

welcome to worship
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
March 1, 2026

FOR GOD SO
LOVED
the WORLD

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

PRELUDE

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. Bish

WELCOME

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

We come as we are to confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 660

Lift High the Cross – stanzas 1, 3, 4

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, 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

READING

Romans 4:1-3, 13, 16-17 (The Message)

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

A reading from Romans.

4¹⁻³ So how do we fit what we know of Abraham, our first father in the faith, into this new way of looking at things? If Abraham, by what he *did* for God, got God to approve him, he could certainly have taken credit for it. But the story we're given is a God-story, not an Abraham-story. What we read in Scripture is, "Abraham entered into what God was doing for him, and *that* was the turning point. He trusted God to set him right instead of trying to be right on his own."

13 That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed...

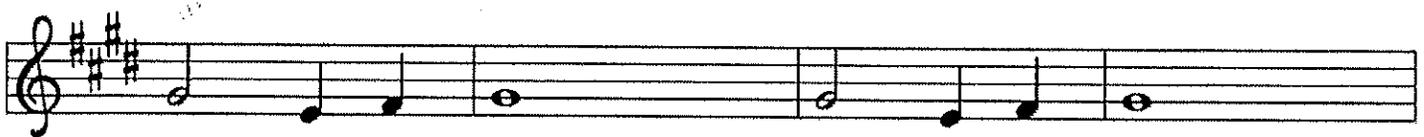
16 This is why the fulfillment of God's promise depends entirely on trusting God and God's way, and then simply embracing God and what God does. God's promise arrives as pure gift.

17 We call Abraham "father" not because he got God's attention by living like a saint, but because God made something out of Abraham when he was a nobody. Isn't that what we've always read in Scripture, God saying to Abraham, "I set you up as father of many peoples"? Abraham was first named "father" and then *became* a father because he dared to trust God to do what only God could do: raise the dead to life, with a word make something out of nothing.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – sing twice



Be still and know that I am God.



Be still and know that I am God.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-12, 16-17 (The Message)

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

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

³ ¹⁻² There was a man of the Pharisee sect, Nicodemus, a prominent leader among the Jews. Late one night he visited Jesus and said, “Rabbi, we all know you’re a teacher straight from God. No one could do all the God-pointing, God-revealing acts you do if God weren’t in on it.”

³ Jesus said, “You’re absolutely right. Take it from me: Unless a person is born from above, it’s not possible to see what I’m pointing to—to God’s kingdom.”

⁴ “How can anyone,” said Nicodemus, “be born who has already been born and grown up? You can’t re-enter your mother’s womb and be born again. What are you saying with this ‘born-from-above’ talk?”

⁵⁻⁶ Jesus said, “You’re not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the ‘wind-hovering-over-the-water’ creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. When you look at a baby, it’s just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can’t see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

⁷⁻⁸ “So don’t be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be ‘born from above’—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it’s headed next. That’s the way it is with everyone ‘born from above’ by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.”

⁹ Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean by this? How does this happen?”

¹⁰⁻¹² Jesus said, “You’re a respected teacher of Israel and you don’t know these basics? Listen carefully. I’m speaking sober truth to you. I speak only of what I know by experience; I give witness only to what I have seen with my own eyes. There is nothing secondhand here, no hearsay. Yet instead of facing the evidence and accepting it, you procrastinate with questions. If I tell you things that are plain as the hand before your face and you don’t believe me, what use is there in telling you of things you can’t see, the things of God?”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ “This is how much God loved the world: God gave God’s Son, the one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending the Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

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

SERMON

Pastor Katie

The assembly stands.

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

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

God So Loved the World
Atonement Choir

Stainer

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (*John 3:16-17, King James Version*)

HOLY COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

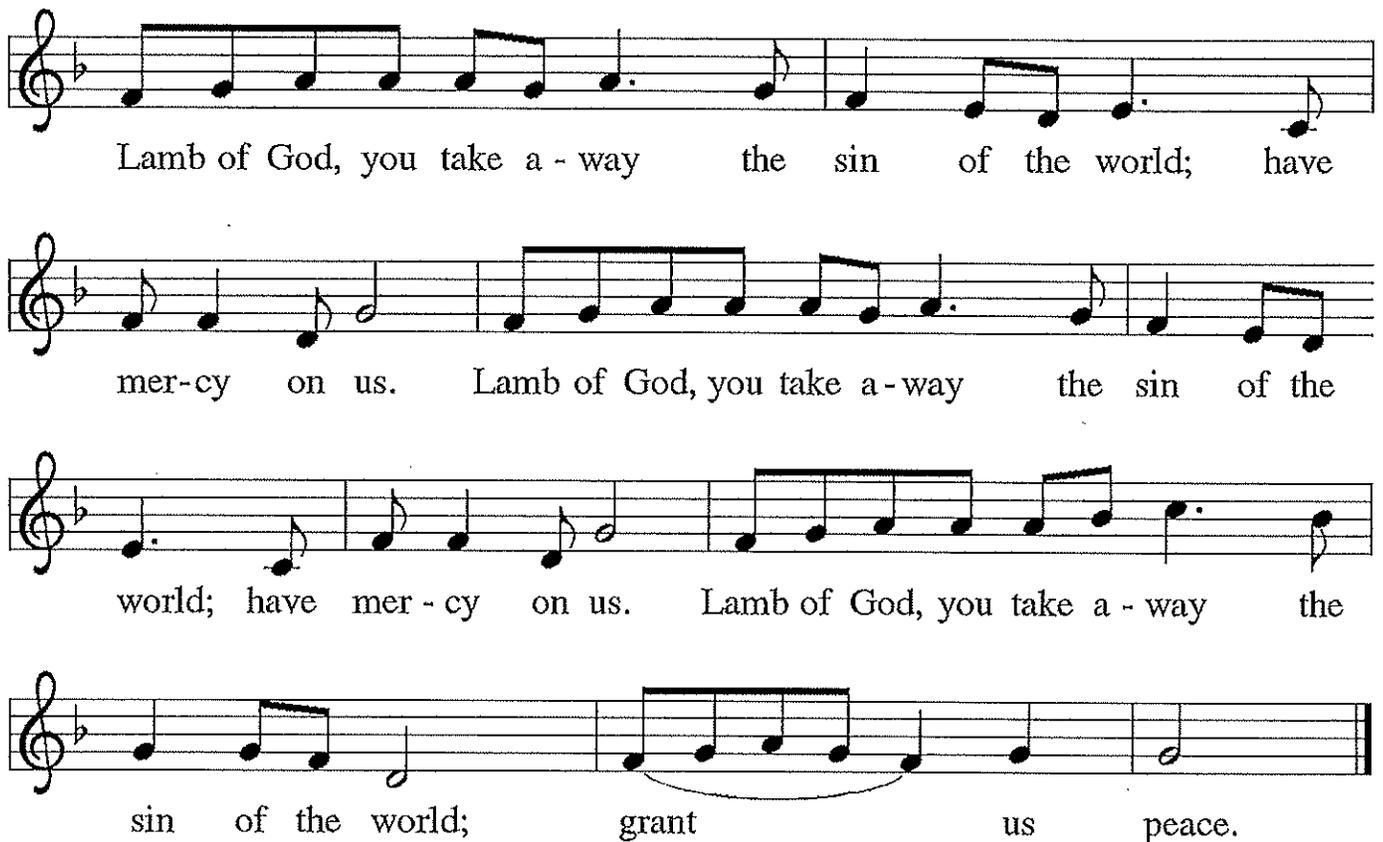
The assembly is seated.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW 666

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 323

God Loved the World

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 803

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

arr. Busarow

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

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Assisting with Worship

John & Patty Lehr, greeters

Mick Bryan, head usher

Cara Pepper, lector

Tyler Good, assisting minister

Joanne Gable, Precious Johnson-Agiri, Patty Lehr, Gail Dawson-White, communion assistants

Karl Allmendinger, Zoe Shirk, audio/visual

Caitlyn & Ainsley Marrella, nursery

Karen Sandloop, altar captain

Dami Johnson-Agiri, sexton

Atonement Choir

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.

HEARING DEVICES are available for those who have trouble hearing the service—ask an usher on your way into the worship space.

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 are Monday—Thursday, 10:30am—2:30pm or by appointment.

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. You can also donate using our Amazon wish list, available by going to atonementwyo.org and selecting Common Ground from the top menu of the home page.

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

FAITH FORMATION FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN meets Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:45. Adults meet in room F122, children meet in the choir room.

HEART TO HEART, a casual gathering of women to share experiences and learn from one another will be held Sundays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, 8:45-9:45am in the parlor. Gather, share, learn together. Email Jen Dauber at jdauber@atonementwyo.org with questions.

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.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES during Lent will be in Lundin Hall with Common Ground at 7:00 pm. A simple dinner will be served at 6:00. Everyone is welcome!

ATONEMENT IN ACTION, our newsletter for March, is available online at atonementwyo.org. Contact the office if you would like to receive a paper copy at home.

DAVE WATTS will be in concert at Atonement, Saturday, March 28, 4:00pm. Details coming soon!

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

Lift High the Cross

660

Refrain

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!



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

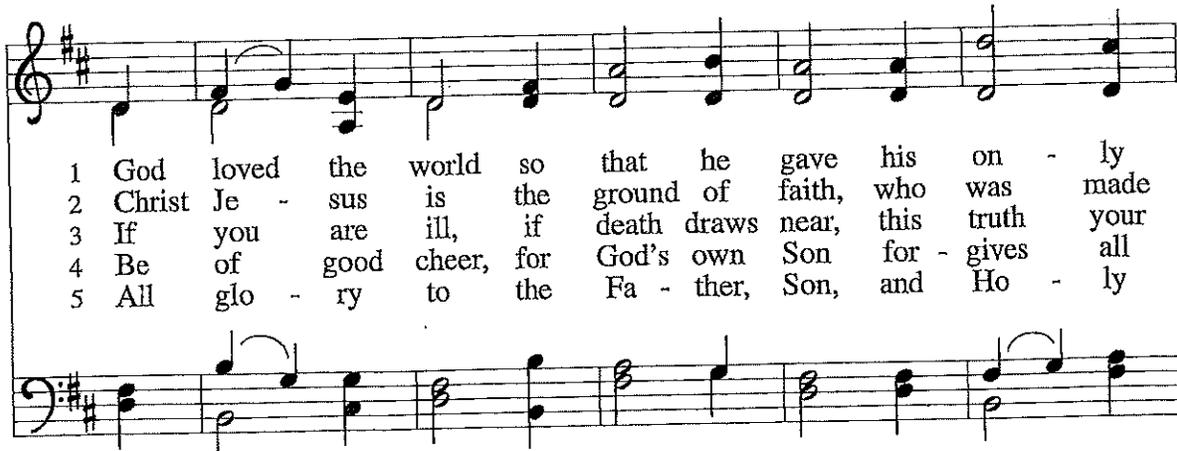


soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

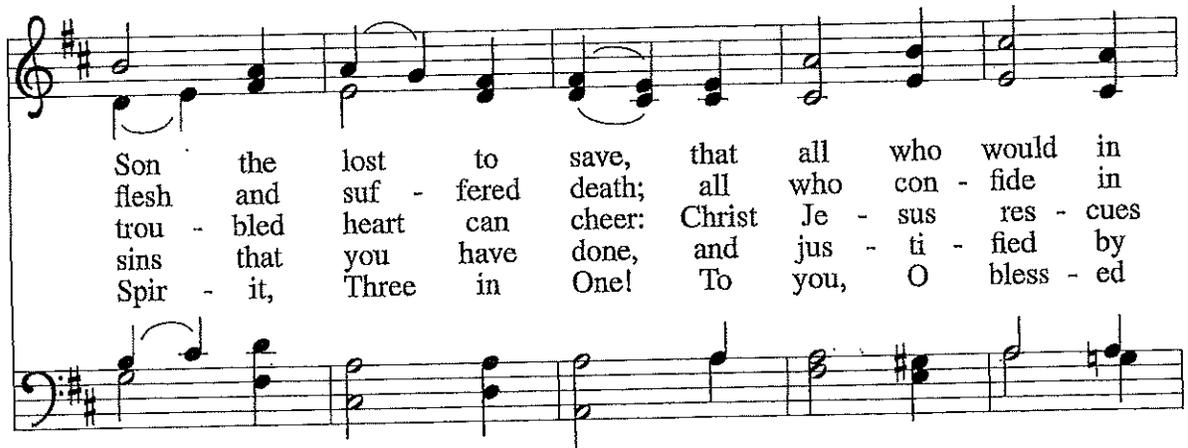
LENT

323

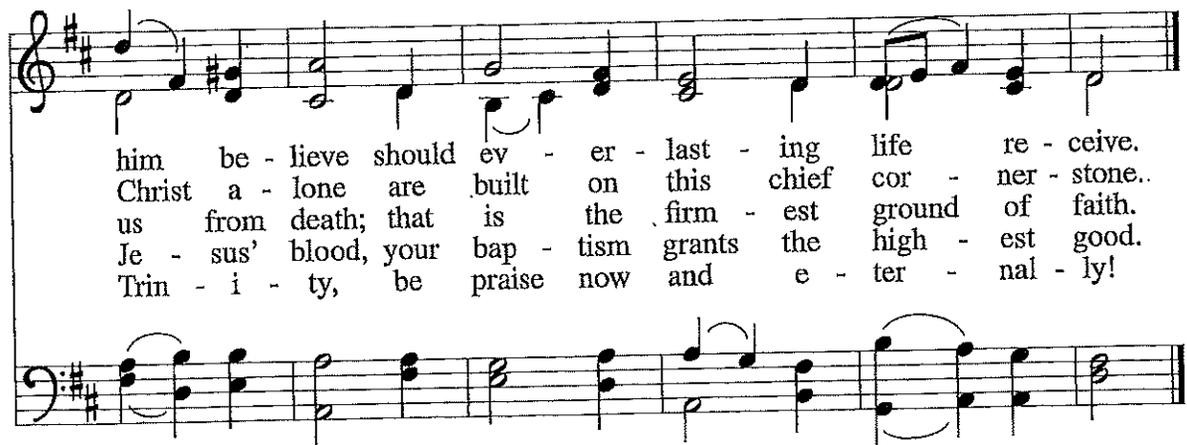
God Loved the World



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!

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

803

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

HAMBURG
LM

Alternate tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD