

*Dismissal

Go in peace, trusting the living water. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Eddie Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for Lenten offerings 135.00

General Fund receipts for week ending 3/1/2026:\$ 2727.00



Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 8, 2026

9:00 am

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	Rev, Andrea Mcdonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Harry Werner
Lector	Peggy Smith
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

*Sending Hymn: Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer ELW# 618



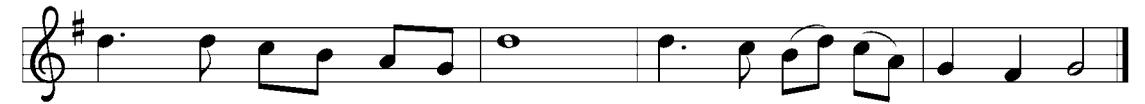
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



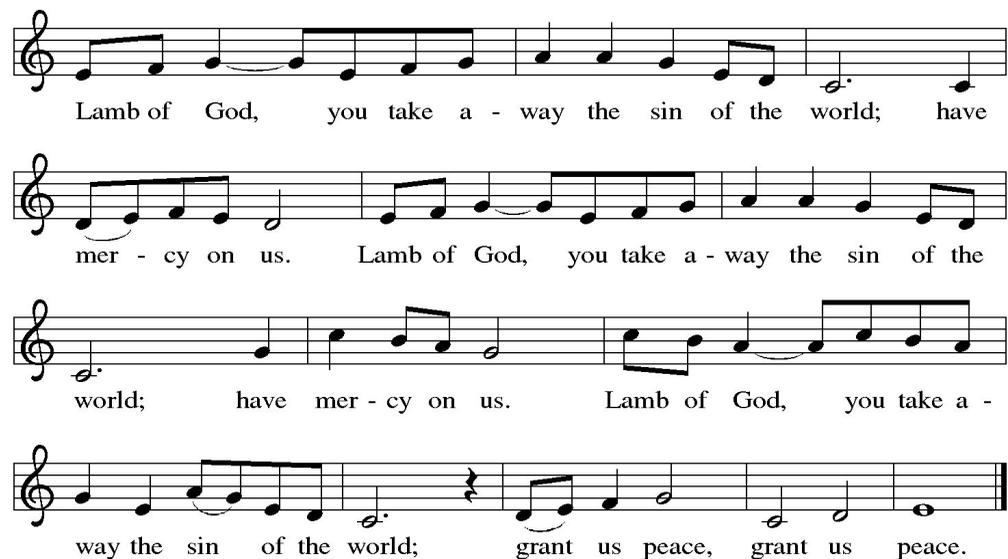
with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Communion Hymn



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, grant us peace.

*Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, you have fed us at your table. We have received the bread and the cup, your presence planted in us like a seed in winter ground. Send us now to live these days nourished, honest, and unafraid. We trust that what you have planted shall rise, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Blessing

May the God who brought water from the rock sustain you. May Christ, who offers living water, satisfy your deepest thirst. And may the Holy Spirit water what has been planted in you, bringing life where you cannot yet see it growing. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Third Sunday in Lent— March 8, 2026

Litany: A Special Lenten Fast

- Give up harsh words: use generous ones.
- Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.
- Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.
- Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.
- Give up worrying: take up trust in God.
- Give up complaining: value what you have.
- Give up stress: take up prayer.
- Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.
- Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.
- Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.
- Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.
- Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

— anonymous, Latin America. Posted on the CAFOD website

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed are you, O God, maker and sustainer of all life. In the beginning, your Spirit swept over the waters, bringing forth creation from chaos. You led your people through the Red Sea, from slavery to freedom, from fear to trust. When your people wandered in the wilderness and cried out in thirst, you brought water from the rock at Massah and Meribah, sustaining them even in their complaint and doubt. You called Abraham and Sarah to leave everything familiar and journey into the unknown, trusting your promise when they could not see the way.

You met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well in the heat of the day, offering her living water that springs up to eternal life— water that satisfies the deepest thirst. You sent your Son to be baptized by John in the Jordan River, and spoke from heaven: "This is my beloved Son." Jesus told Nicodemus that to see your kingdom, one must be born of water and the Spirit— born from above by a wind that blows where it will. And on the third day you raised Jesus from death, that we who are buried with him in baptism might rise to walk in newness of life.

In the bleak midwinter of our lives— when the ground is hard as iron, when snow has fallen, snow on snow— you meet us still. You offer living water in our thirst. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon this water and upon all who have been washed in these waters. Renew us in the gift of baptism: that we might trust your presence in the bleak, receive the living water you offer, and grow into the people you have called us to be. Through Jesus Christ our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen**

*Communion Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Christ taught us

Our Father 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 to Communion

*Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy One, in this dry and weary land

we give you thanks and praise.

You provide for us in our need;

you set a table for us in the wilderness.

Even when we despair and complain against you,

you feed us with bread from heaven.

Even when we quarrel and question your grace,

you give us water from a stone.

How can we keep silent?

Even dry bones in the valley of death

stand to sing your praise:

*Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Gathering Hymn: As the Deer Runs to the River ELW#331

- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.

we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst-ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow-ing from the cross on which you died.

Refrain

Je - sus, source of liv-ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950
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***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.**

*Prayer of the Day

Lord God, Great I AM, you are living water. As we worship you this day show us who we are: channels of your love and vessels of your grace. Through the reading of the Scriptures and by the power of your Spirit, may we hear for ourselves the good news, and believe, because of your Word, that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Amen.

Children's Moment

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

*Offertory Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter ELW # 29



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed,
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we dedicate to you not only these gifts, but also ourselves, in deep gratitude—for your call on our lives, your guidance in the baptismal journey, and for blessing us that we may be a blessing to others. Tend what we offer as seeds planted in faith. Accept what we bring for your own good purposes. In Christ we pray. Amen.

For this community:

We planted seeds on Ash Wednesday, naming what we long for you to grow in us. Water those seeds, O God. Tend what is buried and invisible. Bring to life what we cannot bring to life ourselves. And help us trust your work even when we cannot see it yet. God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

For the faithful departed:

We give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us, who now drink from the river of life. Today we give you thanks for the life of Thomas Allen Story. Comfort all who mourn. Sustain us with the promise that death does not have the final word, and bring us at last to join the great communion of saints around your throne, where living water flows forever. God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and your power to bring life from what looks dead, hope from what feels dry, and growth from what we have planted in faith. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Psalm 95

- ¹ Come, let us sing ¹ to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of ¹ our salvation.
- ² **Let us come before God's presence ¹ with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the ¹ LORD with psalms.**
- ³ For you, LORD, ¹ are a great God,
and a great ruler a- ¹bove all gods.
- ⁴ **In your hand are the caverns ¹ of the earth;
the heights of the hills are ¹ also yours.**
- ⁵ The sea is yours, ¹ for you made it,
and your hands have molded ¹ the dry land.
- ⁶ **Come, let us worship ¹ and bow down,
let us kneel before the ¹ LORD our maker.**
- ⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep ¹ of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would ¹ hear God's voice!
- ⁸ **"Harden ¹ not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah ¹ in the desert.**
- ⁹ There your ancestors ¹ tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had ¹ seen my works.
- ¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that gener- ¹ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not ¹ know my
ways.'**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore ¹ in my anger,
'They shall never come ¹ to my rest.'"

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

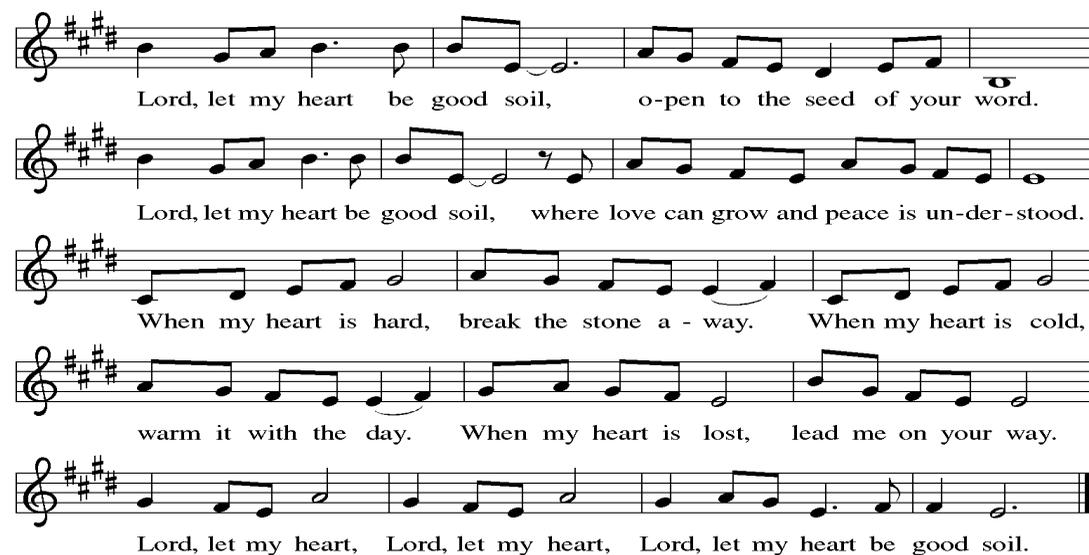
¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the

glory of God.³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Acclamation



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

For the nations and those in conflict:

We pray for peace in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Iran, Myanmar, Yemen, and Syria — places where war has stolen hope and destroyed lives. We pray for South Sudan, Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, where violence and instability threaten entire communities. We pray for the West Bank, Lebanon, and all places where settler violence and territorial conflict endanger civilians. Send your living water into these dry and desperate places. Raise up leaders who choose peace over power, and give courage to all who work for reconciliation.

God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing drought and flood:

We pray for Florida, and for Texas and Oklahoma, where drought threatens rangelands and water supplies. We pray for communities bracing for flooding in the central United States, and for eastern Southern Africa, Central America, and Northern South America, where flooding persists. God, you brought water from the rock when your people thirsted in the wilderness. Provide water where there is drought, protect those in danger of floods, and guide us to care for the earth you have entrusted to us.

God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer:

We pray for all who are thirsty — for food, for safety, for healing, for hope. We pray for refugees and the displaced, for those living under violence, for the hungry and the sick. Meet them at the well. Offer them living water. And make us your hands and feet to carry that water to those in need.

God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

*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 the People

Merciful God, you offer living water to all who thirst. Hear the prayers we bring to you today, trusting that you tend what we cannot see and provide what we cannot give ourselves.

For the church:

Pour out your Spirit upon the church throughout the world. Water what you have planted in us. Help us worship you in spirit and in truth, and give us courage to offer living water to a thirsty world. God of living water, **Hear our prayer.**

*Gospel: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus

said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.

³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them,

and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: Come to Me All Pilgrims, Thirsty ELW # 777



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-ers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev-ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen-tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.