



4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025



Ascension Lutheran Church
1105 N. Washington Blvd.
Ogden, UT 84404
801.782.2810

Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, especially those who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community**, **communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshipping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

Children are always welcome in worship services;
however please know the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.

Welcome to Worship

Opening Song

Beneath the Tree of Life
by Marty Haugen

Refrain

Please stand in body or spirit.

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your

mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -

mem - ber how your love has set us free. *To Refrain*

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All And also with you.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

All 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.

P 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.

All Amen.

Kyrie

P = *presider* **A** = *all*



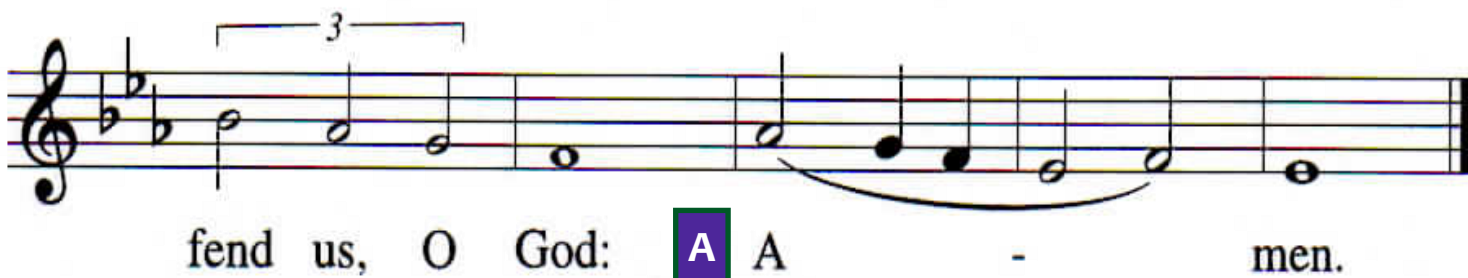
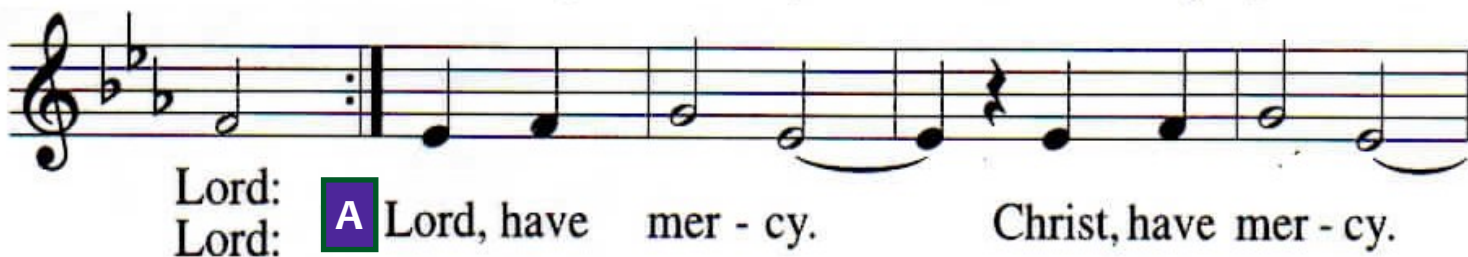
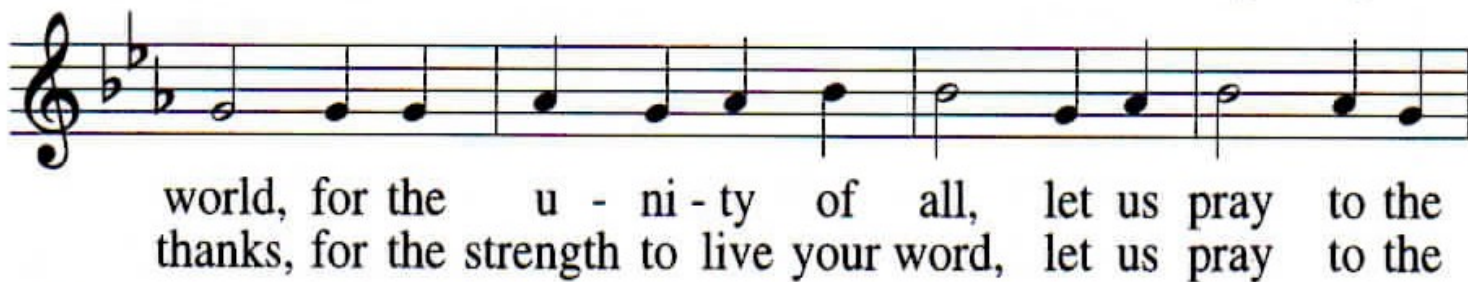
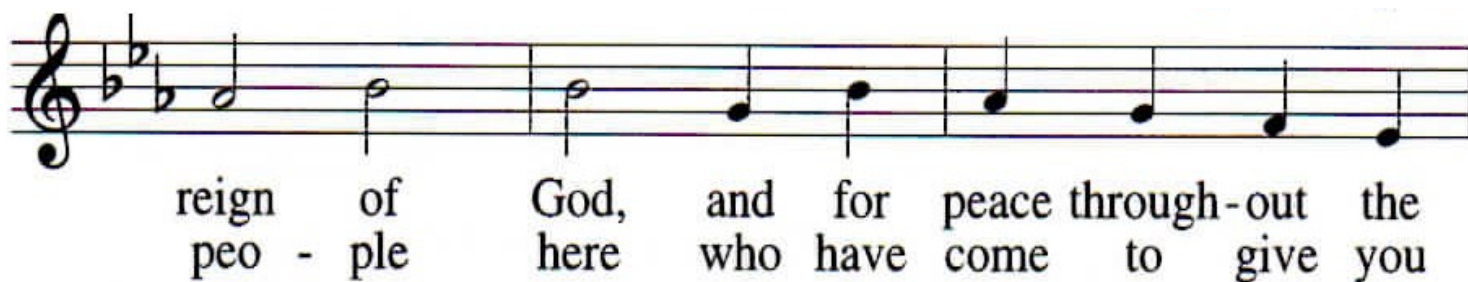
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:



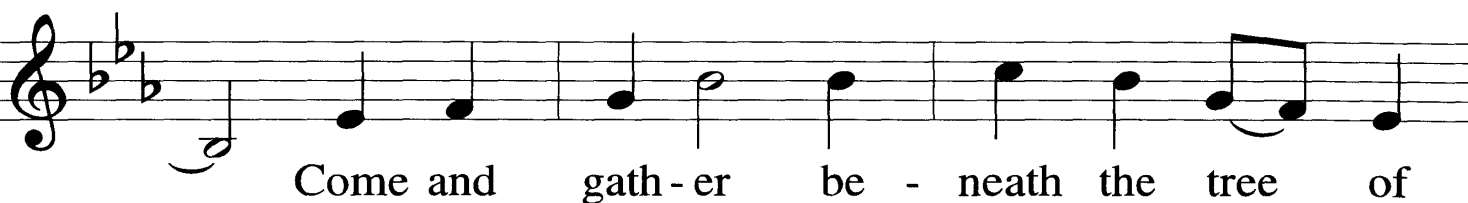
A Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

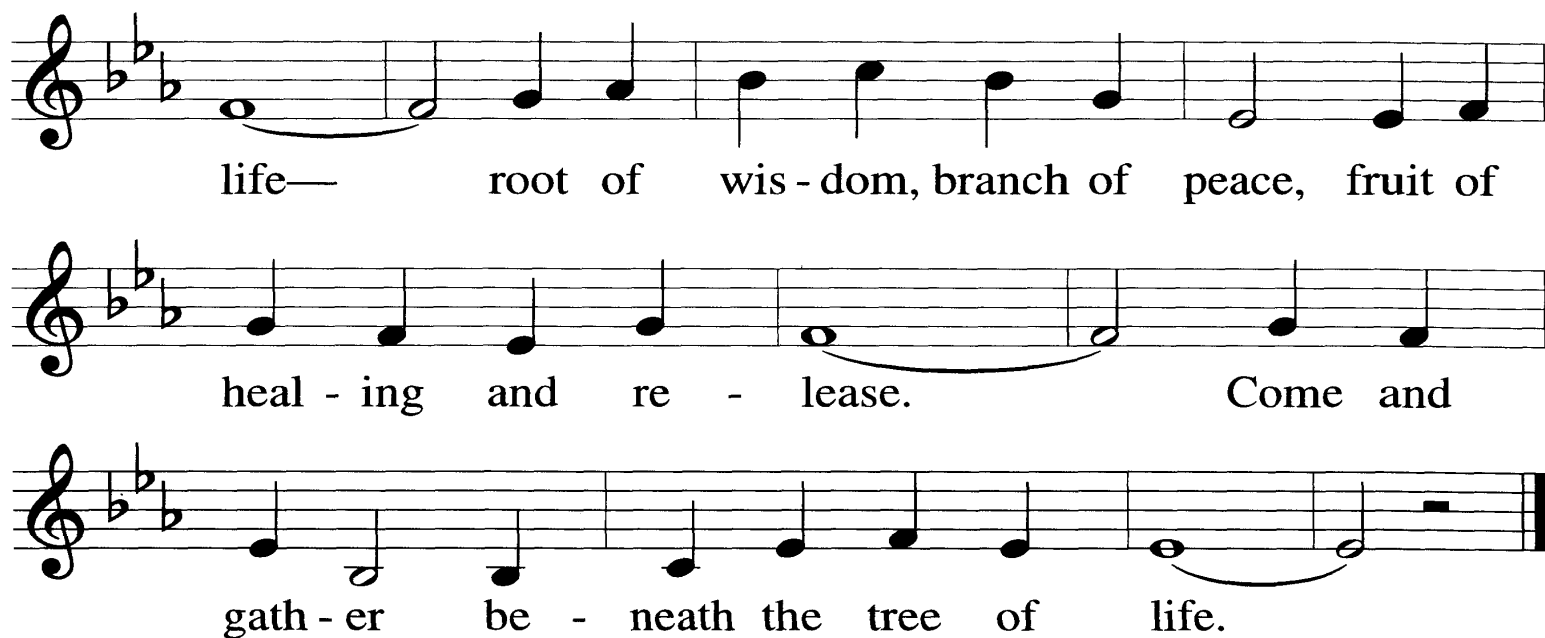


Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all. **P** 1. For the
P 2. For your



Refrain





Prayer for This Day

P God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy.

All 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.

You may be Seated

A Reading from Joshua , the 5th chapter

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.

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.

Joshua 5:9-12

WA The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God!

A Reading from 2 Corinthians , the 5th chapter

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.

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

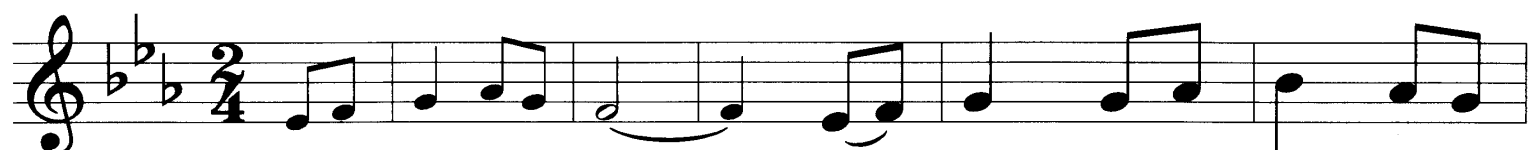
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

WA The Word of the Lord.

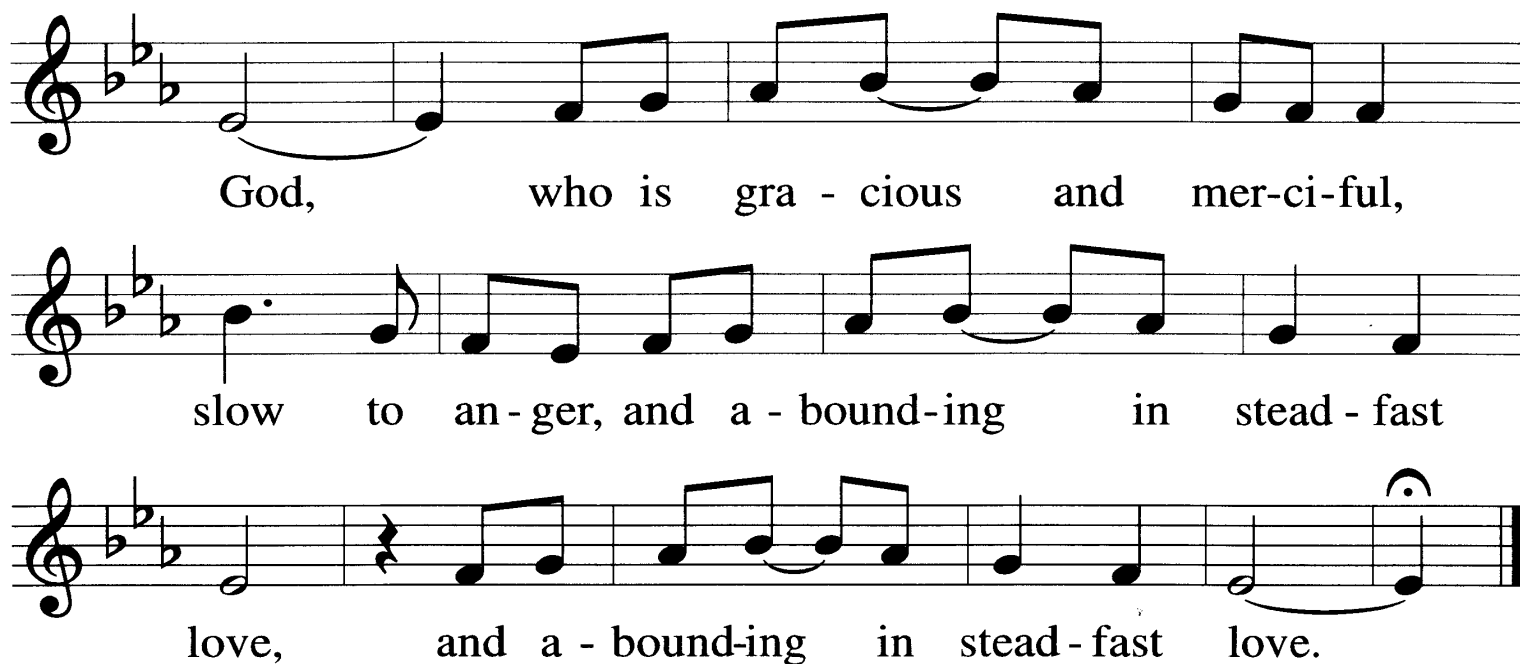
All Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



Re - turn to the Lord, your



Gospel Reading

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The 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. ¹³ A 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But 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.’ ”

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

[You may be Seated](#)

P The Gospel of our Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

*Each week our congregation is **led by children** to collect pocket change and small bills.*

Through this offering, we are reminded that together, the smallest of offerings can change lives and make "hope" tangible.

Hymn of the Day

Please stand in body or spirit.

You Are Mine

1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 4 "I am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I

I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.

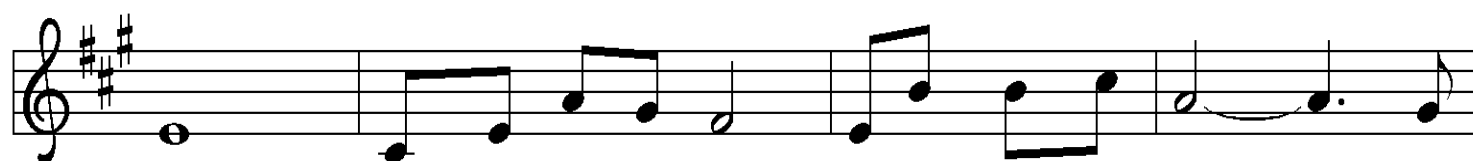
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *to verse 2*
Come and rest in me. *to refrain*
all will know my name. *to verse 4*
up, now walk and live! *to refrain*



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

Affirmation of Faith

P This Affirmation of faith was originally used by the Iona Community and was written during a time of great trouble in the world – the time of nuclear proliferation. We know that the world is still troubled. We live in a time of war and rumors of war. It is good for us to use new language – different words – to remember, to see with new eyes God's activity in this world – and to acknowledge God's invitation to us.

**We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
In the waiting and uncertainty
Where fear and courage join hands,
Conflict and caring link arms,
And the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond the safe place:
Into action, into vulnerability
And into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change
And put ourselves on the line;
To bear responsibility, take risks,
Live powerfully and face humiliation;
To stand with those on the edge;
To choose life
And be used by the Spirit
For God's new community of hope.
Amen.**

You may be Seated

Prayers of the People

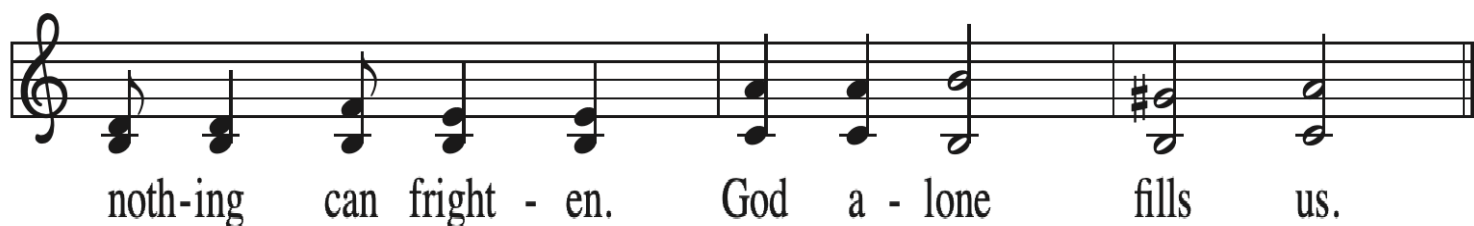
WA Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world,
and all those in need.



Noth - ing can trou - ble, noth - ing can fright - en.



Those who seek God shall nev - er go want - ing. Noth - ing can trou - ble,



(each prayer petition ends with)

L: God, in your mercy, **All:** receive our prayer.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Please stand in body or spirit.

In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the Peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that Peace through sign language.

P Jesus Christ become Peace with you.

All And also with you.

You may be Seated

Offering

While we still will not physically pass the offering plates we will continue to have the plates available at the entrance to receive your offerings and will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.

We will sing our offertory in canon (in a round).



1. Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.
 2. Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.
 3. Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.
 Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.
 Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.

Offertory Prayer

P Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

All As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving *and* Words of Institution

P The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P And with our hearts and voices raised we remember...

♪ Remember Me ♪

Verse 1

On the night You were betrayed You took the bread.
After giving thanks You broke it and said,
“This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.
This is My body broken for you, and as you eat it remember Me.”

Verse 2

On the night You were betrayed You held the cup.
After giving thanks You lifted it up
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.
“This is My blood poured out for you, and as you drink it remember Me.

Verse 3

So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave and the blood You shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
 You gave Your body You shed Your blood.
And we remember Your wondrous love
 You gave Your body You shed Your blood.

The Lord's Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

P Let us together approach the throne of grace
as we pray as Jesus taught us:

***All* 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, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Invitation

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

Communion Songs



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the



world: have mer - cy on us.

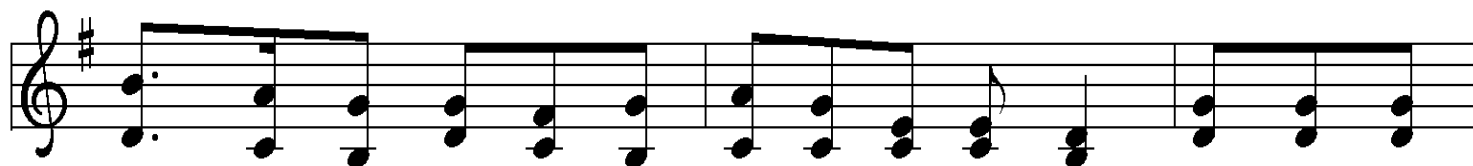


Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the



world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

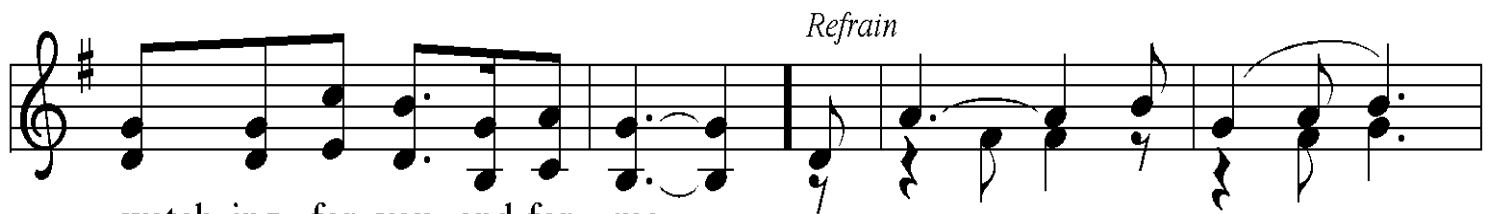
Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



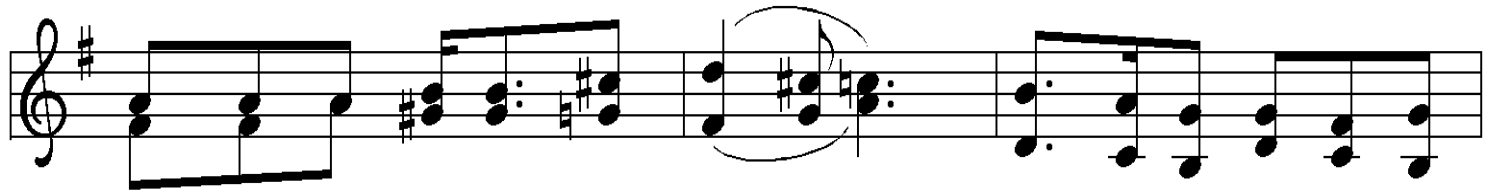
1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch-ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!



You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest-ly, ten - der - ly,



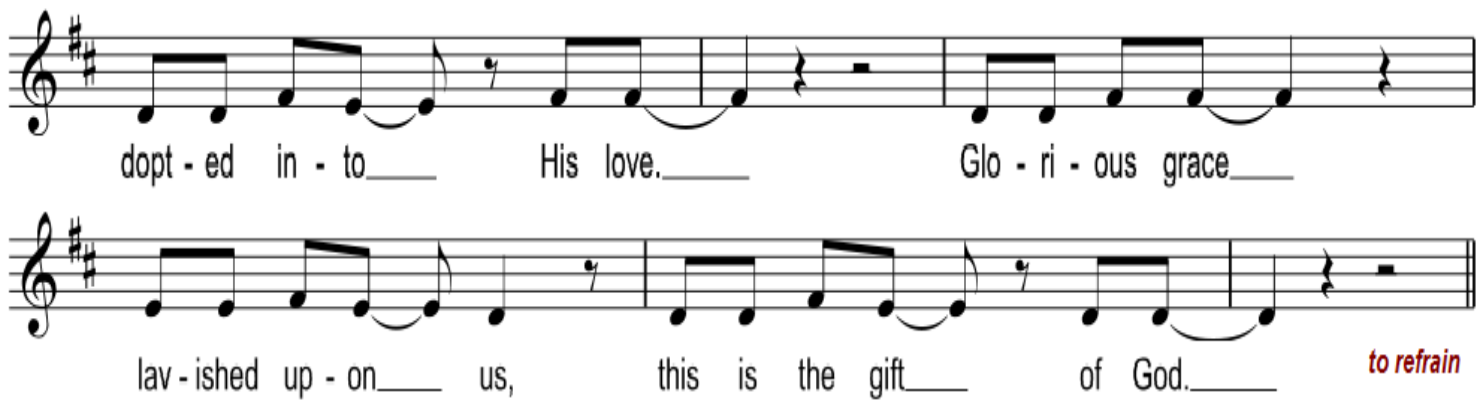
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

This Is The Gift Of God

Words and Music by
Jon Abel and Carl Cartee

1 Be - cause of His love, rich in mer - cy, He
made us a - live in Him. Saved us from death,
res - cued the sin - ners, this is the gift of God.
refrain Ho - ly is the Lamb of God. Ho - ly is the One who loved.
Not by works, but by His blood. This is the gift of God. *Fine* 2 Be -
fore the cre - a - tion we were cho - sen, a -



Post Communion Blessing *and* Prayer

Please stand in body or spirit.

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

All Amen

You may be Seated

P Let us pray,
Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

All 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.

Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements

Benediction

Please stand in body or spirit.

P God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

All Amen

Sending

Freely Freely

Words and Music by
Carol Owens

1 God for - gave my sin in Je - sus'
2 All _____ pow'r is giv'n in Je - sus'

name, I've been born a - gain in
name, In _____ earth and heav'n in

Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I
Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I

come to you To share His
come to you to share His

love pow'r as He told me to: He said,
as as He told me to: He said,

"Free - ly free - ly, you have re -

ceived. Free - ly, free - ly give; _____

Go in My name and, be - cause you be -

lieve, Oth - ers will know that I live." _____

Dismissal

WA Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

All Thanks be to God.

Front Cover:

Viral video—Two toddlers
YouTube

Readings for next Sunday,
April 6th
Lent 5

First Reading:

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm:

Psalm 126

Second Reading:

Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel:

John 12:1-8