

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK

75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Phone: (860) 633-1188

Email: churchoffice@saintmarkglastonbury.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT March 8, 2026

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

WELCOME CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.

*Guests—please take a moment to fill out a guest card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.
We would like to acknowledge your time with us and extend a friendly hand of hospitality.*

*Please **turn all cell phones off** or on vibrate before the worship service begins.*

**Stand as you are able, in body or spirit.*

*The responses of the people are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

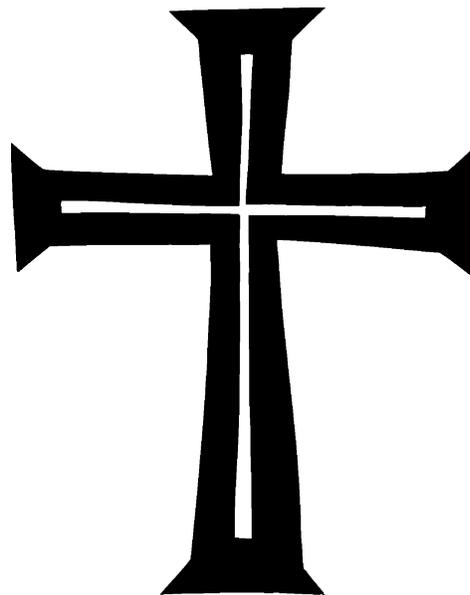
CHORAL PRELUDE

Open my eyes

Lancelot Andrews
1555-1626, alt.

K. Lee Scott

Open my eyes and I shall see; incline my heart and I shall desire;
order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of your commandments.



*We gather in the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

***CONFESSION**

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Sit or kneel.

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 disdain 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.

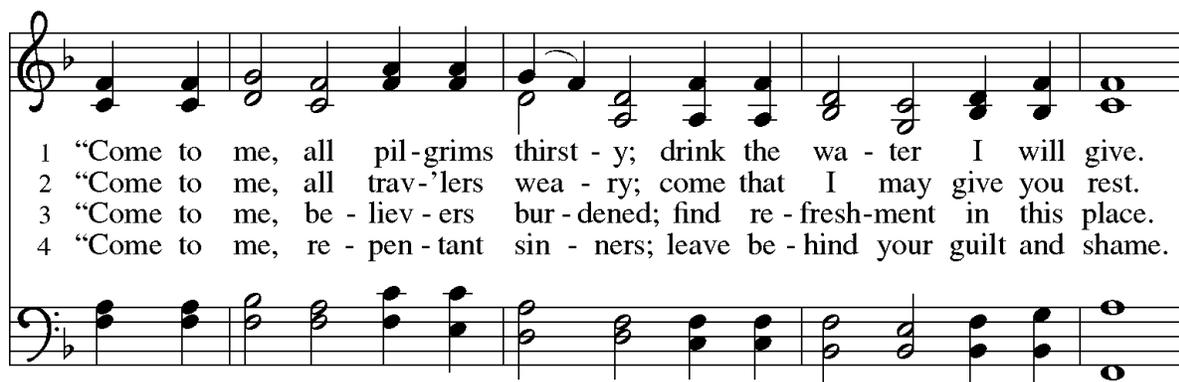
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

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.**



1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers 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.

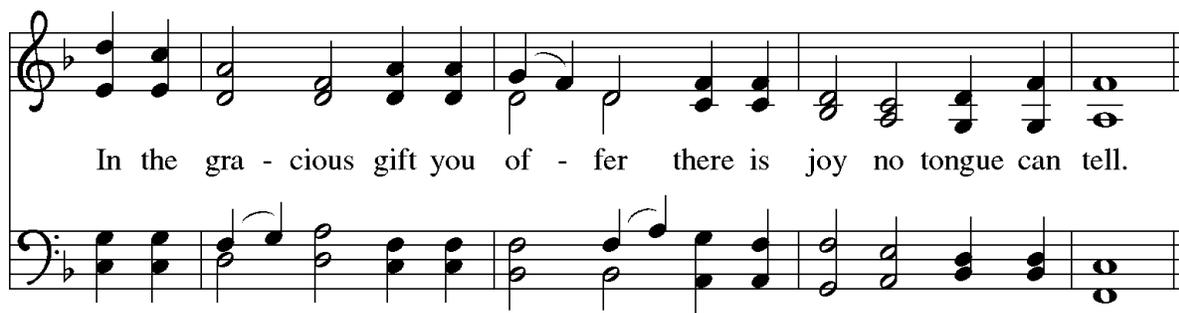


If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

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.

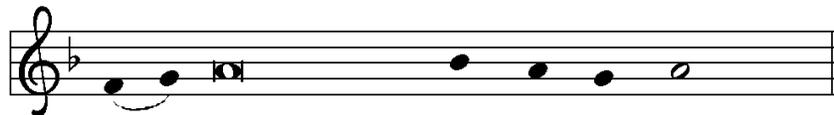
5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

*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.**

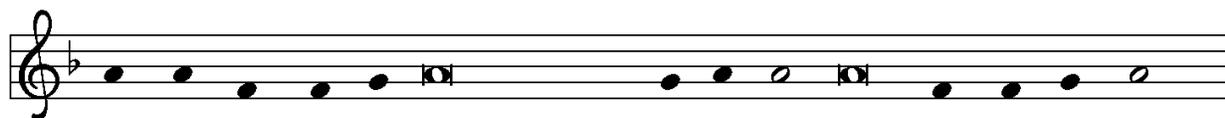
*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



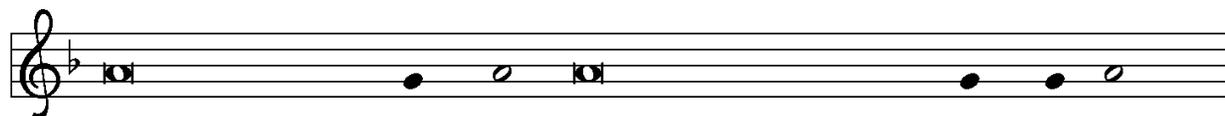
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

WORD

FIRST READING

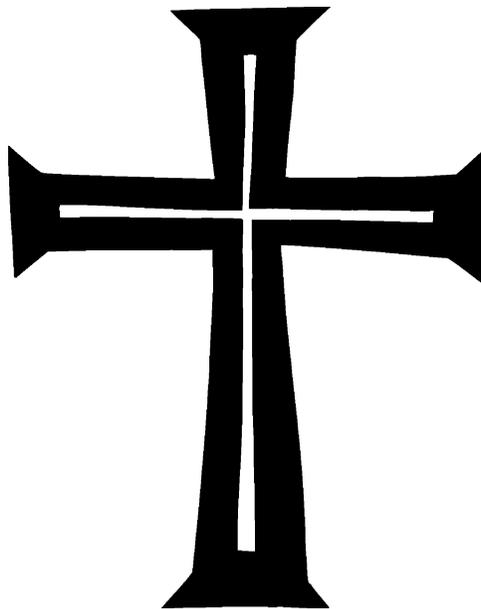
EXODUS 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

A reading from Exodus:

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.**



The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

Refrain



Tone



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

SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

A reading from Romans:

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.

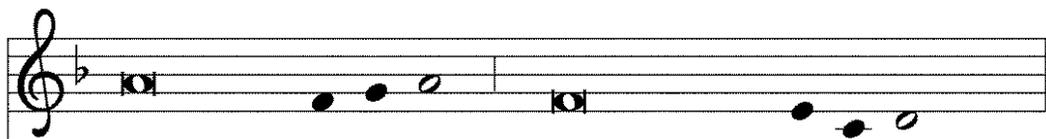
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All sing refrain. Choir will sing verse. All repeat refrain.



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



Lord, you are truly the Savior | of the world;
give me this living water that I may never | thirst again.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵ [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

For all the faithful women

ELW 419



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en who served in days of old,
 2 Re - call the out - cast wom - an with whom our Lord con-versed:
 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.
 Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter to quench her deep - est thirst.
 All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.
 Like hers, our hearts are yearn - ing; Christ of - fers us his word.
 With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.
 Then may our lips be burn - ing to wit - ness to our Lord.
 we sing glad al - le - lu - ias and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

Text © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope we confess what we believe:

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

The assisting minister prays the petition. The congregation responds to the petitions that end "Lord in your mercy with: "hear our prayer." and those that end "O, God we give you thanks" with: "Thanks be to God" The prayers conclude with the pastoral petition followed by a congregational "Amen."

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O, God we give you thanks. **Thanks be to God.**

Into your hands... Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*THE PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING ANTHEM *Open wide your gates of beauty*

Text: Benjamin Schmolck

Music: Eugene Englert (1931-2024)

(a close translation may be found at ELW 533)

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*PREFACE DIALOGUE

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

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

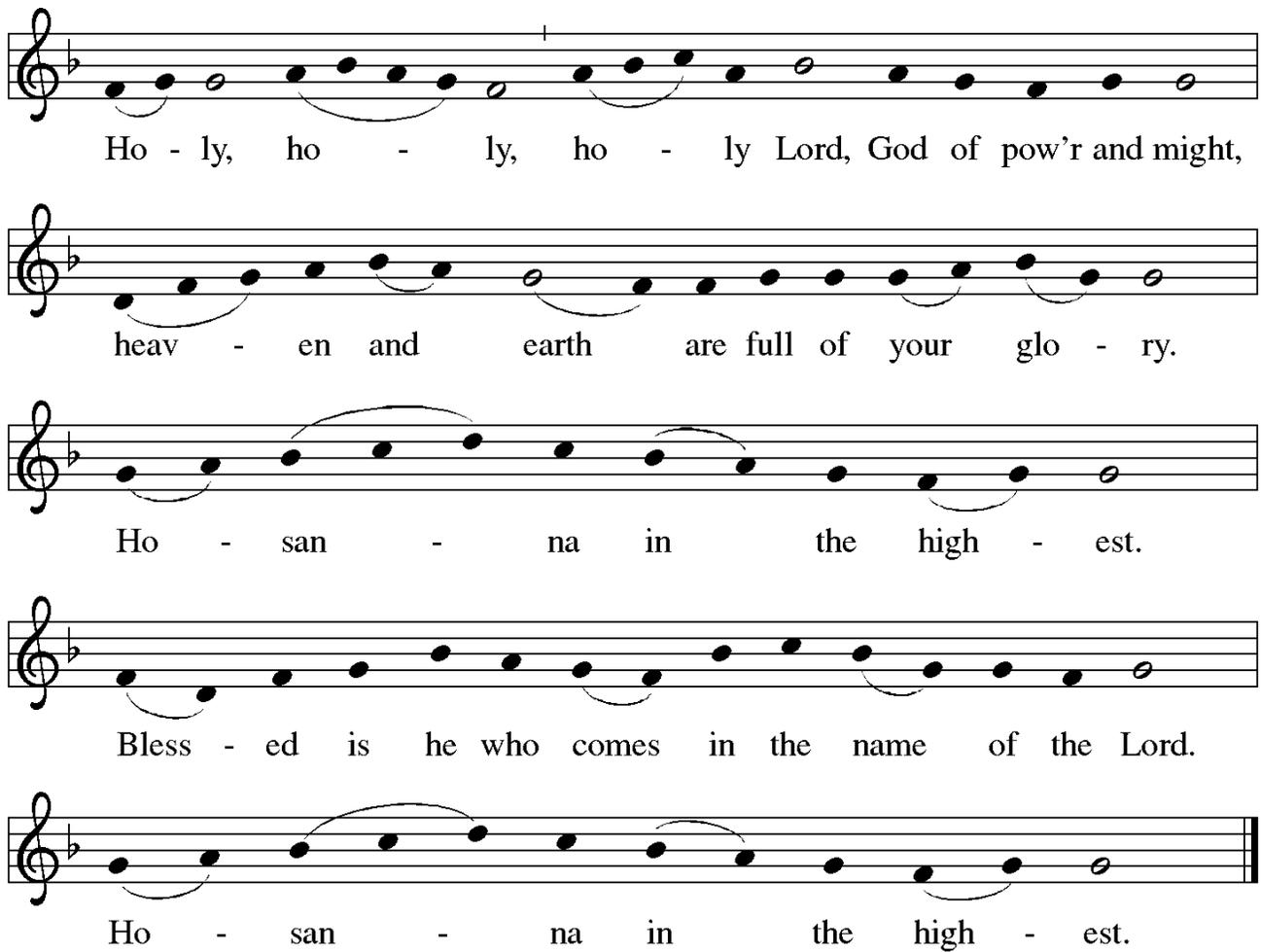
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

SANCTUS



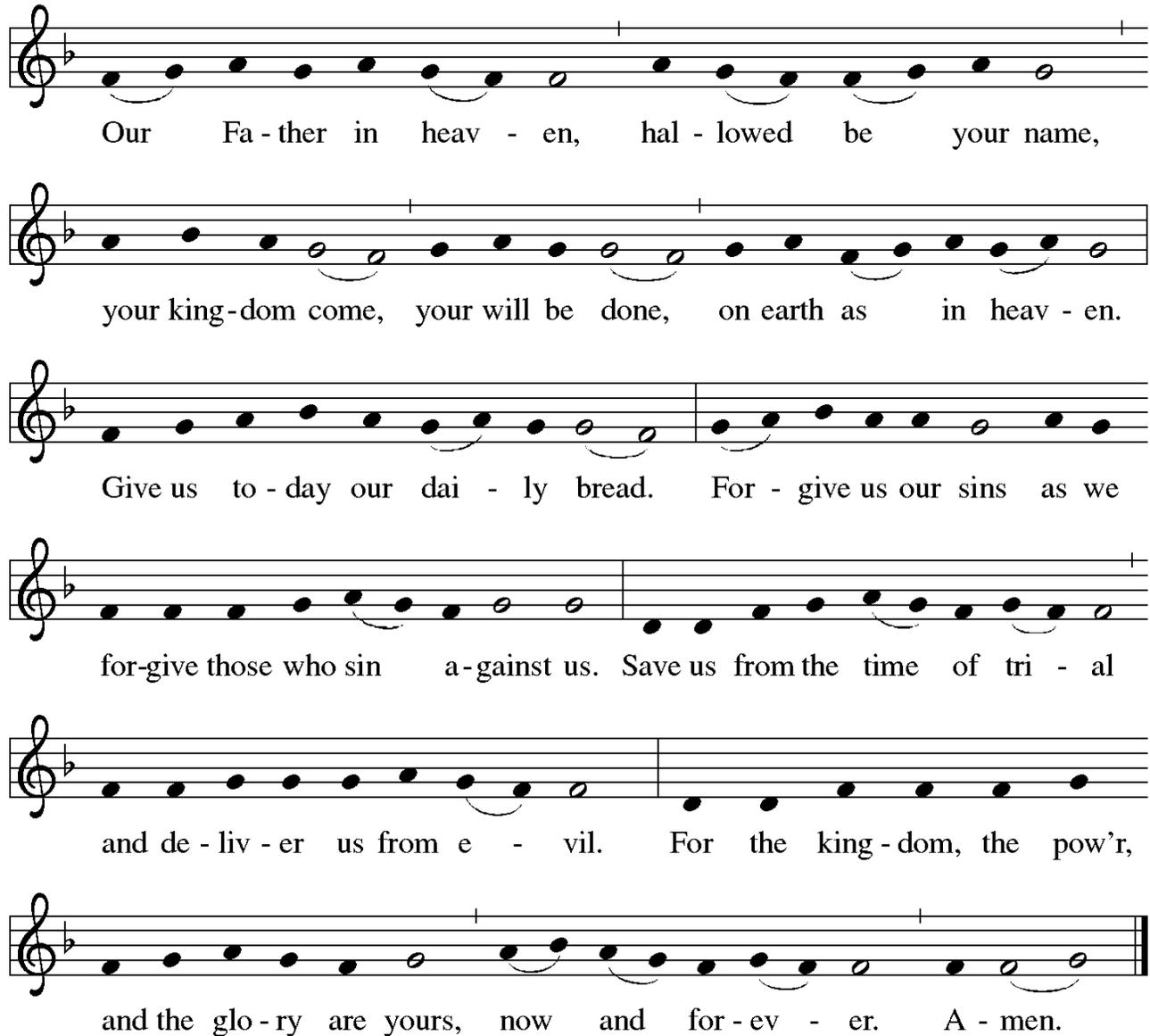
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



*THE LORD'S PRAYER

With boldness and confidence, we pray as Christ taught us:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*COMMUNION INVITATION

Come to the table.

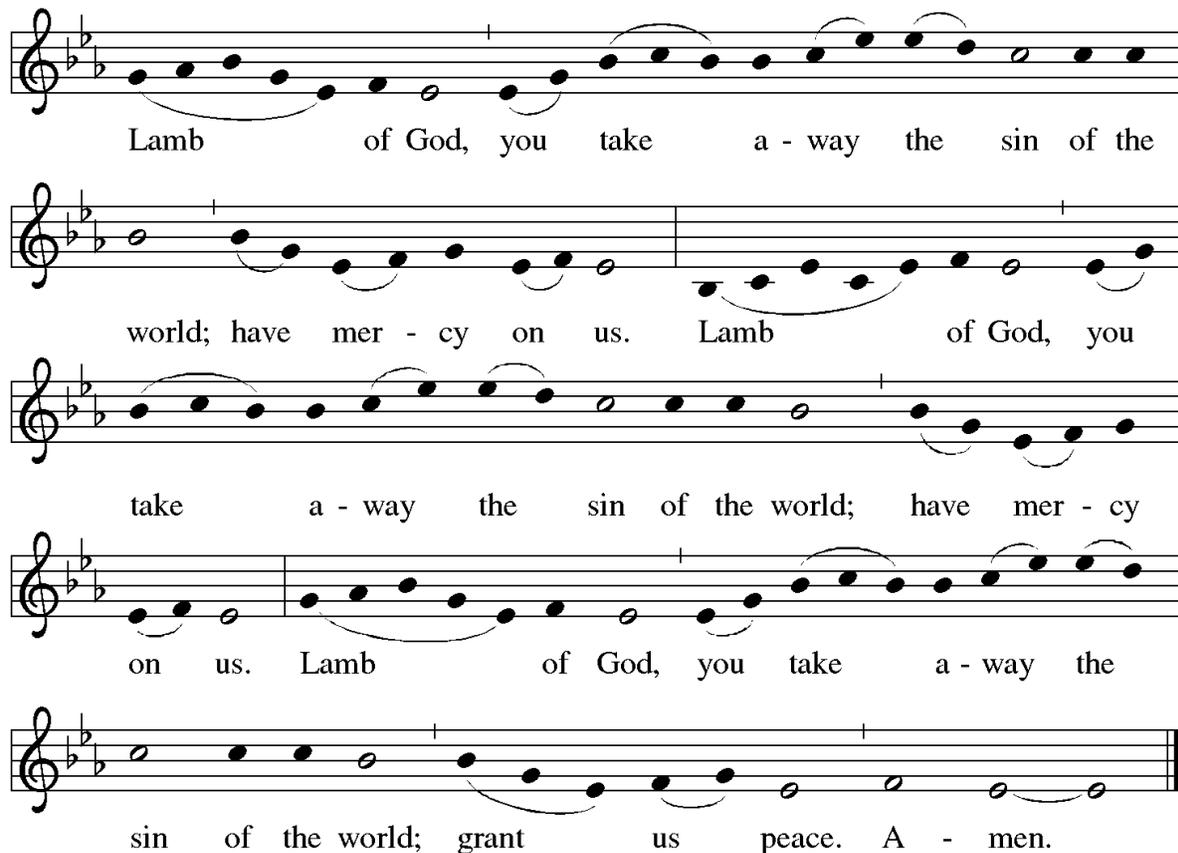
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*All are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. Inform the pastor if you need a **gluten-free host**. Grape juice is available in the center rings of the wine tray. Children or adults who do not or choose not to partake of the sacrament today may come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate you would like a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest in the form of an X*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lamb of God

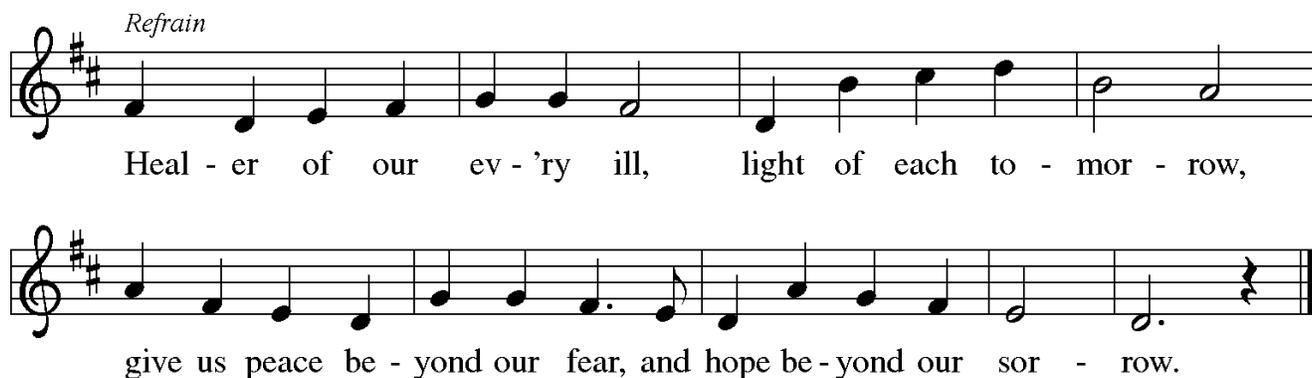


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW 612

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

Those not receiving communion are invited to pray the following while communion is being distributed:

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation. I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion. I am baptized into your death and resurrection. I seek you daily and worship and adore you. When I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul, as you always have, through Confession and Forgiveness, through the proclamation of your holy Word, and through the prayers of your people; that I may remain united to you by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace. Be for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray this, trusting that you are my life, my peace, and my everlasting joy. Amen.

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

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

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

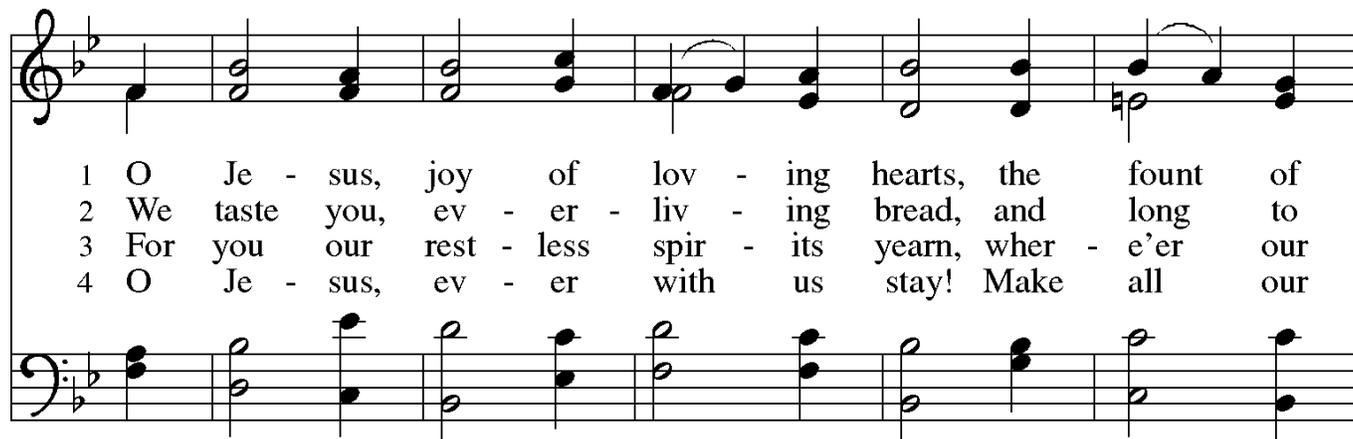
*BENEDICTION

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts

ELW 658



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.
Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to
Emma Ross, flutist
for the beautiful music.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please join us for Bible Study this evening at 6:00pm**
- **Lenten Weekday Prayer Offices:** Please join us for Matins via Zoom Tuesdays at 9:00am. Join us Thursdays in Lent for Soup and Bread at 6:15pm, followed by Matins (in-person & Zoom) at 7:00pm. Please sign up to bring soup or bread on the sign-up sheet on the narthex bulletin board. **We still need people to sign up for March 19 and March 26.** Thank you.
- **PLEASE consider donating to the "Snow Heart" Project to help offset the cost of this winter's snow removal.** Choose a doily heart from the window in the lounge. Write your envelope # or last name on the heart. Place your heart and donation in the envelope provided. Drop the envelope in the collection plate or place it in the financial secretary's drawer. *Thank you from the bottom of our HEARTS.* ♥♥
- **The deadline to order Easter flowers is Sunday, March 22.**
- **The deadline for the April/May Messenger newsletter is Friday, March 20.**
- **Please join us for a special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, April 12, following worship, to vote on changes to the church constitution.**

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, March 8	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Amigos & Amigas
Tuesday, March 10	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
Thursday, March 12	6:15pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Soup & Bread Lenten Vespers Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 15	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by Folk Group Friends



www.SaintMarkGlastonbury.org
<https://www.youtube.com/user/stmarkglastonbury>
<https://www.facebook.com/lutheranchurchofstmark>

*Parts of the Liturgy and music used by permission and
Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under
Augsburg Fortress License #SAS025154,
One License # A-721348, & CCLI License # 3161225
and #20851450. All rights reserved.*