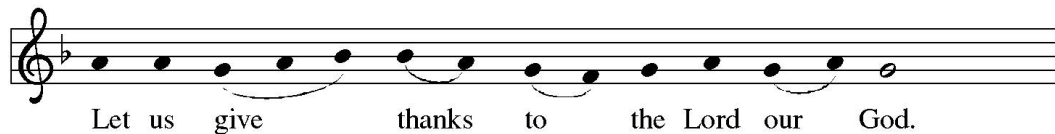
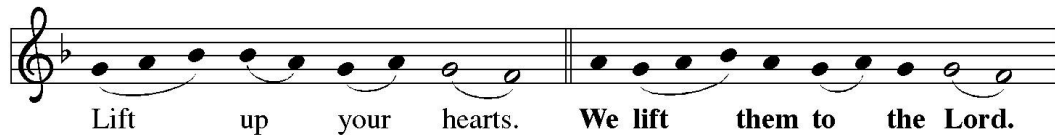
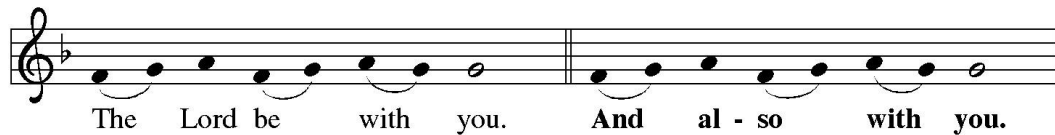
**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

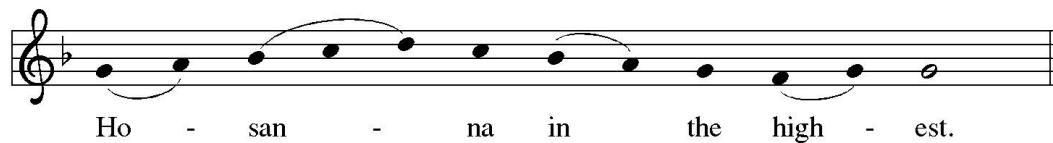
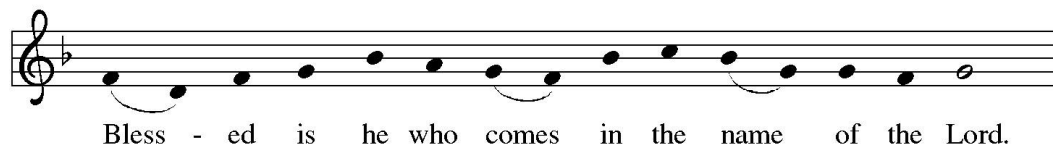
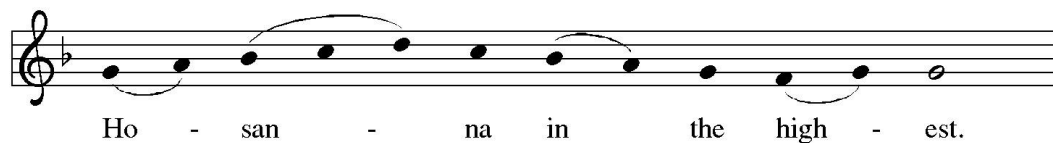
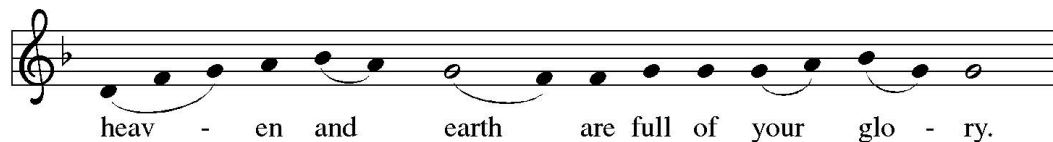
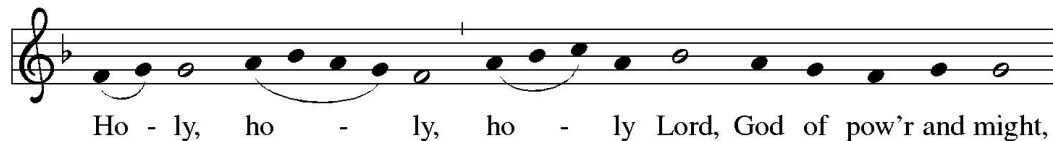
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks, heavenly God,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this the end of the ages
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you,
through whom you created all things,
and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven to a mother's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot
and was shown forth as your Son,
born of the Holy Spirit and of the Blessed Mary.
He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will
and won for you a holy people;
stretching out his hands in suffering
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the world,
to establish a new covenant shown forth in the his resurrection,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,
we take this bread and cup,
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy
to stand before you and to serve you as your holy people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church;
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

LAMB OF GOD

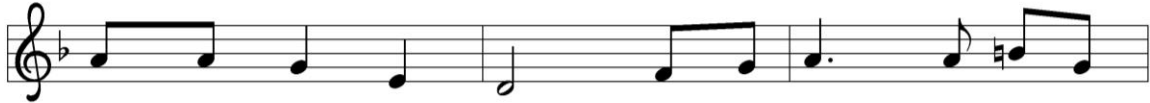
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334 verses 1, 2, 3 + Lent 4)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

Generous God,

At this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, Bread of Life.

Amen.

+ **Sending** +

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you,

shower you with mercy,

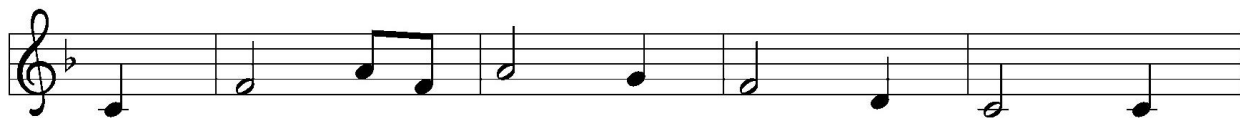
fill you with good courage,

and give + you peace.

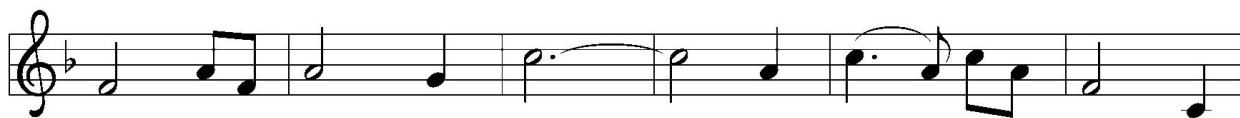
Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Festal March

by Florence Price

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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- Scripture readings from the NRS

SERVING TODAY

<i>Interim:</i>	Vicar Alex Linn
<i>Director of Youth & Families</i>	Evergreen Edwards
<i>Director of Music:</i>	Luke Duroc-Danner
<i>Cantor:</i>	Audrey Neace
<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	Alan Swanson
<i>Readers:</i>	Nick Danielsen, Claire Radde, Jillian Radde
<i>Communion Assistant:</i>	Caroline Novak
<i>Ushers:</i>	Tom Morrison
<i>Livestream Camera:</i>	Jason Shutters
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Cindi Rachowicz
<i>Coffee Hour Host:</i>	Jan Rassenfoss

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Suppers and Worship, Wednesdays from 6-7 pm

This year for Midweek Lenten worship, we will use parts of the "Unfailing Light" liturgy by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, and our devotional discussion prompts will follow the disciple Peter as a wonderful accompaniment to the Lent lectionary cycle on Sunday. Join us! Join us Wednesday 3/13!

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible study meets on Tuesday mornings, 11am-12:00pm. with Vicar Alex Linn. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Take Care Packages for Migrant Families:

We are now a drop-off spot for donations! The Village is now partnering with SaLT to create "Take Care Packages" which are designed to assist migrants arriving via bus from Texas to our area while they await transfer to the Chicago Processing Center. These packages are a tangible expression of our community's care for others. Learn more about what you can donate and about SaLT: Service and Learning Together using the links in your e-news.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Buckley Crist
- † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023
- † Family & friends of Richard Rusz, who died 6/6/23
- † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23
- † Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23
- † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23
- † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23
- † Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Cecilia McDowall (b. 1951) is a British composer known particularly for her choral compositions. Born in London, McDowall studied music at the University of Edinburgh and later at Trinity College of Music in London. Since 2010, McDowall has been signed by Oxford University Press as a staff composer, and she has been teaching composition at Dulwich College, London since 2015. She has won a variety of awards for her compositional work, and most recently she was commissioned to compose the original work for the 2021 Lessons and Carols at Kings College, Cambridge. While most known for her choral works, she has also composed widely for organ and chamber ensembles along with several large scale works for orchestra and choir including four stage works.

Florence B. Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price's early musical education came from her mother, and she would give her first performance at age 4 and have her first composition published at age 11. She attended the New England Conservatory of Music for both piano and organ. She returned to Arkansas where she taught briefly before moving to Georgia to head the music department at Clark Atlanta University. Returning to Little Rock with her husband, she struggled to find work in the increasingly segregated town, and following several lynchings in 1927, the Price family decided to move to Chicago. Price became a part of burgeoning Chicago Black Renaissance, and, after winning first prize in the Wanamaker Competition for her Symphony in E Minor, she became the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Florence Price's compositional output includes four symphonies, four concertos, a wide range of other orchestral works, chamber music, a choral cantata and other choral works, many vocal works and spiritual arrangements, and wide variety of solo keyboard music.