

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF ST. MARK

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## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT February 22, 2026

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

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

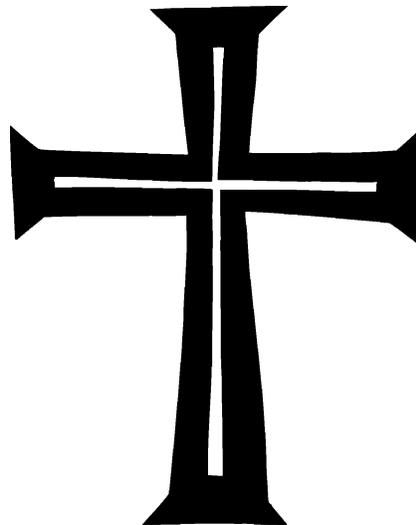
*Restless is the Heart*

Bernadette Farrell

**Restless is the heart until it comes to rest in you.**

**All the earth shall remember and return to our God.**

1. Lord, you have been our refuge through all time,  
from one generation to the next;  
before the mountains were born, or the earth brought forth,  
you are God, without beginning or end.
2. To your eyes a thousand years are like a day,  
no more than a watch in the night.  
You sweep us away like a dream,  
like the grass that springs green in the morning, but faded by night.
3. Make us know our life's shortness  
that we may gain true wisdom of heart.  
In the morning, fill us with your love.



\*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 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;

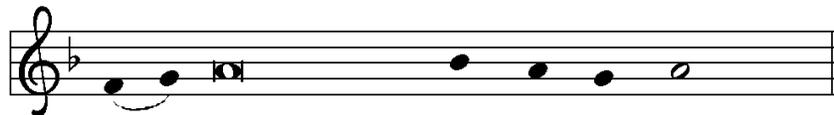
me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

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.

## \*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.**

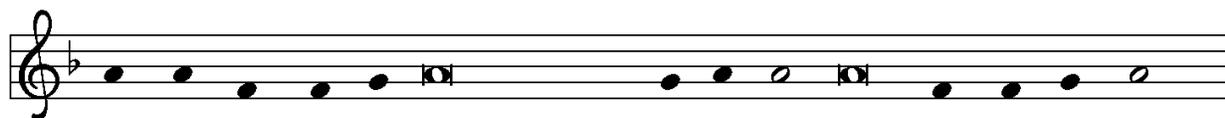
## \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



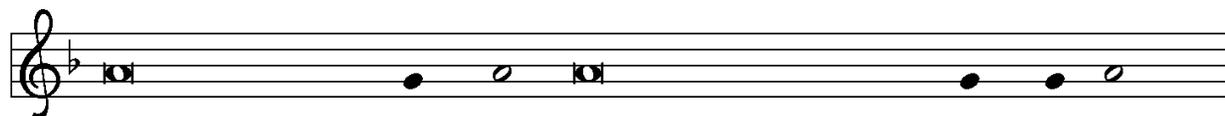
Lord, have mer - cy.



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

GENESIS 2:15-17, 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

A reading from Genesis:

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." <sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

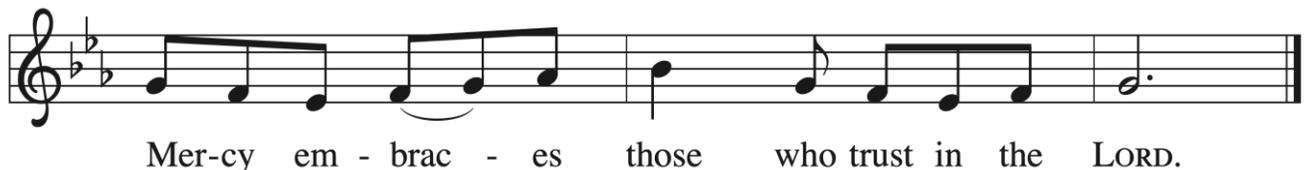
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY

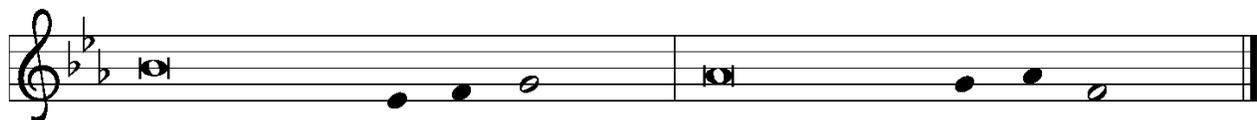
32

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

Refrain



Tone



<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,  
and whose sin is | put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,  
because of my groaning | all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt | of  
my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;  
I will guide you | with my eye. R**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

## SECOND READING

ROMANS 5:12-19

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

A reading from Romans:

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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.



One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

## \*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 5:12-19

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness.  
As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

## SERMON

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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## \*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

*I believe this is Jesus*  
African American spiritual

arr. Alice Parker  
(1925-2023)

## \*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.**

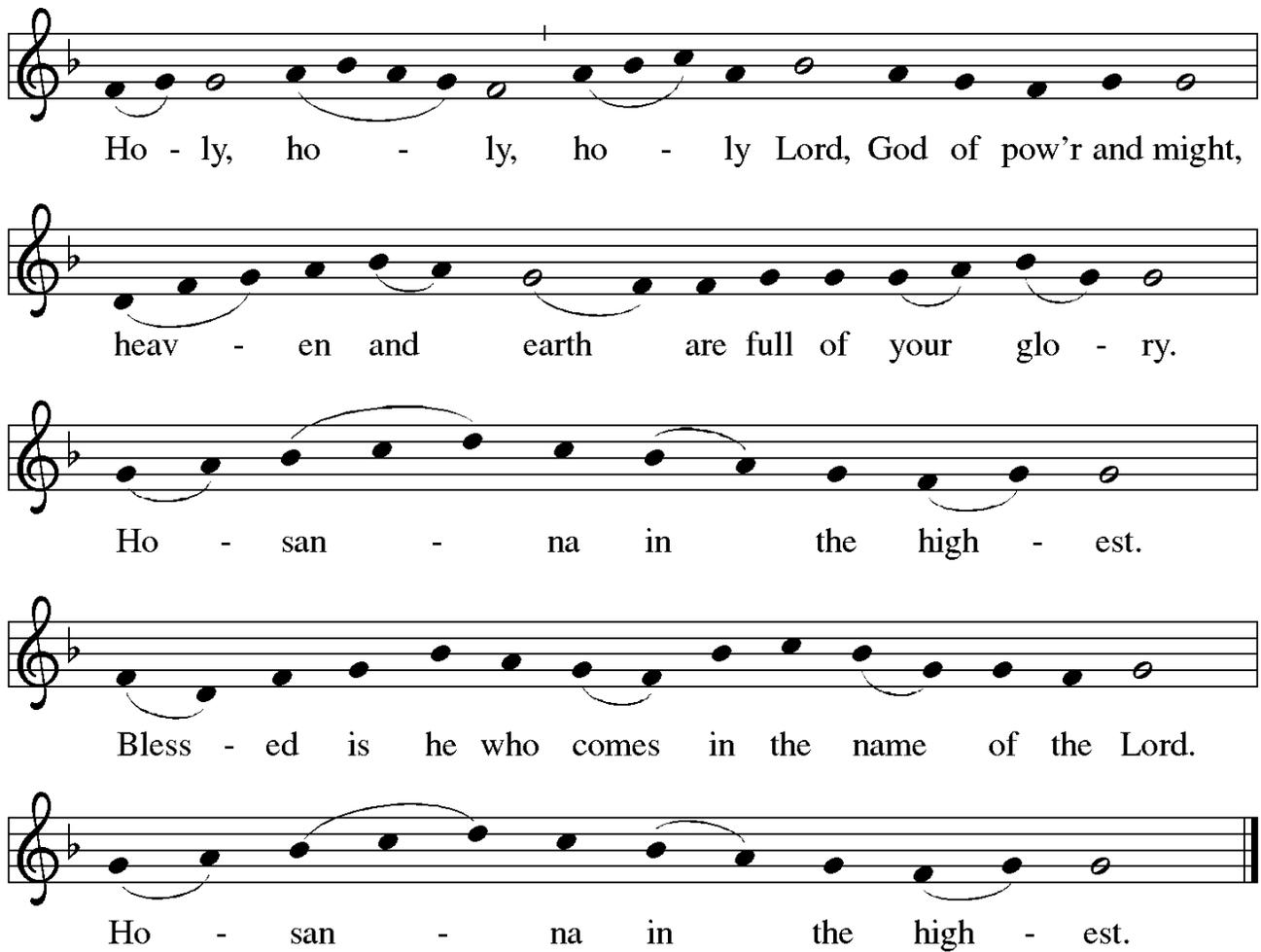
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed ... unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



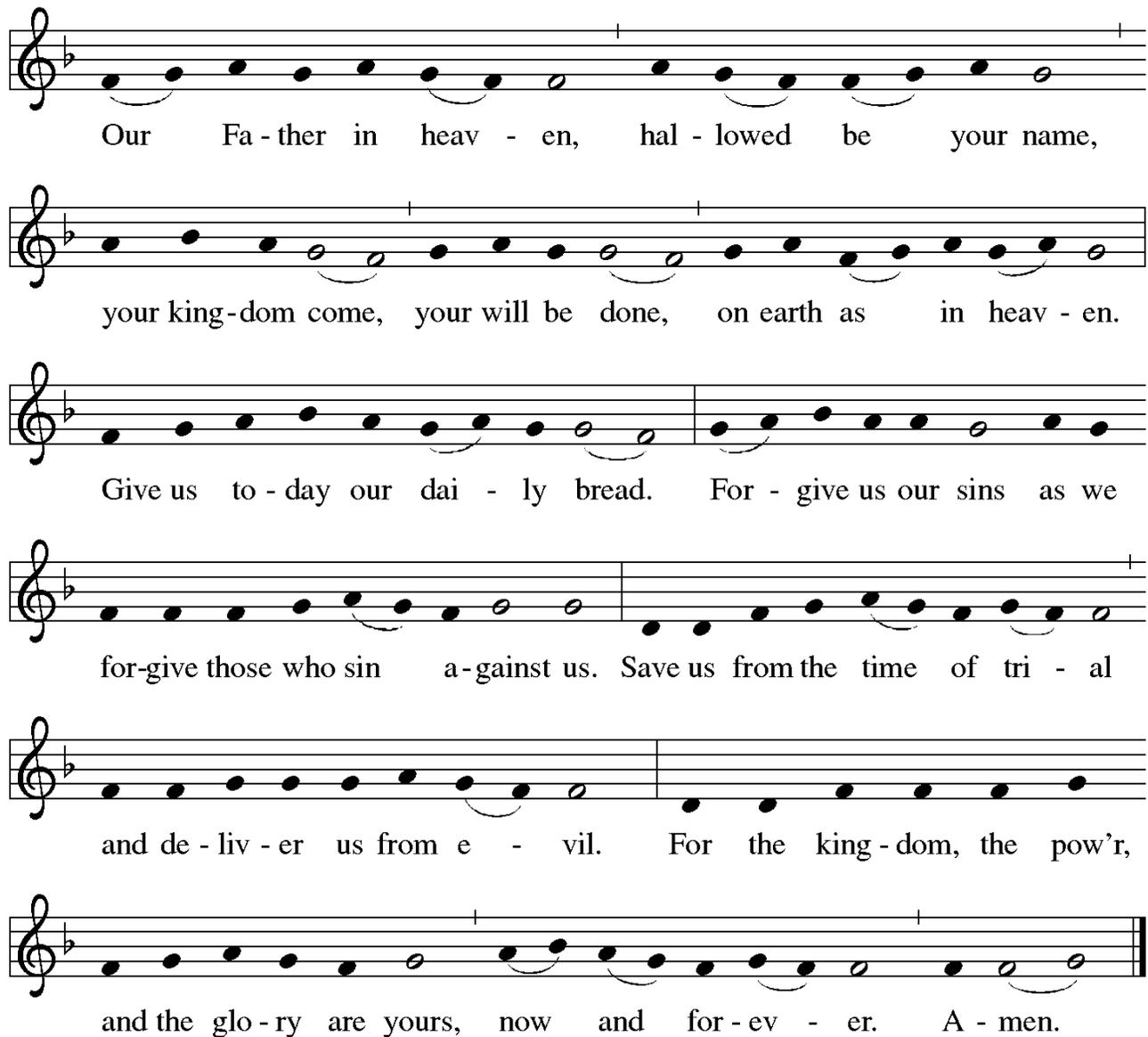
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*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.

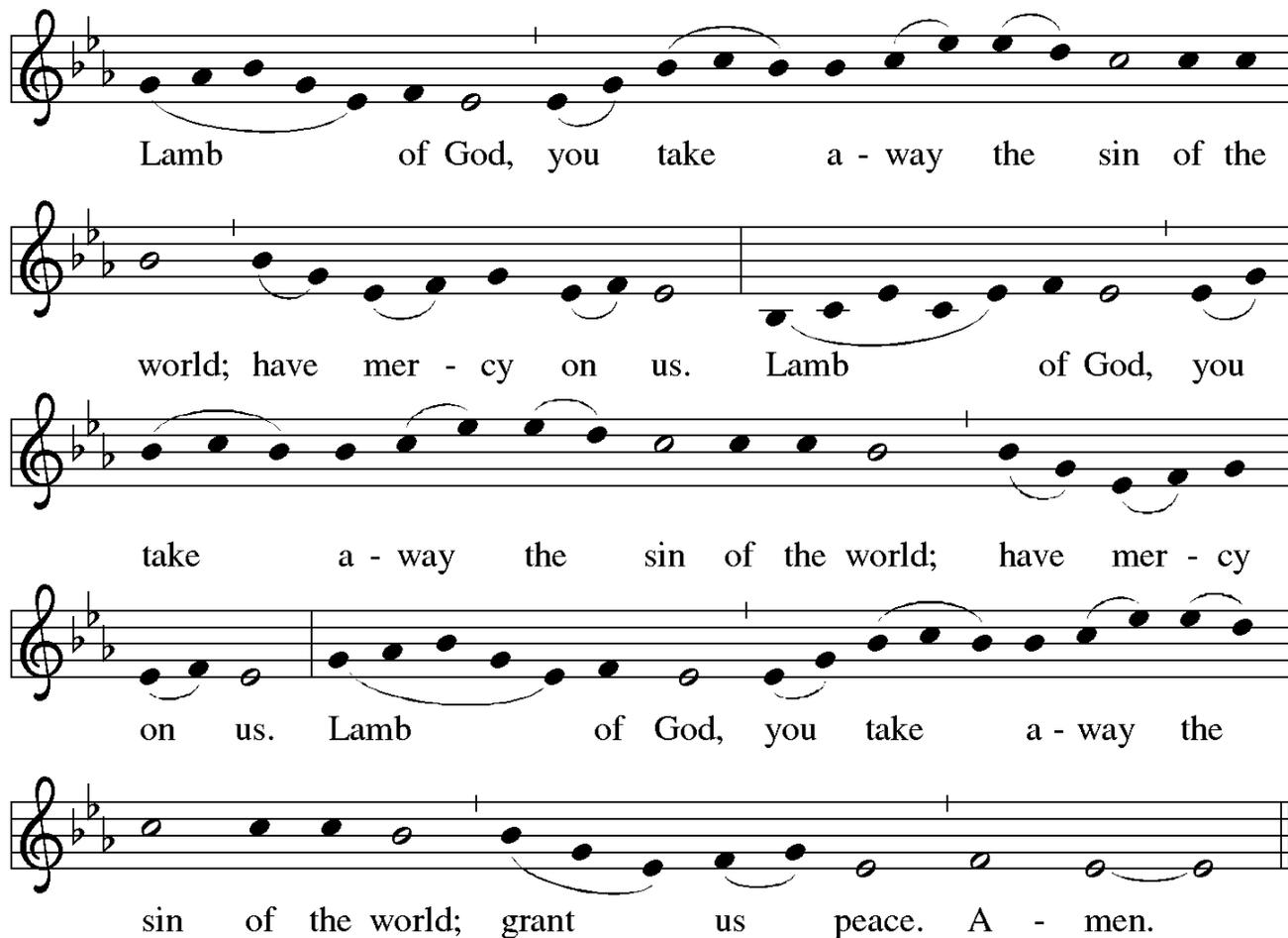
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## 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.

## *On Eagle's Wings*

*(verses sung by choir)*

ELW 787

*Refrain*  
All



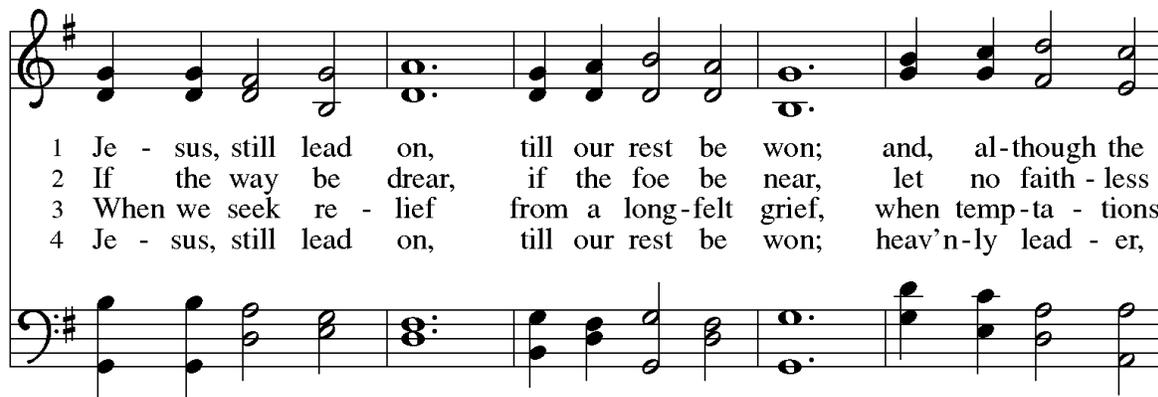
And he will raise you up on ea- gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



\*SENDING HYMN

*Jesus, still lead on*

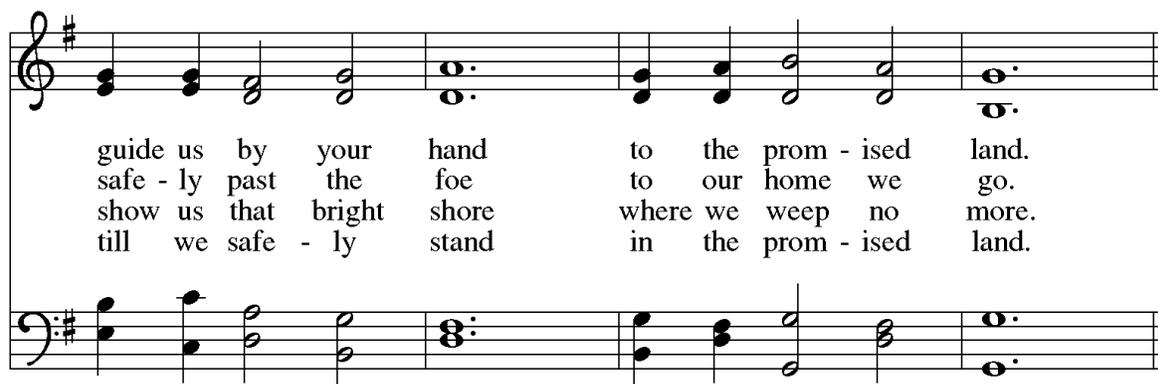
ELW 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

\*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## WELCOME BACK JOHN PROSEN!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Concert at St. Mark this evening at 5:00pm! Tenuto**, Hartford's own one-on-a-part a cappella vocal ensemble performs a full-length program at St. Mark. We invite everyone to come out and soak in an evening of close harmony, good ears, and beautiful singing. Not to be missed!
- **We are in need of items for the School Backpack Program!** Each month, we need 64 of each of the following: Individual Oatmeal, Granola or Cereal Bars, Individual Boxes of Cereal, Single Serving Soups, Individual Microwavable Mac & Cheese Cups, and Individual Fruit Cups. Please, no cans. It makes the backpacks too heavy for the children. Many thanks for your help and generosity!
- **Carol's Closet is in need of donated items.** Please see the list on the bulletin board and place donations in the coat room.
- **Lenten Weekday Prayer Offices:** Please join us for Matins via Zoom Tuesdays at 9:00am. **Starting February 26, please join us on 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 5 and March 12. Thank you.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

|                       |        |   |
|-----------------------|--------|---|
| Sunday, February 22   | 9:00am | Service of Word and Sacrament<br>followed by Coffee Hour<br>Sponsored by GF & Friends |
|                       | 5:00pm | Tenuto Concert  |
| Tuesday, February 24  | 9:00am | Matins via Zoom   |
| Thursday, February 26 | 6:15pm | Soup & Bread  |
|                       | 7:00pm | Lenten Vespers  |
|                       | 7:30pm | Choir Rehearsal   |
| Sunday, March 1       | 9:00am | Service of Word and Sacrament<br>followed by Coffee Hour<br>Sponsored by Deb's Team   |



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