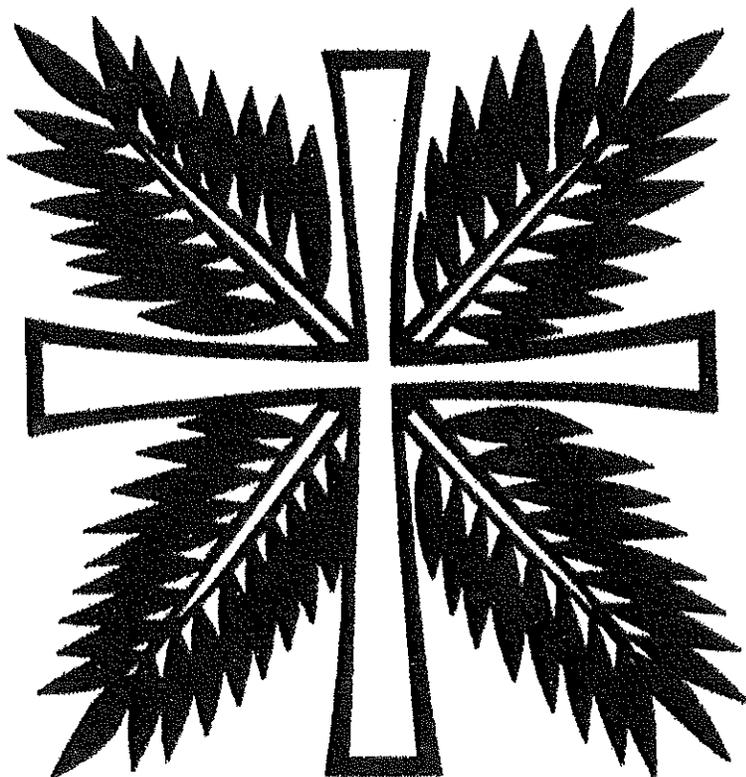


welcome to worship
PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
March 29, 2026



The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement
5 Wyomissing Boulevard
Wyomissing, Pennsylvania 19610-2081
phone: 610-375-3512 ♦ www.atonementwyo.org
The Rev. Katie Lyon ♦ Deacon Tom Yenser, director of music

The assembly gathers outside at the church entrance, weather permitting.

GATHERING

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

READING *Matthew 21:1-11 (The Message)*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

21¹⁻³ When they neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: "Go over to the village across from you. You'll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you're doing, say, 'The Master needs them!' He will send them with you."

⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion's daughter,

"Look, your king is on his way, poised and ready, mounted
On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal."

⁶⁻⁹ The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus got on. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, "Hosanna to David's son!" "Blessed is he who comes in God's name!" "Hosanna in highest heaven!"

¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

¹¹ The parade crowd answered, "This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee."
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly raises their palms.

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

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace, **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

HYMN

Blessed Is the One

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes

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

in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray.

Brief silence

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Miss Lauryn

PASSION

Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O God.**

Narrator: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him,

Pilate: "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: "You say so."

Narrator: But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him,

Pilate: "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?"

Narrator: But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator: For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him,

Pilate's wife: "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

Narrator: Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them,

Pilate: "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

Narrator: And they said,

Assembly: "Barabbas."

Narrator: Pilate said to them,

Pilate: "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?"

Narrator: All of them said,

Assembly: "Let him be crucified!"

Narrator: Then he asked,

Pilate: "Why, what evil has he done?"

Narrator: But they shouted all the more,

Assembly: "Let him be crucified!"

Narrator: So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

Pilate: "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Narrator: Then the people as a whole answered,

Assembly: "His blood be on us and on our children!"

Narrator: So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,

and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying,

Assembly: **"Hail, King of the Jews!"**

Narrator: They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying,

Assembly: **"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."**

Narrator: In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying,

Assembly: **"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'"**

Narrator: The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice,

Jesus: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"

Narrator: that is,

Jesus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Narrator: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said,

Assembly: **"This man is calling for Elijah."**

Narrator: At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said,

Assembly: **"Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."**

Narrator: Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. (*LONG PAUSE*) At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said,

Assembly: **"Truly this man was God's Son!"**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition concludes Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*The prayers conclude ... through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.***

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

If you brought an offering or your pledge card today, please place it in an offering plate that ushers will pass at this time. Thank you for your generous gifts! Did you know you can give using a credit card? Scan the QR code to the right.



OFFERTORY

*Jesus Loves Me/Oh, How He Loves You and Me
Children's Choir and Atonement Choir*

Jesus loves me; this I know for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.

Oh, how he loves you and me. Oh, how he loves you and me.
He gave his life; what more can he give?
Oh, how he loves you. Oh, how he loves me.
Oh, how he loves you and me. *(repeat)*

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The assembly is seated.

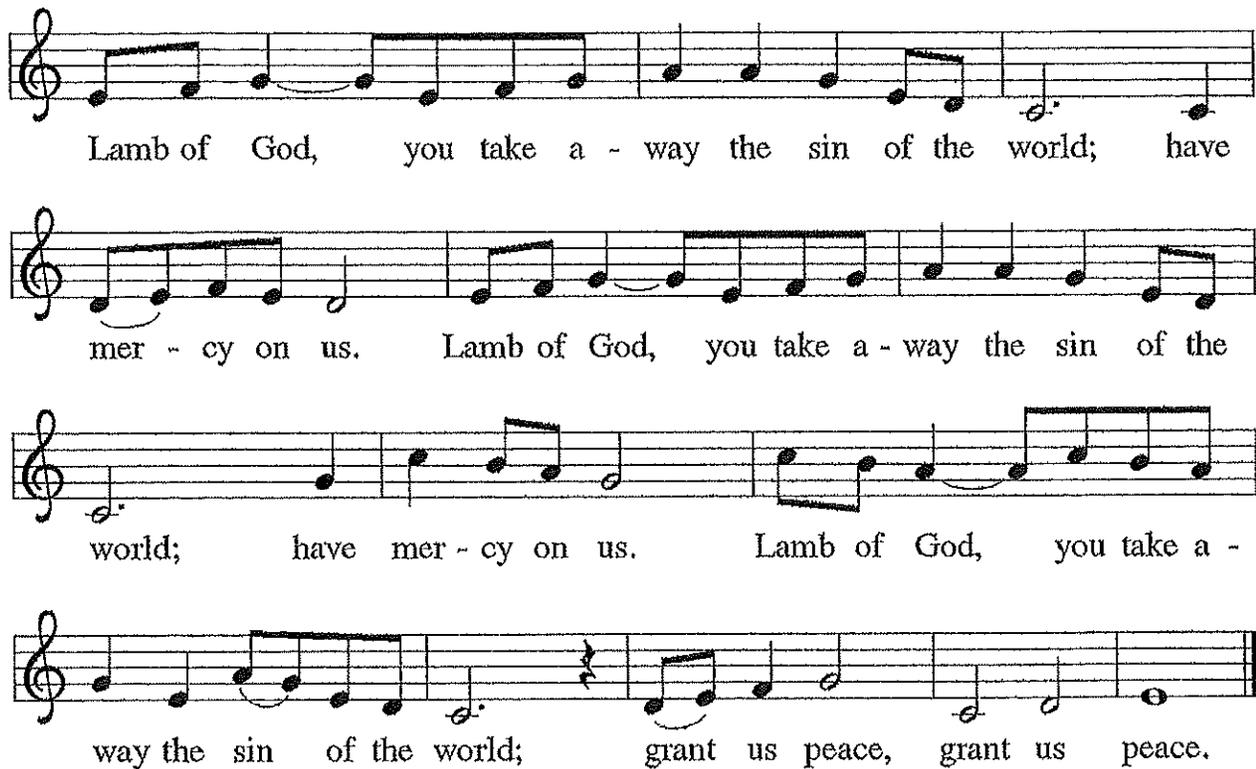
DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at Atonement. Follow the directions of the ushers to receive bread and a pre-filled cup of wine or grape juice (in purple cups) from the communion assistants. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the front pew and return to your seat by the side aisles. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Children are welcome to receive communion with their parents' permission.

Please take a moment to sign and pass the attendance pads found in the pews, check in to Atonement on your favorite social media platform, share a photo with your digital community, and say something gentle in the spirit of Jesus!

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

HYMN 325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

HYMN 338

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God of all that we hardly notice,
Ruler of the ground under our feet and the sky stretched over our heads,
Send your Spirit to direct our steps and our thoughts as we stumble around this day and night.
We have too much to do, so give us enough silence to hear your voice.
We have too much to worry about, so quiet us with a moment of your peace.
We have too much to carry, so lighten our hearts with your love.
We are your people, eyes cast down on the ground that you made, wary that the sky will fall again. Remind us again that above and below you are here.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN 339

Christ, the Life of All the Living

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. Serve together. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Hosanna

Wachs

"Blessed Is the One," music by Nathan Houge. ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701243.

Our final blessing during this Lenten season is from "Have a Beautiful Terrible Day!" by Kate Bowler.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20325. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Assisting with Worship

Susan Beam, greeters

Lou Mehos, head usher

Tyler Good, assisting minister

Susan Beam, Ed Kern, Sandy Kern, Patty Lehr, Eve Kimball, James White,
communion assistants

Karl Allmendinger, Matt Shirk, audio/visual

Chase Ross, Zoe Shirk, nursery

Karen Sandloop, altar captain

Dami Johnson-Agiri, sexton

Atonement Choir

Atonement Children's Choir

Passion Readers

Narrator: Emmett Borelli-Hoh

Pilate: Max Romig

Jesus: Hannah Raifsnyder

Pilate's wife: Pastor Katie

Atonement Staff

Katie Lyon, *Pastor*

Tom Yenser, *Deacon*

Jen Dauber, *Preschool Director*

Laurynn Lacis, *Director of Children's Ministry*

Arthur Wyse, *Visitation Pastor*

Crystal Shirk, *Office Manager*

Amy Rogers, *Financial Secretary*

Tom Scornavacchi, *Mission Developer*

Michelle Endy, *Room Coordinator*

Ken Lord, *Congregational Health Advocate*

Ellen Bryan, *Pastoral Care Coordinator*

klyon@atonementwyo.org

tyenser@atonementwyo.org

jdauber@atonementwyo.org

llacis@atonementwyo.org

awyse@atonementwyo.org

cshirk@atonementwyo.org

arogers@atonementwyo.org

pastortom@cgrcommunity.org

calendar@atonementwyo.org

klord@atonementwyo.org

ebryan@atonementwyo.org

WARMEST WELCOME to this congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America! We are a Lutheran church, but we're not just for Lutherans—we belong to our community! Together we are on the journey of discipleship with Jesus, who guides us from worship to formation, from formation to fellowship, and from fellowship to Christ-like servanthood.

CHILDREN are very welcome at Atonement! Activity bags and children's bulletins are available at the entrance to the worship space. Children from 3 years of age to 2nd grade are invited to experience worship geared just for them—follow the CHILDREN'S CHAPEL leader to the privacy room after the Children's Message. Children will return to their families for communion.

THE NURSERY is available for children preschool age and younger in Room F 126.

RESTROOMS are located in the hall next to the worship space. A FAMILY RESTROOM with a changing table is also located in the Privacy Room at the back of the worship space.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS this week are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment. The office will be closed Monday, April 6.

ATONEMENT VOLUNTEERS SERVE AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE the third Saturday of every month. Contact Bob Eisenbrown at 484-332-8788 if you would like to join the team.

DONATING TO THE COMMUNITY AID THRIFT SHOP can benefit Common Ground. Use the code **50244** when you make a donation.

FOOD DONATIONS of canned goods, cereal, and other non-perishable, non-expired items for Lutheran Pantry are always accepted in the grocery cart in the narthex.

CLOTHING AND REUSABLE GROCERY BAG DONATIONS FOR COMMON GROUND are being collected in the large bin next to the coatroom in the narthex.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION for the 2026-27 school year is open! Email Mrs. Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org for more information.

PRESCHOOL CAMP REGISTRATION is open. Details can be found at atonementwyo.org, click PRESCHOOL from the top menu, then select Preschool Classes.

FAITH FORMATION will not meet Easter Sunday, but will continue Sunday April 12, 8:45-9:45am. Adults meet in room F122, children meet in the choir room.

A PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER is underway to resurface the playground so that it is accessible for all students. Donations made be made payable to Atonement, with playground in the check memo or notes section of online donations.

TODAY'S YOUTH GATHERING for middle & high school students is 5:30 at Atonement.

FAMILY PROMISE MONDAY MEAL MINISTRY will be hosted by Atonement on April 13 and April 20. Use the sign-up on the volunteer page of atonementwyo.org.

FAMILY PROMISE BREAKFAST & FUNDRAISER will be Saturday, April 26 in Lundin Hall. Additional details can be found on the home page of atonementwyo.org

OUR LANDSCAPING TEAM is looking for new members! Details can be found at the stewardship table in the office, or contact John Lehr at 610-304-6818 or johnt.lehr@gmail.com.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTING MINISTERS to add to our rotation. If you are comfortable reading and/or serving communion, please consider being part of the team! Call the office at 610-375-3512.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND COLLEGE STUDENTS in their first three years are available for Atonement members! Details and application can be found at atonementwyo.org, click MINISTRIES from the top menu, then Children / Youth for the link to the higher education awards.

EASTER PLANTS AND WORLD HUNGER donation forms are due today. If you forgot your form or payment, please touch base with Crystal after the service.

JOIN US FOR PRESCHOOL SUNDAY during 10:00 worship on April 12. This family-friendly service features songs by our preschoolers and the story of the boy who share his lunch. Our theme in preschool chapel this year is: "Little People Can Do Big Things!"

Sunday, April 19 – BEAR CREEK CAMP SUNDAY. Collin Grooms, the Bear Creek Camp Director, will join us for worship. He will share about this important ministry of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod in both a children's message and an adult sermon. He'll also bring his guitar to share some favorite camp songs!

Sunday, April 26 - HOLOCAUST PRESENTATION (Part 2). Leah Leisawitz will return for adult Faith Formation, 8:45-9:45am in the nave, to continue the story of her great-grandparents, both Holocaust survivors. Part 2 will focus on the story of her great-grandfather.

Holy Week Schedule

Journey with us through the events during the last week of Jesus' life—from the gates of Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to the foot of the cross, to the empty tomb!

Maundy Thursday—April 2 ♦ 7:00 PM in the nave
Footwashing, Holy Communion, Stripping the Altar

Good Friday—April 3 ♦ 12 noon in the nave
Stations of the Cross – quiet service with visual images, readings and prayers

Good Friday—April 3 ♦ 7:00 PM in the nave
Tenebrae (Service of Shadows) and Youth Chancel Drama

Easter Vigil—April 4 ♦ 7:30 PM in Lundin Hall
Lighting the New Fire (outside, weather permitting), entering a darkened worship space to hear of God's mighty acts, singing Alleluias in the light of the resurrection, remembering our baptism, and celebrating Holy Communion, together with Common Ground.

Easter Sunday—April 5
Worship at 9:00am & 10:30am

LENT

325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

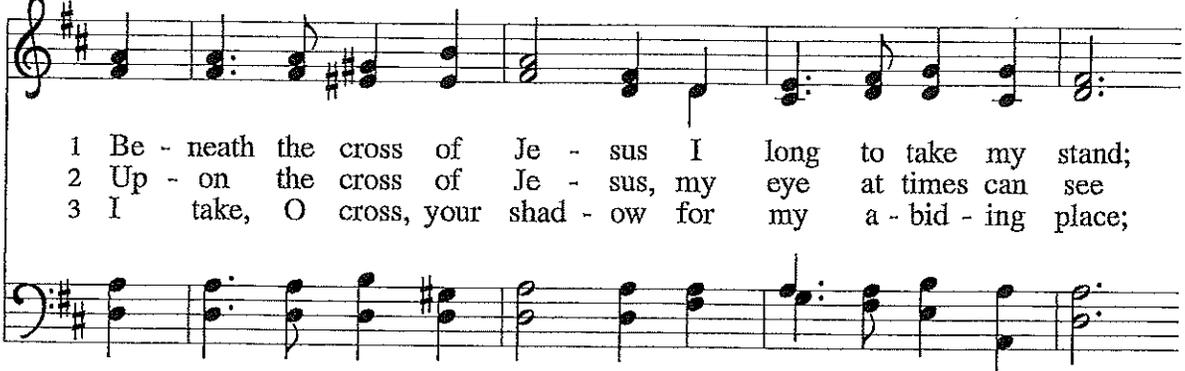
me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

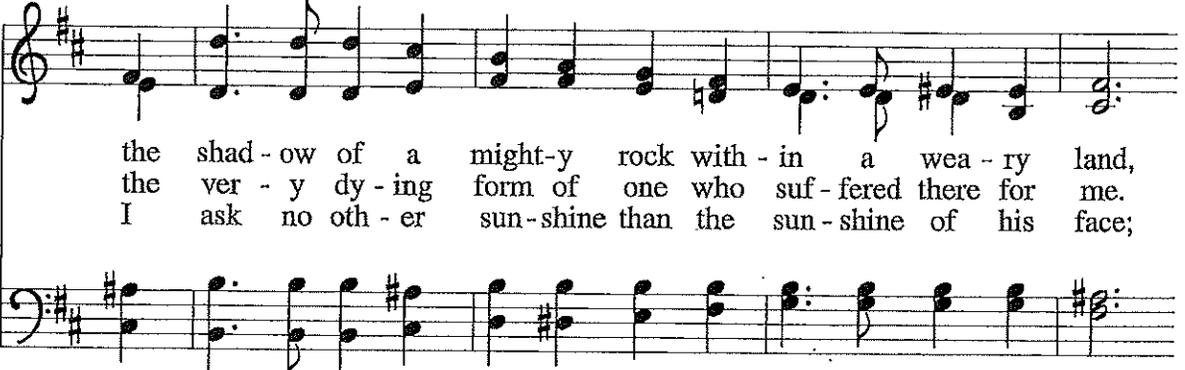
LENT

338

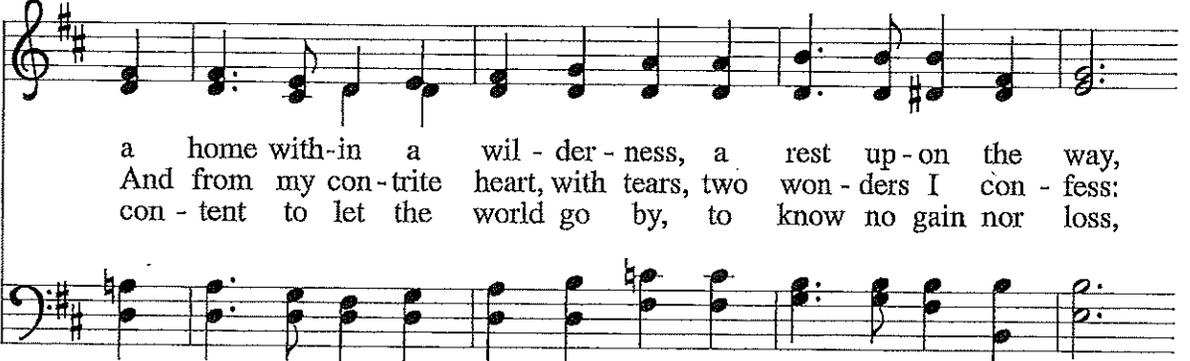
Beneath the Cross of Jesus



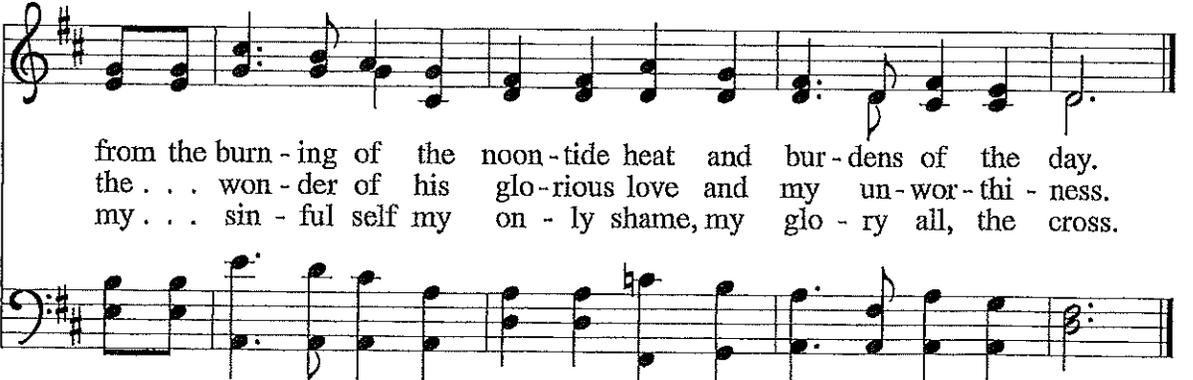
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Christ, the Life of All the Living

339

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.