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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Service of Word and Sacrament
March 30, 2025

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

Children of God Welcome to the House of the Lord

Guests we are pleased to welcome you to worship this morning. We invite you to sign our guest register and to fill out a visitor card located in the pew rack. Completed cards can be placed in the offering plate.

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

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

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

PRELUDE

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

*CONFESSION

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

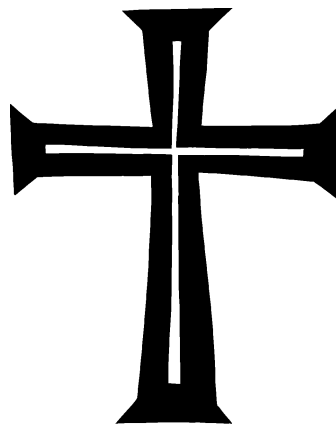
Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Please kneel or sit for the confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One, you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**



GATHERING

*GATHERING HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

EL 807

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

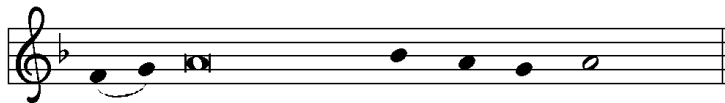
teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



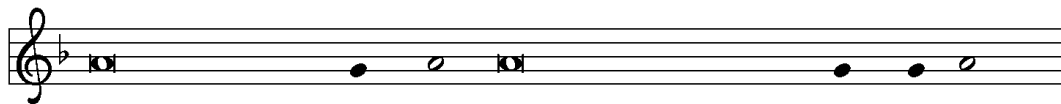
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



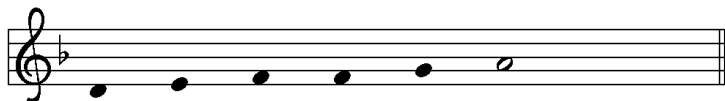
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



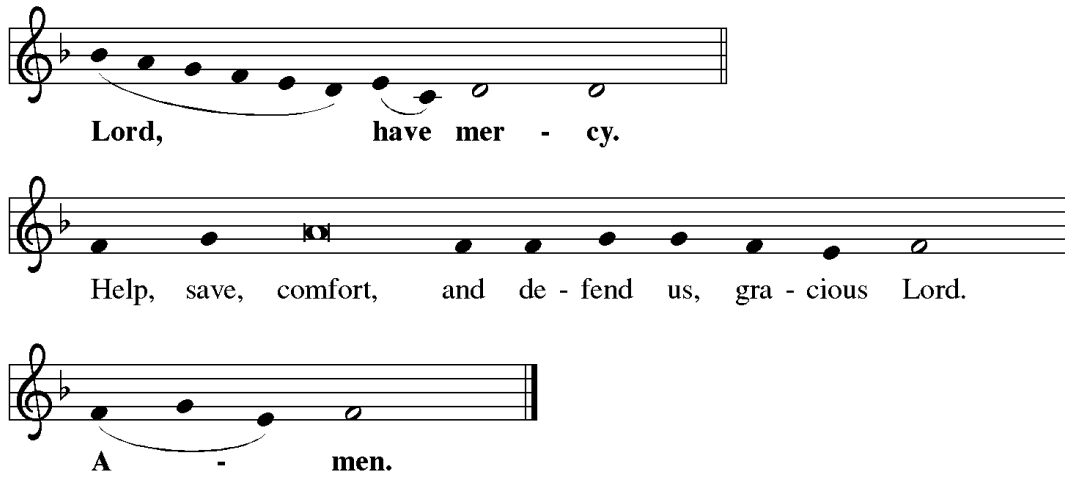
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

FIRST READING

JOSHUA 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

A reading from Joshua:

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

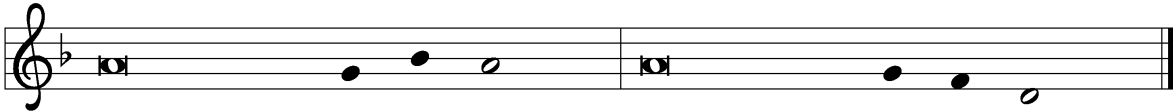
The refrain is sung by all at the beginning of the Psalm and then at each R.

REFRAIN



Be glad, you righ-teous, and re-joice in the LORD.

TONE



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions [|] are forgiven,
and whose sin is [|] put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im-[|] putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there [|] is no guile! R**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with-[|] ered away,
because of my groaning [|] all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me [|] day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the [|] heat of summer.**
- ⁵ 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.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in [|] time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they [|] shall not reach them. R**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve [|] me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts [|] of deliverance.
- ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that [|] you should go;
I will guide you [|] with my eye.**
- ⁹ 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."
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations [|] of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust [|] in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice [|] in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are [|] true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

A reading from 2 Corinthians:

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir will sing Proper Verse each week.



*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to his

senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!’¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate,²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.²⁵ ‘Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

SERMON



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

*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**

MEAL

*THE PEACE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Infinite Light

Traditional English Hymn

1. The greatness of God in his love has been shown,
The light of his life on the nations is thrown:
And that which the Jews and the Greeks did divine
Is come in the fullness of Jesus to shine.

*The Light of the World in the darkness has shone,
And grows in our sight as the ages flow on.*

2. He rolls the grim darkness and sorrow away,
And brings all our fears to the light of the day:
The idols are fallen of anger and blood,
And God is revealed as the loving and good.

Refrain

3. And, though we have sinned like the Prodigal Son,
His love to our succour and welcome will run.
His gospel of pardon, of love and accord,
Will master oppression and shatter the sword.

Refrain

***SUNG OFFERTORY**

Create in Me a Clean Heart



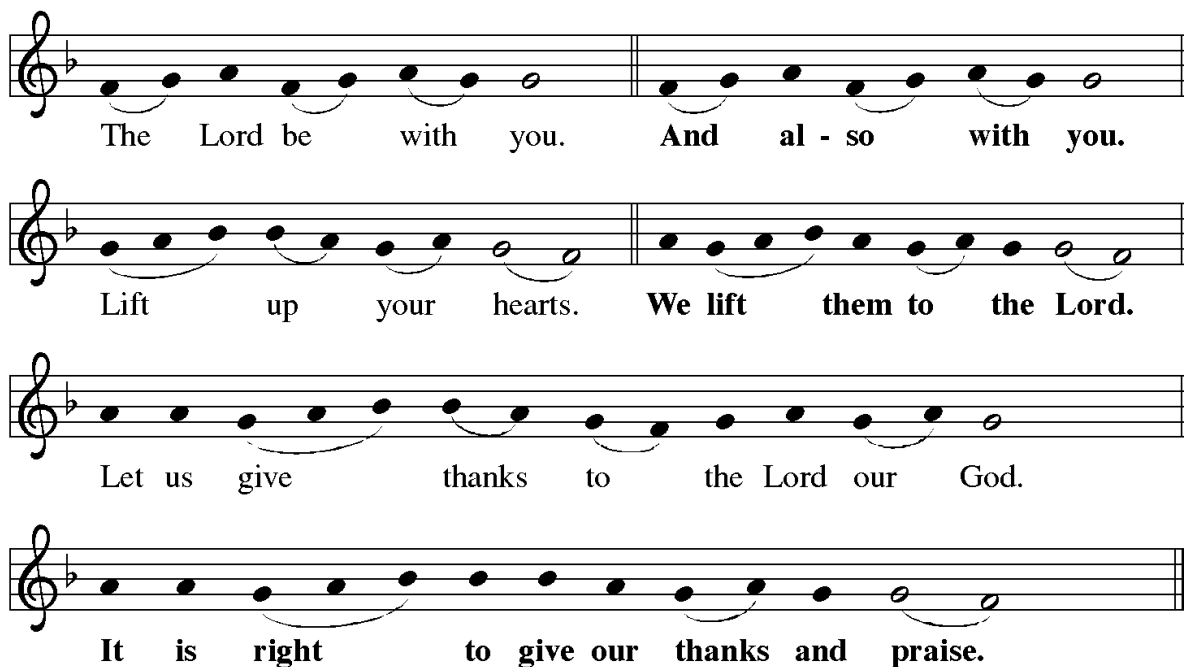
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

***PREFACE DIALOGUE**




The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

Blessed are you, . . . the mystery of faith.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

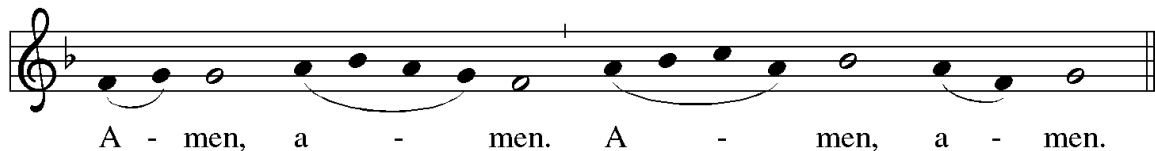
O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.



*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

*COMMUNION INVITATION

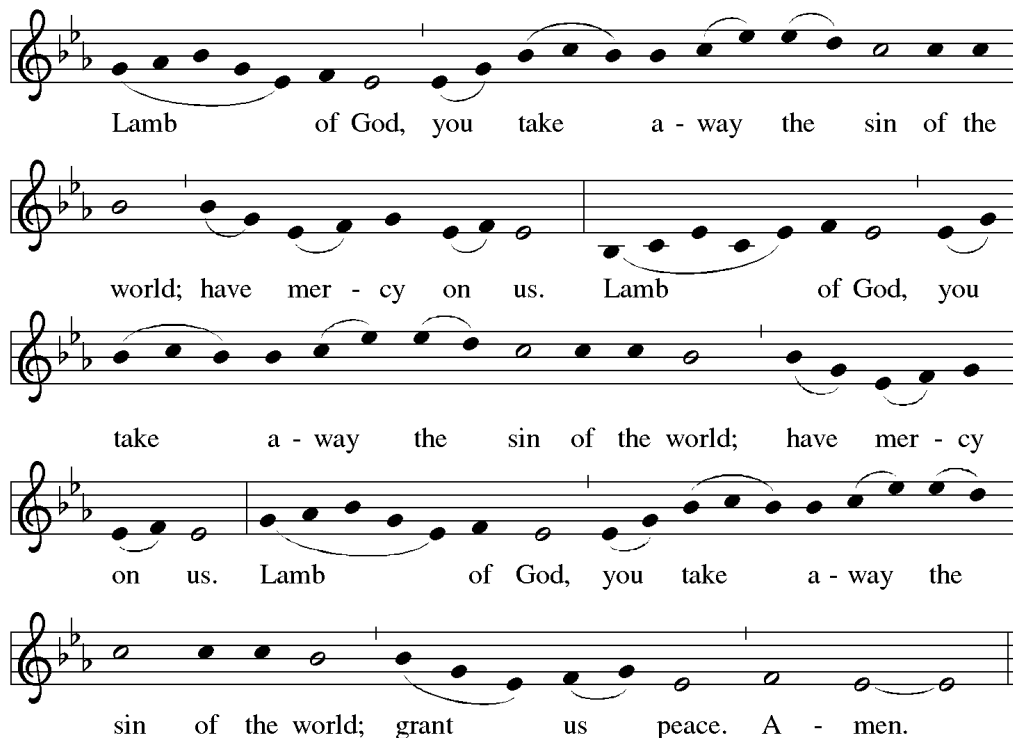
All who are hungry, come! **The feast of grace is spread.**

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



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm goin' - a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual; arr. Mark Hayes, b. 1953
 Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMUNION

For those on zoom or not receiving the sacrament.

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. Since 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 through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all 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

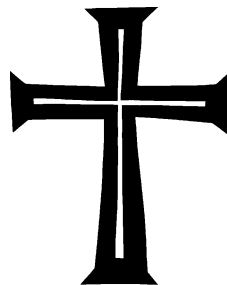
Generous Host, **you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

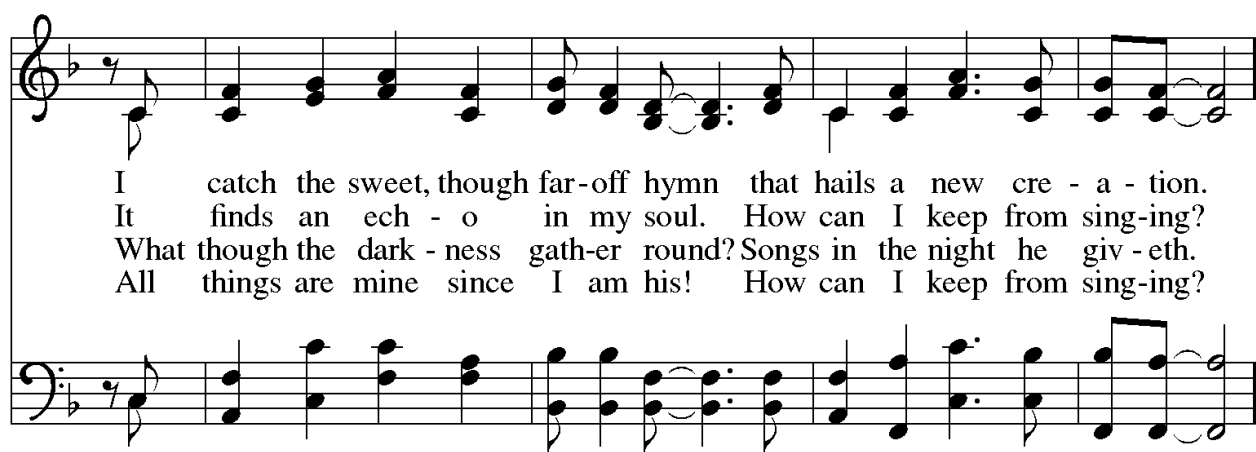
*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**



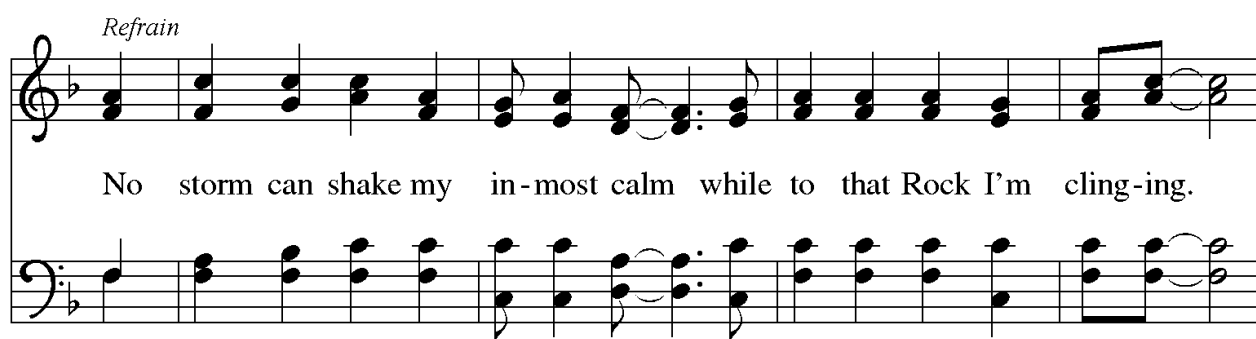


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please join us after worship today to assemble Easter Joy Totes.
- Please join us at St. Mark for Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesdays.: Soup Supper at 5:45pm. Evening Prayer at 6:30pm.
- Thrivent Members: Please remember to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31.
- The last day to order Easter Flowers is April 6.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR:

Sunday, March 30	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hour sponsored by GF & Friends & assembly of Easter Joy Totes
	6:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, April 1	9:00am	Matins via Zoom
	4:00pm	Property Committee meeting
Wednesday, April 2	5:45pm	Soup Supper
	6:30pm	Holden Evening Prayer
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, April 6	9:00am	Service of Word and Sacrament followed by Coffee Hours sponsored by Deb's Team
	6:00pm	Bible Study



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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