

TIDINGS

April 2025

Homepage: htlc.church

724.863.7350

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"If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."
John 13:14

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

Maundy Thursday has been my favorite worship service of the year since I was young. There is so much going on during the worship service - confession, foot washing, institution of communion, stripping of the altar. From celebration to silence it is an all-inclusive worship.

Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which is also the origin of the English word mandate. Jesus gives mandates on this holy night.

The first is to wash the feet of others. None of the disciples are willing to take the servant's role of washing feet. Each of them feels that they are above this. Jesus kneels down and washed the feet of his disciples. He doesn't just encourage them and us to do the same, he commands us to do the same. How do you serve others? When have you been like the disciples, reluctant or unwilling to serve others?

The second mandate involves communion. We are to "do this in remembrance of me." when we gather together as a worshipping community. We follow this commandment. On Maundy Thursday, some of our younger members will be joining us for the first time. They partake of this holy meal for the first time on the same night that Christ shared it with his disciples and commanded them to do this in the future in remembrance of him.

The third mandate is to love one another. This seems so simple- to just love- but we all fail. The love Jesus talks about- agape- means to want the best for everyone. It means that our wants and needs are no more or less important than the wants and needs of others. We often see ourselves or our family or our friends as more important than others. How do we truly embrace the command to love one another?

During Holy Week, think about these mandates. How can we better live them out? How can we truly show we are followers of Christ?

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Sarah

COMING EVENTS

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⁷And we bring you the good Tidings that what God promised to our ancestors ³³he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; Acts 13:32-33a

- April 6 Young at Heart Breakfast at 9:30 AM
- April 6 First Communion Class at Noon-2:00PM
- April 6 Dinner Church at 6:00PM
- April 12 Men's Group Breakfast at 8:00AM at Paintertown Lutheran
- April 13 Palm Sunday, PLEASE MEET at Bell Park before EACH SERVICE
Easter Egg Hunt at 10AM
- April 17 Maundy Thursday services at Noon and at 7:00PM
7:00PM - First Communion
- April 18 Walk of the Cross in Irwin, Noon
Good Friday service at 7:00PM
- April 20 Blessed Easter, Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:15
- April 21 Community Meal, dinner at 6:00PM
- May 4 Dinner Church at 6:00PM
- May 18 Last Sunday School

Food Pantry

2025 Dates: April 12 June 14 August 9 October 11 December 13

Items needed for the April distribution:

Canned ham	Canned pineapple rings	Scallop potato mix	Egg coloring
Easter candy	Paper towels	Shampoo and conditioner	
Yellow cake mix	Maraschino cherries (small jar)		

Items always needed:

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Cake/muffin/brownie mix
Canned fruit	Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars
Pasta Sauce	Oatmeal	Paper towels	Toilet paper
Peanut butter & Jelly	Potato/rice mix	pudding Cups	

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes if you would like to donate cash. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or waugawoman86@comast.net

Church Finances

CONGREGATIONAL AVERAGE OFFERING FEBRUARY 2025

<u>2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET NEEDS WEEKLY</u>	<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
\$392,407.00	\$7,547.00	\$7,370.58
<u>2025 IMPROVEMENT FUND</u>	<u>WEEKLY GOAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
\$24,000.00	\$461.00	\$1,007.71
<u>2025 ORGAN FUND</u>		<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
		\$2,215.36

Online TithingThe church has set up online giving through **Tithley**. (the church incurs approximately a 3% fee or you may add the fee into your donation to cover that 3%). To donate through online giving please visit: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1399928>

Trinity Lutheran Care Fund (TLC) is a ministry of the church that offers assistance to members of the congregation experiencing financial need, due to extreme, unusual and/or medical circumstances. If you'd like to request help, please contact Pastor Sarah, Julie Kuhn, or Jodi Waugaman.

THRIVENT Investors:

It's time to **remember HTLC with your Thrivent Choice Dollars**. Please either go online or contact your Thrivent agent and **select Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Irwin to receive your Choice Dollars**

In 2024 Holy Trinity received \$3,308 in Thrivent Choice Dollars® grant funding.
"We're proud to help support the important work you do and hope we can accomplish even more together in 2025."

Thrivent Clients: direct remaining 2024 Choice Dollars® by March 31

Norwin Rotary's CHILI COOK OFF Results

HOLY TRINITY'S AWARDS:

2ND PLACE FOR CHILI! 1ST PLACE FOR PRESENTATION! WE RAISED OVER \$425!

A big thank you to our members who prepared the chili and created our table with the *Wicked* theme!

And, a special thank you to all those who donated money at church and came to support us that evening!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

IN OUR PRAYERS IN MARCH:

DYLAN KUNKEL	NANCY BOYD	RACHEL FAULKNER	PAT GRANNY	ANN DRURY
MARION KUNKLE	TERRY ZIMMERMAN	KENDRA NEWELL	ELAINE RHODES	RUTH BROWN
ROBERT BARON	AUBREY HUGHES	JACKIE NOLL	DEBRA SMITH	MIKE STARK
LYNN SMITH	ANNE SNYDER	FRAN SIVONEK	CHARLENE SIEMS	BETH SMALIGO
KAY SHRUMP	SUSAN SIEMS	AUDREY SIEMS	ANDREW AND JOCELYN SNYDER	
WAYNE SHOAF	BOB SMETAK	CLYDE AND PAT SIMMERS	BRIAN AND ANDREA SMITH	
DARLA SMITH	GEORGIA STEWART	BILL AND DONNA STASH	MIKE AND MARY SHELEHEDA	
GEORGIA STEWART	LORI AND GEORGE THOMAS	DAVID STRAZINSKY	DAVE AND JODI SMITH	
CHARLOTTE HUNT	JOE THOMAS	ZACK AND SAMANTHA TINSLEY	LUELLA TOMASELLO	
PAULA USTAZEWSKI	SANDY TOMKO	ERIC WALT		
PASTOR JOHN AND MARY SMALIGO		CLYDE AND CARRIE ELLEN STEWART		

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THE FOLLOWING MILITARY PERSONNEL:

SHANNON DAWSON ZACHARY ZEHNER BROOKE NEWELL



Welcome our newest baptized members:

Cleo Saur

Donna Morgan



*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Ruth Porter.
She passed to life triumphant on March 11, 2025.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Jodi Fill.
She passed to life triumphant on March 18, 2025.
Jodi is David Kroon's daughter, Halle Copeman's sister-in-law,
and Sandy Yonika's niece.*

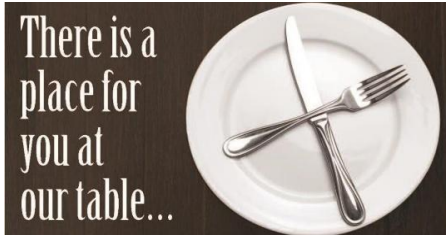
*Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Chuck Balego.
He passed to life triumphant on March 24, 2025.*



WELCOME to our NEW MEMBER!

Elizabeth Moore

ANNOUNCEMENTS!



DINNER CHURCH

Sunday, April 6, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Our next Dinner Church will be held on Sunday, April 6, at 6:00 PM. We encourage everyone to join us for this time of informal worship, communion, and dinner. The response of the congregation has been wonderful and we are blessed in having you join us.

HOLY WEEK

On Palm Sunday, April 13, before each service we will gather at Bell Park (on Main St., in front of the Irwin Fire Hall) and then **process to Church. If you are able, please join us at Bell Park before the service.**

Maundy Thursday will be held services at Noon and at 7:00PM (First Communion)

Good Friday - Walk of the Cross in Irwin, Noon (Holy Trinity is the second stop on the Walk)
Worship Service at 7:00PM

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am.
We will gather together to hear the Holy Week Story then hunt for eggs!



Join us for Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 20th
Fellowship Hall...
9:15am until 11:00am
Stop by to enjoy great food &
wonderful fellowship!

The Sunday School Classes will be singing at 10:45 on Easter. They will rehearse at the beginning of Sunday School in late March and early April. Please see David with any questions.

First Communion Instruction will take place on April 6th from Noon until 2:00pm in the Miller Parlor. **Please see Pastor Sarah** if your child would like to attend. First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday at the 7:00PM service.

COMMUNITY MEAL IN APRIL

Our next Community Meal will be held in our Fellowship Hall on Monday, April 21. Doors open at 5:00 PM and the meal is served at 6:00 PM. This meal is for those who hunger, would like a good meal, are lonely, seek companionship or a sense of community. In addition to members of Holy Trinity, many from our community join us for these meals. Last month, there were 54 who ate at the church and 15 meals were delivered to Irwin Manor.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! We need people willing to cook, set-up and clean-up as well as those who would like to welcome and visit with those who come to the meal. If you are able to cook and help at in the upcoming months, please sign the lists on the narthex bulletin board.

GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER BREAKFAST

The annual Good Friday Breakfast will be held April 18 at 7:00 AM at Stratigos Banquet Centre in Irwin. The Guest speaker is Jeff Struecker who offers a story which includes his experience during the *Black Hawk Down* mission, and how his faith is woven into his life's journey. Last year, we had a table of ten present for the breakfast. If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the Narthex or see Pastor John.

HOLY TRINITY HOSTS WORSHIP AND A LUNCHEON AT IRWIN MANOR ON HOLY THURSDAY

On Holy Thursday, April 17, at 11:00 AM, Holy Trinity will provide a worship service for the residents of Irwin Manor. Following the service, we will provide a luncheon for the residents and provide a time of Easter activities including the dying of Easter Eggs.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! If you can donate a dozen hard-boiled eggs for dying, please sign the list on the Narthex bulletin board and bring the eggs to the church on Sunday, April 13. We need 6 dozen hard-boiled eggs. There will be a table in the narthex to place them. Thank you for your help.



Holy Trinity offers a ministry for the deaf, in person and online for worship. The interpreter will be present at the 10:45 AM service the first and third Sunday of every month plus festival days. We are pleased to welcome Daniel Randolph who is the interpreter for these services.

UPCOMING Dates Dan will be with us:

April 6, Holy Thursday **or** Good Friday, April 20

May 4, 18

June 1, 15, 29

July 6 and 20

August 3 and 17

September 7 and 21

Education Opportunities

BIBLE STUDIES

Monday night Bible Study will focus on the villains of Lent. We meet at 7:00 in the Miller Parlor. Thursday Bible at Noon continues each week in the Miller Parlor. Starting April 24th, we will be studying, "Who is Jesus?"

Attend when you can! All are welcome to join us as your schedule allows.



**Meet
for
Breakfast**

YOUNG AT HEART GROUP TO MEET SUNDAY, APRIL 6

The Young at Heart Group will join in a breakfast meeting on Sunday, April 6 (note change of date due to Palm Sunday on April 13), at 9:30 AM.

Speaker for the event will be Tim Phillips, Westmoreland County Department of Human Services, Director of the Division of Community Relations and Prevention. He will address the drug situation within the county and our community and how we as a church can respond.

Those who plan to attend are asked to sign the list on the bulletin board in the narthex. If you have any questions, please see or contact Pastor John (724-863-7350).

HOLY TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP

Led by Jerry Kuhn, this group joins together twice a month for discussion and prayer. In April, the group meets on Tuesday, April 7 and 14 at 7:00 PM in the Miller Parlor. Questions can be directed to Jerry Kuhn.

MEN'S BREAKFAST ON APRIL 12



Men in Ministry

On Saturday, April 12, at 8:00 AM, men from Holy Trinity, Paintertown Lutheran, Zion's Lutheran in Harrison City, and Brush Creek Lutheran, will meet for breakfast and a presentation by Bishop Kurt Kusserow of our Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod at Paintertown Lutheran

Church, (1001 Government Rd, Irwin, PA 15642). If you plan to attend, please sign the list on the bulletin board in the Narthex or see Pastor John.

NOTE: The final combined men's group of this season will be held on Saturday, May 10 at 8:00 AM.

**WOMEN'S FAITH and FRIENDSHIP GROUP Meet Wednesday April 23rd
in the Miller Parlor**

<u>DUTIES for April</u>		Assisting Minister	Communion Assistants	Acolyte	Lector	Altar Flowers
Sunday, April 6	8:15AM	Heather Newell	Melissa Fox Connie Berg	Daila Goodman	Donna Yusko	
	10:45PM	Jodi Waugaman	Diane Kowalski Jeffrey Horvath	Sean Keiser	Bob Cessna	
Sunday, April 13	8:15AM	Chris Karpinsky	Maria Clark Joe Thomas	Andrew Sheleheda	Pat Koos	
	10:45PM	Jodi Waugaman	Samantha and Zack Tinsley	Will Little	Karl Kunkle	
Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday	7:00PM	John Howell	Joe Thomas Maria Clark	Ryan Henaghan		
Friday, Aril 18 Good Friday	7:00PM	Jerry Kuhn		Jaden Brittingham		
Sunday, April 20	8:15AM	John Smaligo	Debbie Gilkey Chris Karpinsky	Jericho Brittingham	Dave Smith	Lois Brown
	10:45PM	John Smaligo	Mary Smaligo Susan Siems	Ty Cessna	Karly Kunkle	
Sunday, April 27	8:15AM	Rick Bavolek	Rochelle Belak Glenda Wendling	Daila Goodman	Tracy McNelly	Pat Walt
	10:45AM	Colleen Cochenour	Mike Stark Joe Thomas	OPEN	Anne Coiner	

Altar Guild

April 5 Set Up Debbie Kunkle
 April 6 8:15 Julie Kuhn and Glenda Wendling
 10:45 Debbie Kunkle
 April 12 Set Up Diane Kowalski and Sandy Tomko
 April 13 8:15 Cindy McCune and Mauritta Moyer
 10:45 Diane Kowalski and Sandy Tomko
 April 17 Maundy Thurs Noon and 7 Julie Kuhn and Glenda Wendling
 April 19 Set Up Cindy McCune and Mauritta Moyer
 April 20 8:15 Cindy McCune and Mauritta Moyer
 10:45 Debbie Kunkle
 April 26 Set Up Julie Kuhn and Glenda Wendling
 April 27 8:15 Cindy McCune and Mauritta Moyer
 10:45 Diane Kowalski and Sandy Tomko

Greeters: 10:45	
April 6	Susan Kramer and Marcia Kramer
April 13	Bob and Carol Schlotter
April 17	Doug and Nancy Woodring
April 20	Andrew and Jocelyn Snyder Family
April 27	Zack and Samantha Tinsley

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Property Committee Meeting 7:00PM	2	3 Bible Study at Noon Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM	4	5
6 Lent 5 8:15 Worship 9:30AM Sunday School 9:30am Young at Heart Group – Breakfast - Fellow Hall 10:45AM Worship with Sign language interpreter Noon: First Communion Instruction 6:00PM Dinner Church	7 Prayer Meeting 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM	8 Men's Group 7:00PM	9 COUNCIL at 7:00PM Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	10 Bible Study at Noon 6:30 Practice for those serving on Palm Sunday Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM	11 Girl Scouts Fellow. Hall 6-8pm	12 Men's Breakfast at Paintertown 8:00AM Food Pantry 9:00am
9 Palm Sunday 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Meet to hear the Holy Week Story and 10am EASTER EGG HUNT 10:45am Worship	14 Prayer Meeting 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM	15 Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM	16 Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	17 Maundy Thursday Service at Irwin Manor at 11AM Maundy Thursday Service at Noon Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM with 1st Communion	18 Good Friday Breakfast at Stratigos Walk of the Cross in Irwin begins at Noon Good Friday Service at 7:00PM	19
20 EASTER 8:15am Worship 9:15am EASTER Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 10:45am Worship with the Sign Language Interpreter	21 Prayer Meeting 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM <u>Community Meal at Holy Trinity 5:00pm w/dinner @ 6:00PM</u>	22 Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM Stewardship Meeting at 7:00PM Men's Group 7:00PM	23 Women's Group 7:00PM Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	24 Bible Study at Noon	25 Girl Scouts Fellow. Hall 6-8pm	26
27 Easter 2 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	28 Prayer Meeting 6:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM	29 Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM Men's Group 7:00PM	30 Theology on Tap (TBD) Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9			

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
502 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642

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PERMIT NO. 353



APRIL 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 6 First Communion Class at Noon-2:00PM
- April 6 Young at Heart Breakfast at 9:30 AM
- April 6 Dinner Church at 6:00PM
- April 12 Men's Group Breakfast at 8:00AM at Paintertown Lutheran
- April 13 Palm Sunday, PLEASE MEET at Bell Park before EACH SERVICE
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00AM
- April 17 Maundy Thursday services at Noon and at 7:00 PM
- April 18 Walk of the Cross in Irwin, Noon Good Friday service at 7:00 PM
- April 20 Blessed Easter, Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:15
- April 21 Community Meal, dinner at 6:00 PM

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, 3/30 8:00 WORSHIP
9:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:45 WORSHIP

MONDAY, 3/31 6:00 PRAYER GROUP
7:00 BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY, 4/1 7:00 PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 4/2

THURSDAY, 4/3 NOON BIBLE STUDY
7:00PM CHOIR REHEARSAL

FRIDAY, 4/4

SATURDAY, 4/5

SUNDAY, 4/6 8:00 WORSHIP
9:30 SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 YOUNG AT HEART BREAKFAST IN THE FELLOW. HALL
10:45 WORSHIP WITH DEAF INTERPRETER
12:00 FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION
6:00PM DINNER CHURCH



Join us for Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 20th
Fellowship Hall...
9:15am until 11:00am
Stop by to enjoy great food &
wonderful fellowship!

Womens' Faith and Friendship....
Meeting April 23rd at 7:00PM.

Welcome Members and Visitors today !

Palm Sunday April 13, **before each service** we will gather at Bell Park (on Main St., in front of the Irwin Fire Hall) and then **process to Church**. If you are able to process, please join us at Bell Park

Palm Sunday we will have an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00am. We will gather together to hear the Holy Week Story then hunt for eggs! Join us!

Sunday School classeswill be singing at 10:45 on Easter Sunday. Rehearsals will be in late March and early April.

Young at Heart BreakfastApril 6th at 9:30AM.
Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Bible StudiesMonday night Bible Study will focus on the villains of Lent.
Thursday Bible at Noon continues each week.
We meet in the Miller Parlor.
Attend when you can! All are welcome to join us as your schedule allows.

First Communion Instructionwill take place on April 6th from Noon until 2:00pm in the Miller Parlor.
Please see Pastor Sarah if your child would like to attend.
First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday at the 7:00PM service.

OUR MISSION
Worship God, Grow in Faith, Serve with Love

Maundy Thursdayservices at Noon and at 7:00PM
 7:00PM with First Communion

Good Friday.... Walk of the Cross in Irwin: Noon
 (Holy Trinity is the 2nd stop on the Walk)
 Worship Service at 7:00PM

April Community Meal.....The next Community Meal
 is Mon., April 21st - Doors open at 5:00, dinner is served
 at 6:00PM. No sign up is needed to attend the dinner.

Dinner Church.....will be on Sunday,
 April 6th at 6:00PM.
 Join us in the Fellowship Hall!

Mens' Breakfast Meeting ...Saturday, April 12th at
 8:00am at Paintertown Lutheran
 Sign up in the Narthex!

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the
 family and friends of Chuck Balego .
 He passed to life triumphant on March 24, 2025.*

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

	8:15	10:45
Assisting Minister	Tracy McNelly	Jennifer Fitzgerald
Communion Assistants	Julie Kuhn Chris Karpinsky	Eric Walt Susan Siems
Lector	Jerry Kuhn	Brian Smith
Acolyte	Garrett Fennell	Justin Keiser
Greeters		Anne Coiner and Andrea Smith
Altar Guild		

Set-up Saturday, March 29		Lori Thomas
Sunday, March 30	8:15	Lois Brown and Debbie Reed
	10:45	Nina Saccamano and Carly Glasgow
Set-up Saturday, April 5		Debbie Kunkle and Julie Kuhn
Sunday, April 6	8:15	Julie Kuhn and Glenda Wendling
	10:45	Debbie Kunkle

Food Pantry

2025 Distribution Dates:
 April 12, June 21, August 9, October 11, Dec. 13

Items needed for the April distribution:
 Canned ham Canned pineapple rings Scallop potato mix
 Egg coloring Easter candy Paper towels
 Shampoo and conditioner Yellow cake mix
 Maraschino cherries (small jar)

Items always requested:
 Mac & cheese/pasta Applesauce Baked beans Cake/muffin/
 brownie mix Canned fruit Canned tuna Cereal
 Granola bars Pasta Sauce Oatmeal Paper towels
 Peanut butter & Jelly Potato/rice mix Pudding Cups

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate money, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or waugawoman86@comast.net



Worship Plan for Sunday, March 30, 2025

4 Lent

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Introduction to the day

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!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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.

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 generous 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 SONG *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* #807**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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.

*GREETING *Pastor*

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**

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the first two lines of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major (two sharps). The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' with a 'Lord,' annotation above the second measure of the vocal line.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The lyrics are 'Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' with 'Christ,' annotations above the second and fourth measures of the vocal line.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the next two lines of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' with 'Lord,' annotations above the second and fourth measures of the vocal line.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Detailed description: This system contains the final two lines of the musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. Both are in the key of D major. The lyrics are 'Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.' with 'Lord,' annotations above the second and fourth measures of the vocal line.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The **presiding minister** leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

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.

⁹The 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 parched 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.

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered 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 conceal 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.**

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.

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.

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 know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 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 he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

***GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

The holy gospel according to



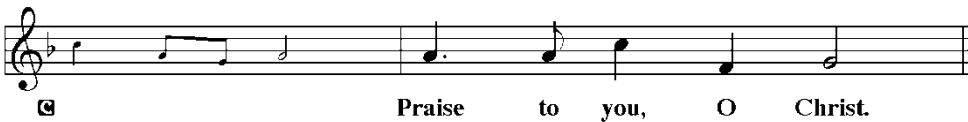
Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

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 property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself 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 when 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 property 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.



CHILDRENS' SERMON

Sermon

***Hymn of the Day *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* #608**

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,

Refrain

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!"

*** *Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 *assisting minister

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

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (*especially*). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Pastor

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER *assisting minister*

Let us pray.

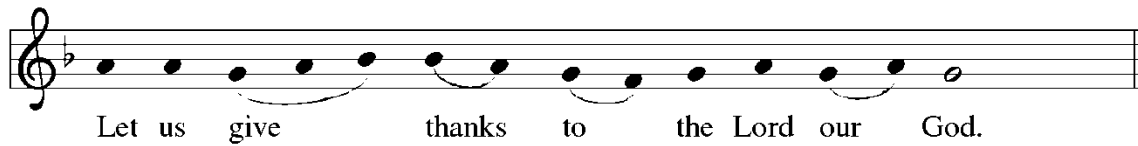
Gracious Provider,

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

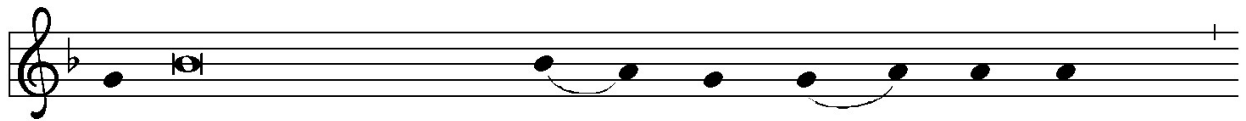
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

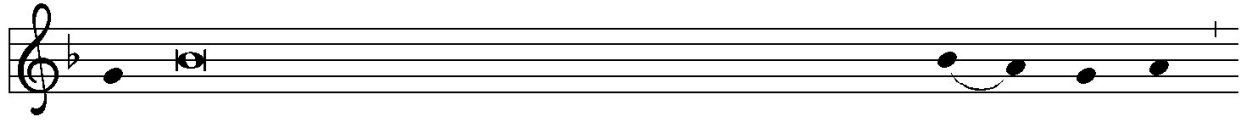
***DIALOGUE Pastor**



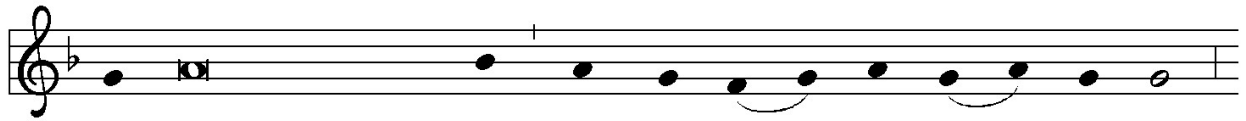
***PREFACE**



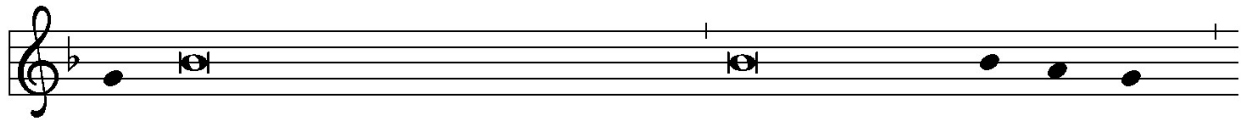
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



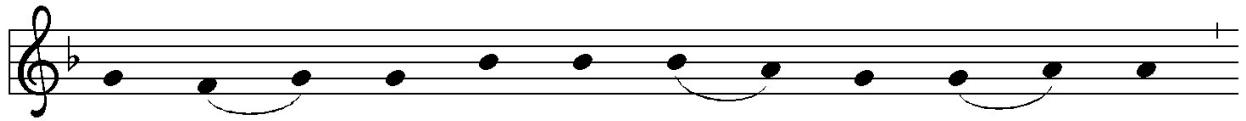
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



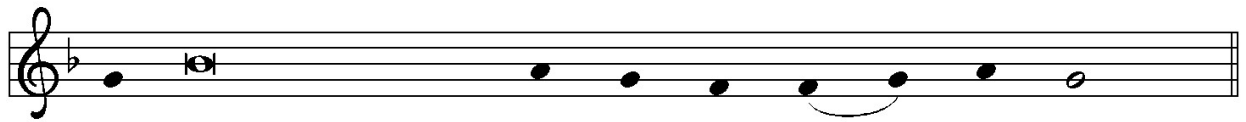
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

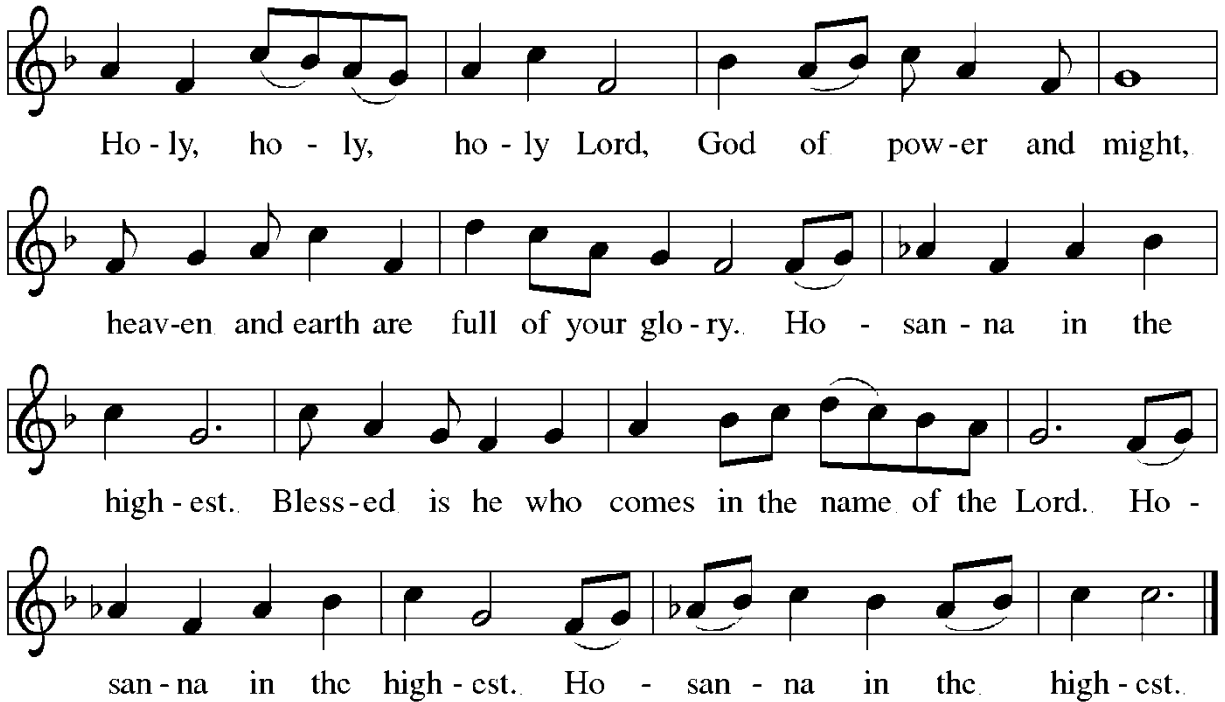


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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.. Ho - san - na in the high - est..

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor

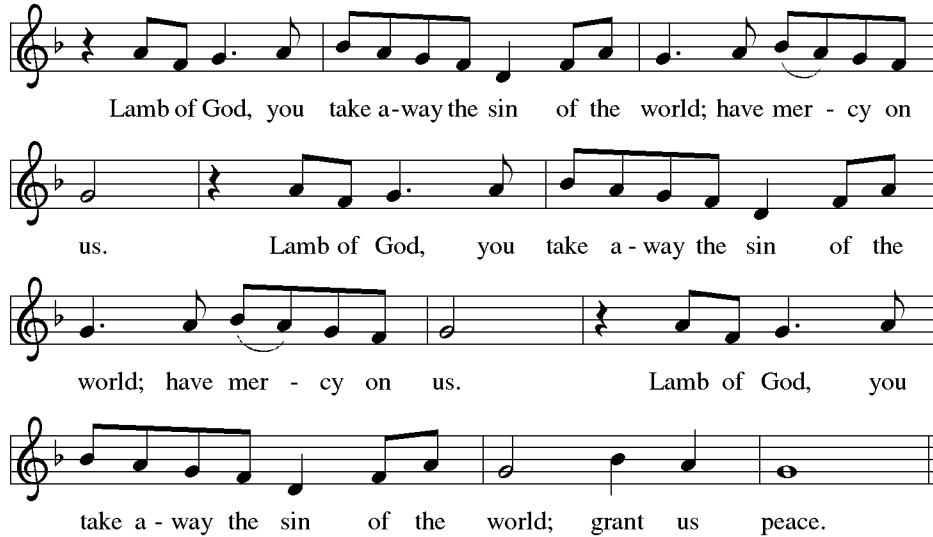
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION Pastor**

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

COMMUNION SONG



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.

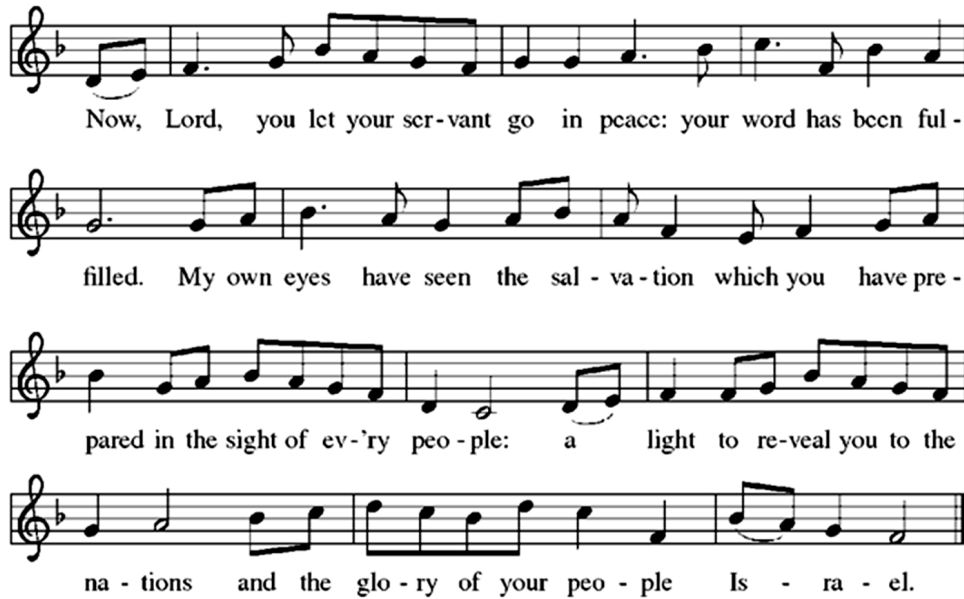
Communion

Hymn During Communion: **Amazing Grace #779**

***COMMUNION BLESSING Pastor**

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

*SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *assisting minister*

Let us pray.

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.

*BENEDICTION: **Pastor**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

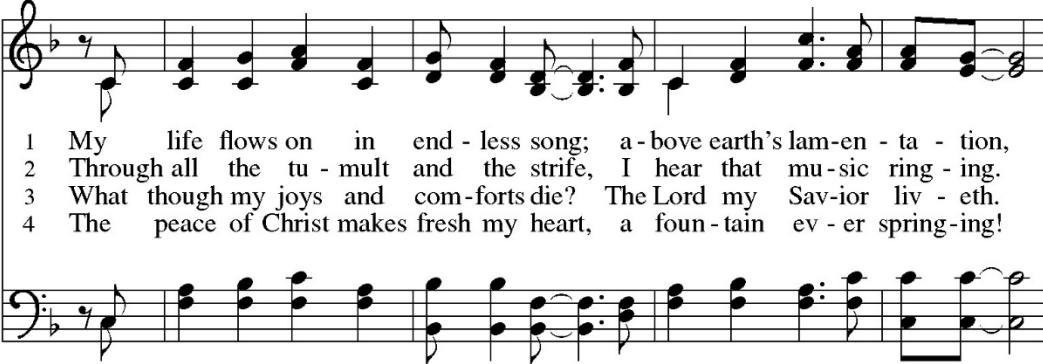
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

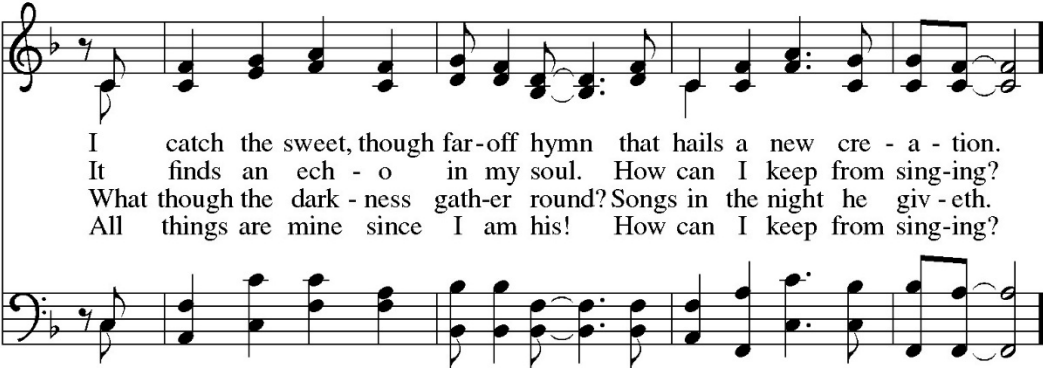
*Recessional Hymn:

My Life Flows On in Endless Song 763

My Life Flows On in Endless Song




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** *assisting minister*

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