

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 10, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Healing Service



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

**Gospel in Action: Caring for all God's children, we shall serve
God through worship, learning, and sharing.**

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
32747 Lake Road
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012
440-933-6263

celc.mainoffice@gmail.com www.christlutheranavonlake.org

Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick
Sanctuary and Bell Choirs: Johanna Markko



‡ **Instructions for Healing prayer and anointing of Oil:** After you receive communion you may continue forward for prayer and anointing with Pastor Laura. You may need to wait if a line begins to form. If you would rather wait in your seat, Pastor Laura can also come to you. Please let an usher or someone else around you know.

‡ **What are Healing Prayers?** If you choose to come forward, Pastor Laura will ask you if there is anything specific she can pray for, or if you want just a general healing prayer. She will pray and lay her hands on your head or shoulders and mark the sign of the cross on your forehead. Please let her know if you would rather not be touched and she will proceed accordingly. Pastor Laura wants to make this as inviting and comforting as possible in order that all could know their prayers are important to be lifted to God.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The congregation is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

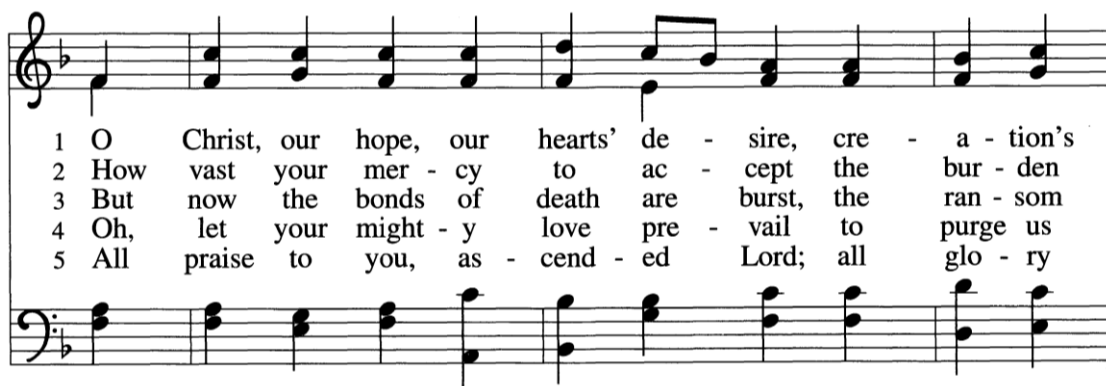
P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

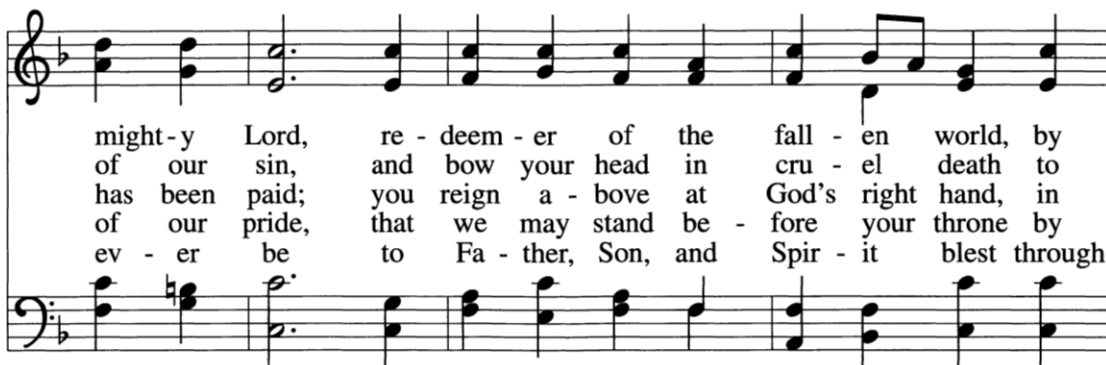
GATHERING HYMN

604

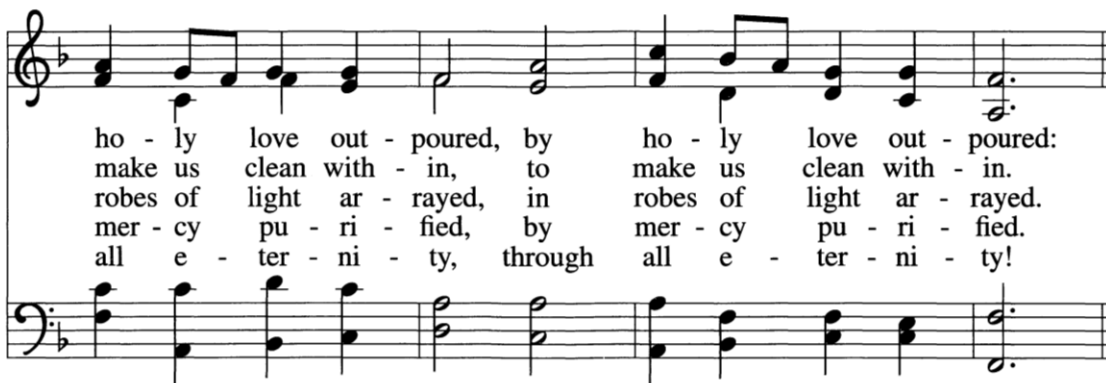
O Christ, Our Hope



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death, to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN
86866

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



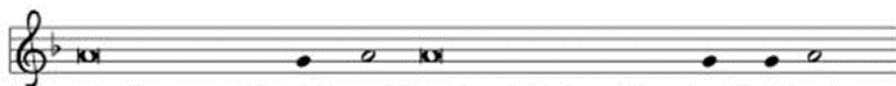
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The congregation is invited to sit.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Children dismissed for Sunday School.

FIRST LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

L: The first lesson is from Numbers, the 21st chapter.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: The word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

TONE



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

REFRAIN



You de - li-ver your peo - ple from their dis-tress.

Psalm 107:19
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- ²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
- ³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**
- ¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- ¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress. R**
- ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.
- ²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**
- ²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy. **R**

SECOND LESSON Ephesians 2:1-10

L: The second lesson is from Ephesians, the 2nd chapter.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of

the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: The word of the Lord!

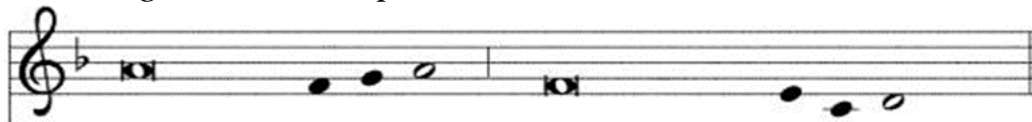
C: Thanks be to God!

The congregation is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Only the cantor sings the second part below.



“God so loved the world that he gave his on- | ly son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have e- | ternal life”.

GOSPEL John 3:14-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be

exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

The congregation is invited to sit.

SERMON

Pastor Laura Kuntz

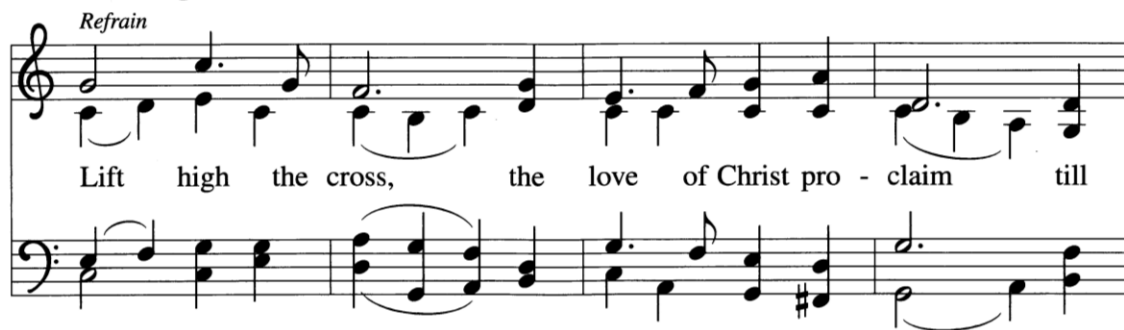
The congregation is invited to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

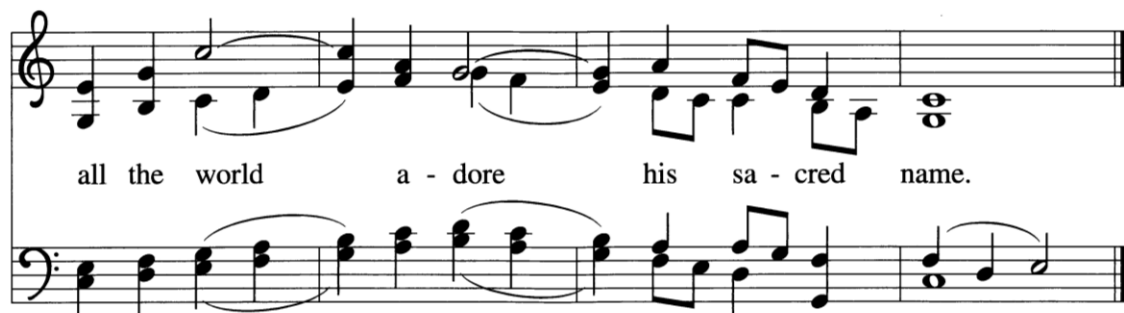
Lift High the Cross

660

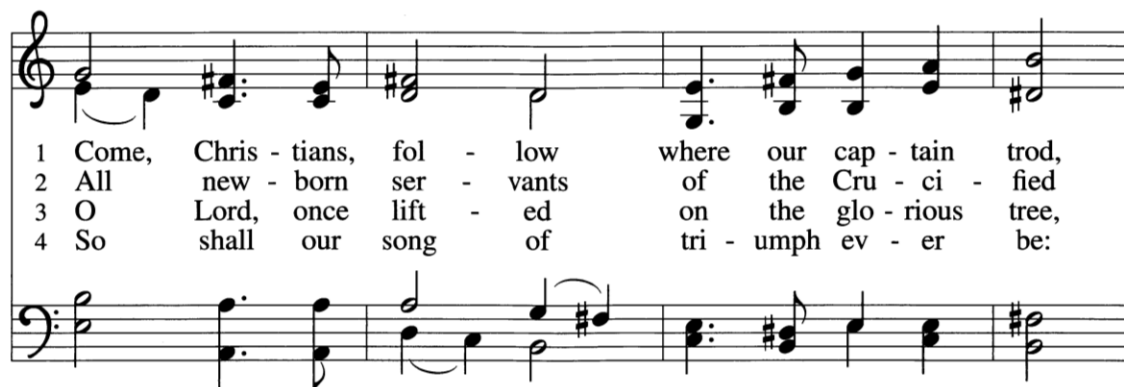
Refrain



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!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
 Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER
 10 10 10 10

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

A: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this community of faith and for its Call Committee. For your wisdom and love. Give us holy indifference that we may be indifferent to our own will. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to be unwilling to do anything but your will. Give us patience and guidance as we seek to know what you would like us to do. Bless all that we do, so that we can do what you bless. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to sit.

OFFERING

“Turn My Heart O God”

Choir

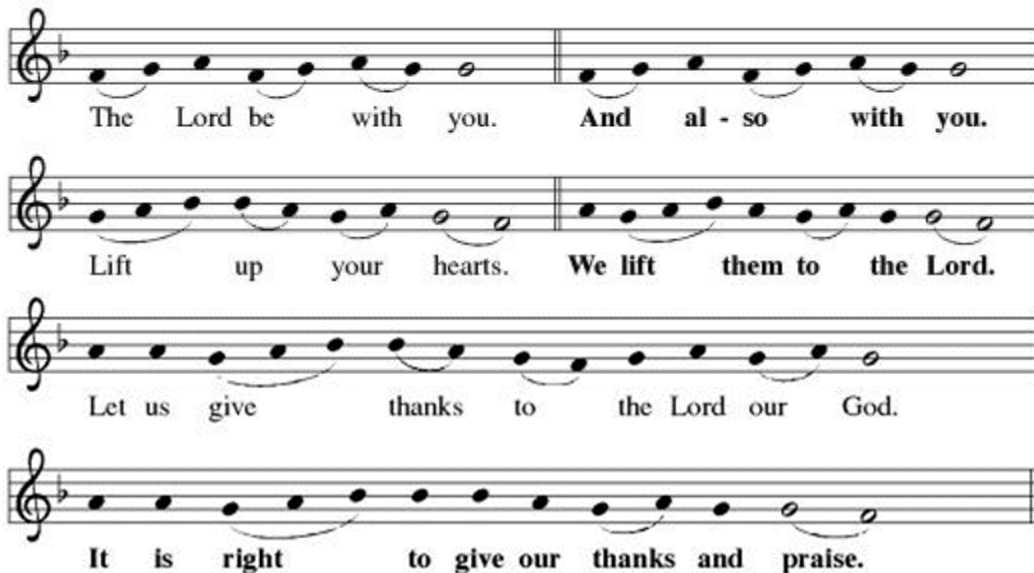
The congregation is invited to stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

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.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

C: Amen.

P: Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

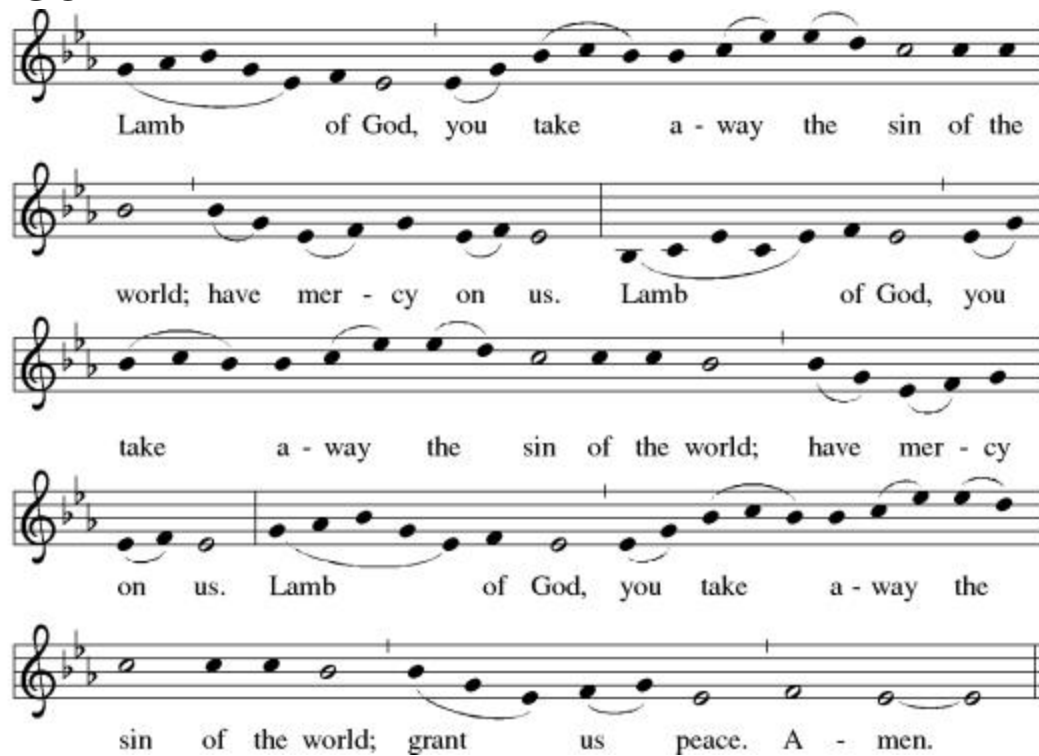
C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER



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.

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.

The congregation is invited to sit.

COMMUNION

As the Deer Runs to the River

331



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!"
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun - tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.

Refrain



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
Music: David Hurd, b. 1950
Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

JULION
878787

Alternate tune: PICARDY

There Is a Balm in Gilead

614

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual

BALM IN GILEAD
Irregular



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
 Music: English folk tune

KINGSFOLD
 CM D

HEALING PRAYER AND ANOINTING OF OIL

The congregation is invited to stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,

C: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.

BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

NEW BRITAIN
CM

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Liturgical texts, music and Psalm from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright ©2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted under License #SAS103657. Bible readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 8022, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Reprinted by permission. Now the Feast and Celebration liturgical music reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405. Hymns and song texts are reprinted under ONELICENSE.NET, License #A-718405, and/or CCLI, License #2032159. All items not covered above are ©2022, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, All rights reserved.

2024 Lent Schedule

Palm Sunday- 10 A.M. March 24th

Maundy Thursday- 5:30 P.M. March 28th Children, youth, and their families are invited to bake bread before the service. Gather at 5:30 and meet in the kitchen.

Maundy Thursday- 7 P.M. March 28th

Good Friday Cross walk- 5 P.M. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church 32929 Lake Rd.

Good Friday- 7 P.M. March 29th

Easter Morning- 10 A.M. March 31st Bring cut flowers from your yard or purchase some cut flowers to be used to decorate the flowering cross! Bring them to the cross in front of the Altar by 9:45 on Easter morning to be included for the service.

Sunday Mornings Feb 18th- March 24th 9 AM Special Lent activities for all ages! Each week will include: Breakfast treats and drinks. A bible verse to meditate on, memorize and questions to discuss. An activity, craft or art to work on.

