

**Paradise Lutheran Church - Thomasville, PA**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent                      March 17, 2024                      10:15 a.m.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Please stand.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who renews our hearts through Jesus. **All: Amen.**

Pastor: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*


Pastor: Renewing God,

**All: we confess that our hearts have led us astray. We are not true to our baptismal covenant, but your promises are trustworthy. We hoard what you have entrusted to us, but you give yourself to us freely in love. We neglect to love our neighbors as ourselves, but you draw us again into communities of grace. We give in to our rebellious hearts, but you still forgive us daily. We wander far from you and your path, but you never cease to draw us back to Jesus. Forgive us, Lord, and make us new. Amen.**

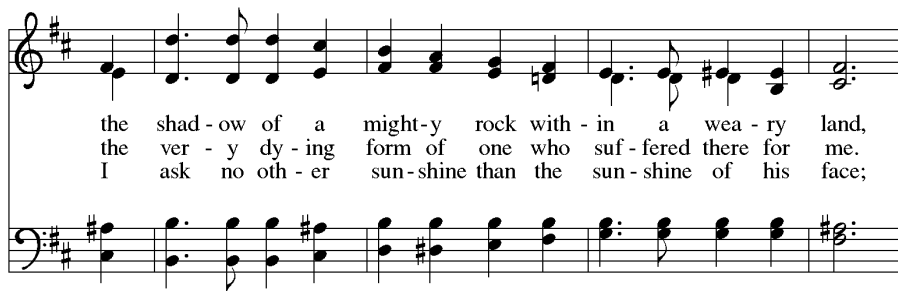
Pastor: Friends, hear the good news: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to you, washes away your sins, and creates in you a new heart and a right spirit, through ☩ Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

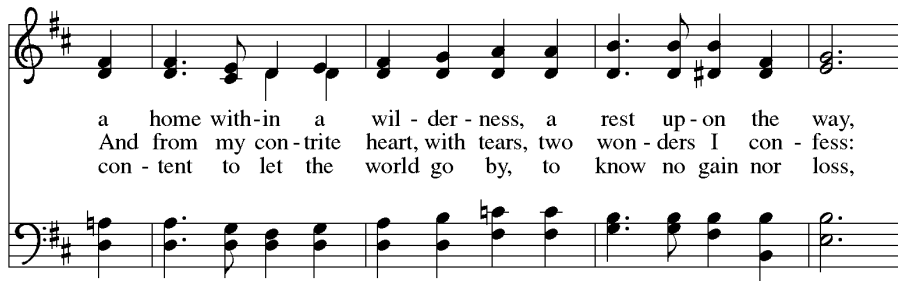
## Gathering Song “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”



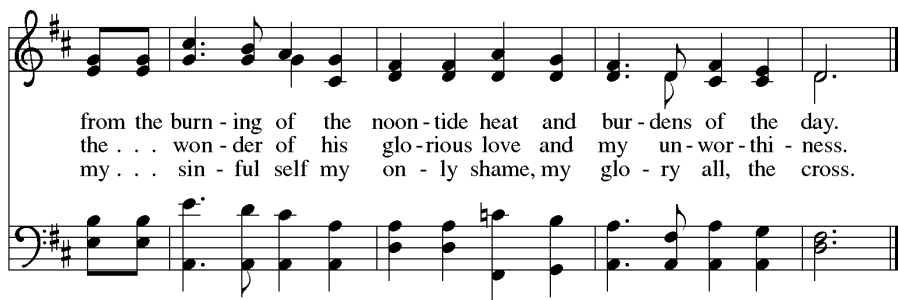
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



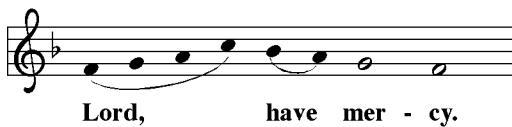
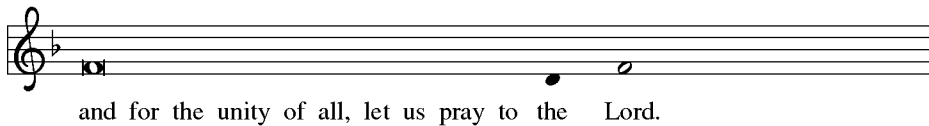
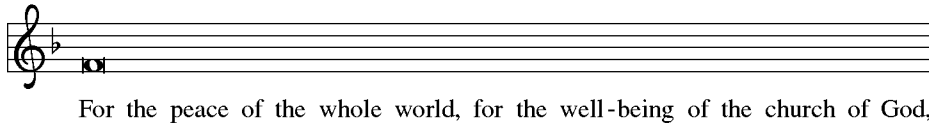
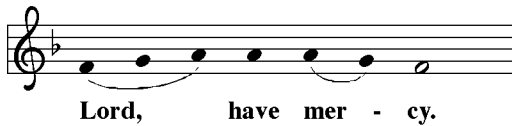
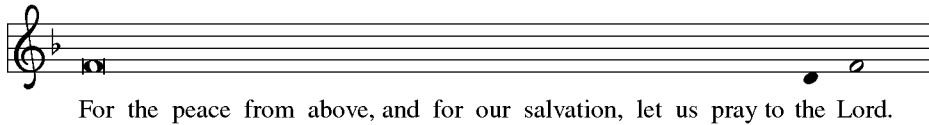
from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

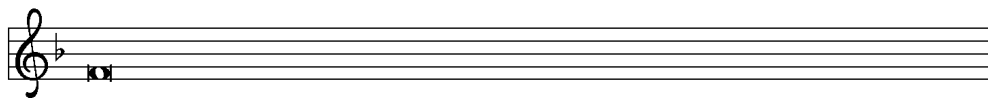
## Greeting

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

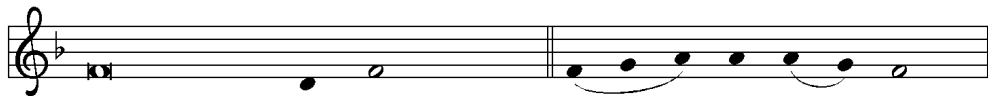
**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie



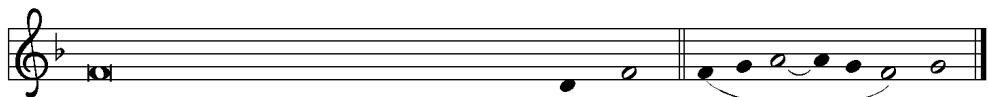


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## First Reading: *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their

hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*Brief silence.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 51:1-12 (read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Second Reading:** *Hebrews 5:5-10*

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

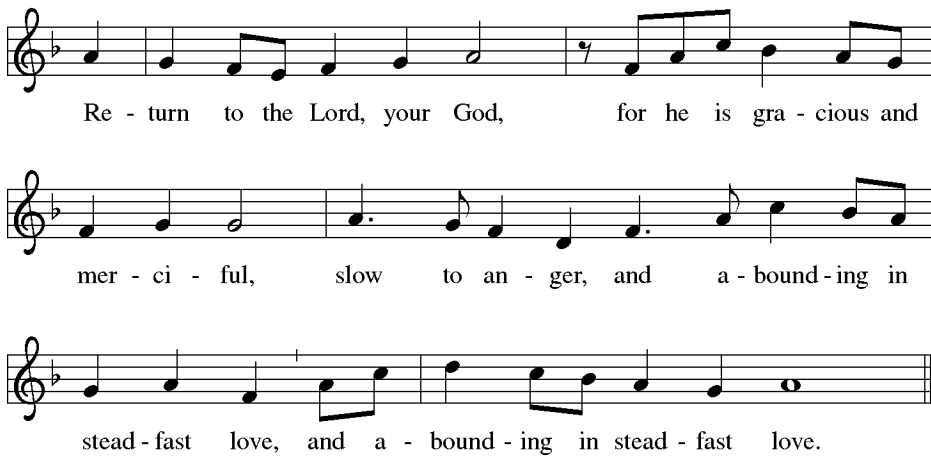
<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Brief silence.*

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Pastor: The holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

## Gospel: *John 12:20-33*

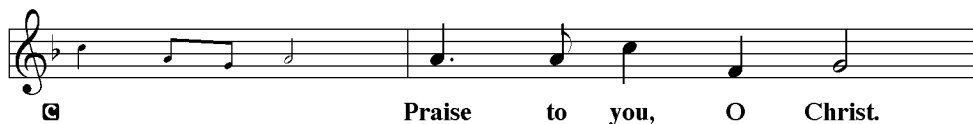
<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this

hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*After the reading:*

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.



*Please be seated.*

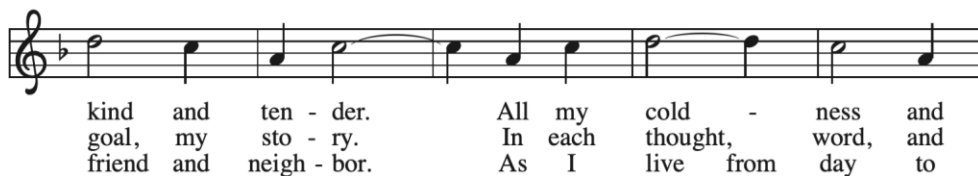
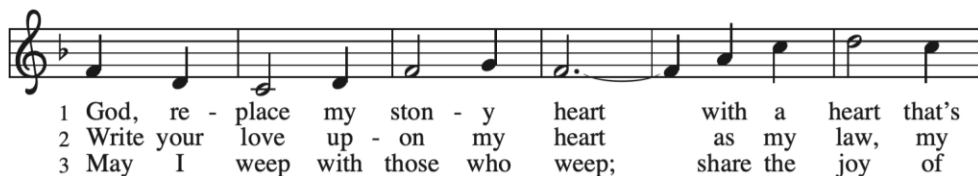
**Sermon**



*Please stand.*

## Hymn of the Day “Spirit, Open My Heart”

*Refrain*



*Refrain*



*Please be seated.*

### **Apostles' Creed**

Pastor: We, who are many, are one body in Christ. Together we confess our faith, in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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**

Assisting Minister: Lord, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

*Please stand.*

### **Sharing of the Peace**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.** *(Please feel free to move around and share the peace of Christ with each other with a sign, handshake, or hug.)*

## Offertory Response “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

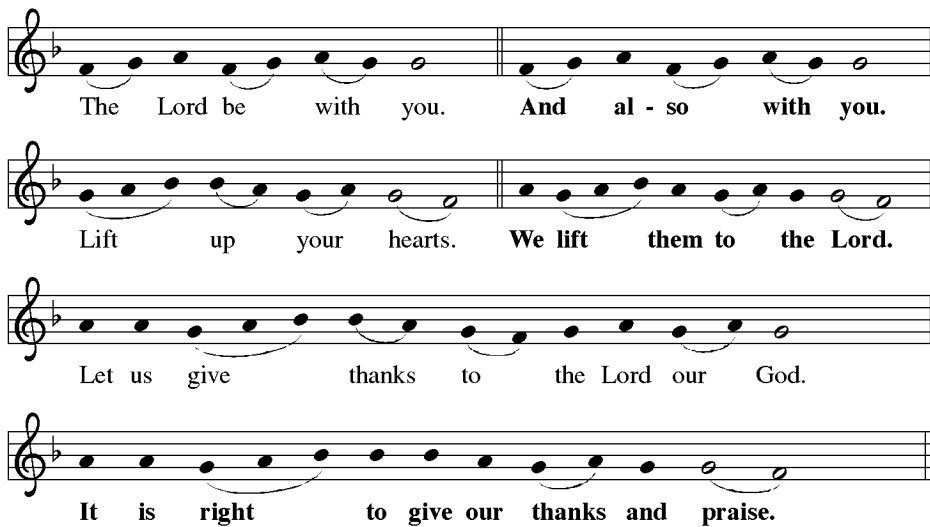
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a repeat sign at the beginning of the second measure. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

## Offertory Prayer

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

## Dialog



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

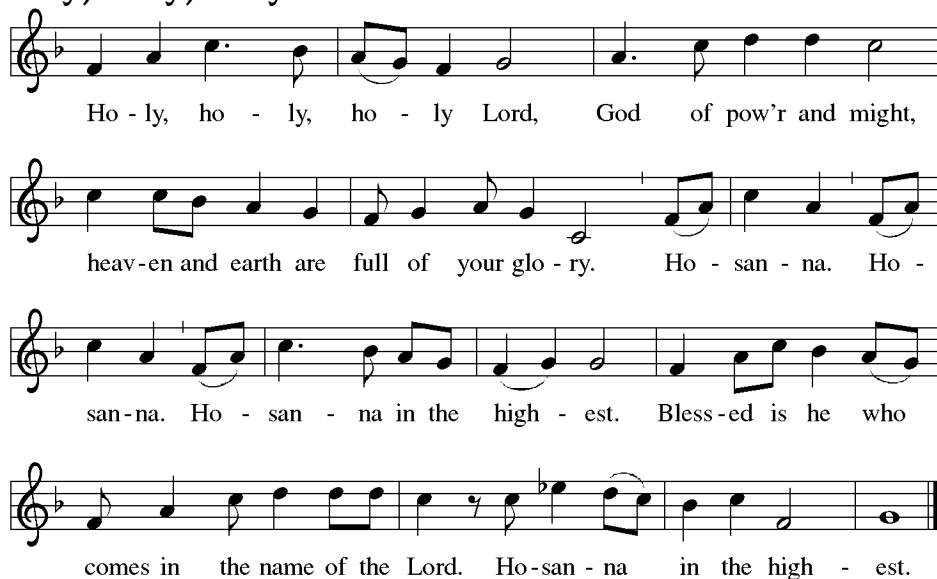
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks ... praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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. Ho -  
san-na. 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

Pastor: 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, for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea, and 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, for the death and resurrection of Christ, and 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.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

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. **All: Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

## Invitation to Communion:

Pastor: This is Christ's table, and he is the host of this meal. So come: you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a while; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come; receive Christ, the One who renews your heart.

*Please be seated.*

*Jesus invites you to his feast! Come forward, as you are able, to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine. (If you need to receive communion in your pew, you can alert us by holding up your hand after the line has gone through, and we will be glad to come to you.)*

## 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

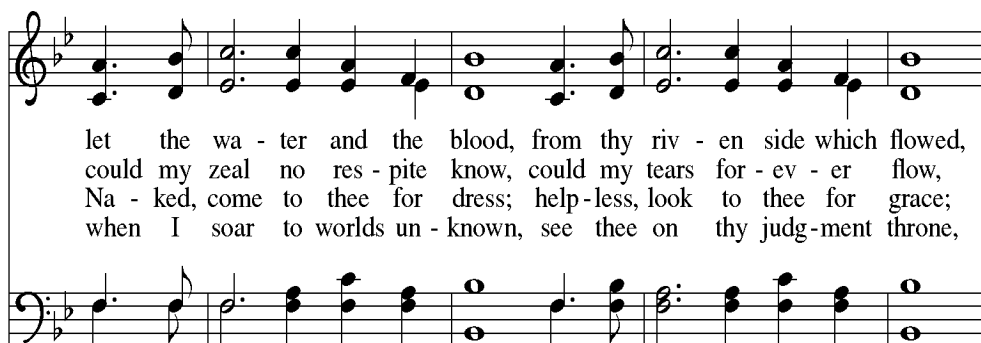
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

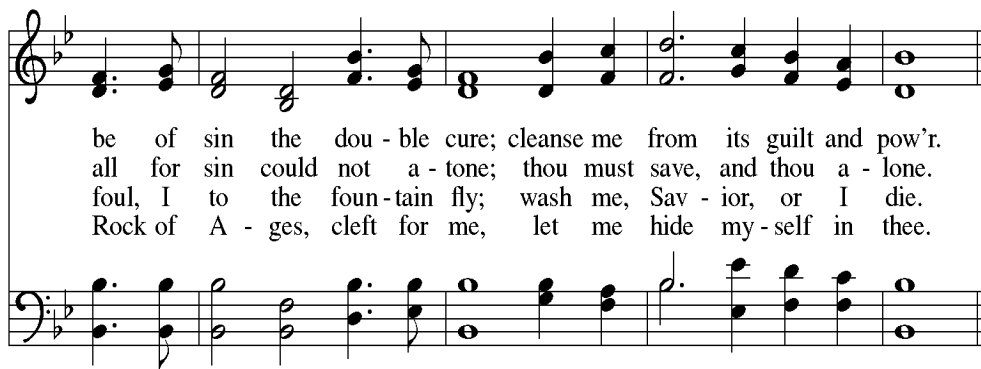
## Communion Hymn: “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

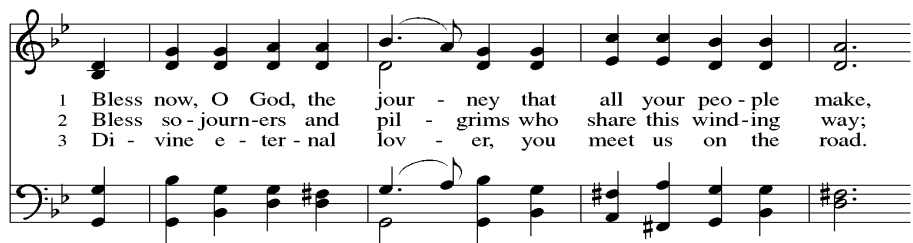


*When all have communed, please stand.*

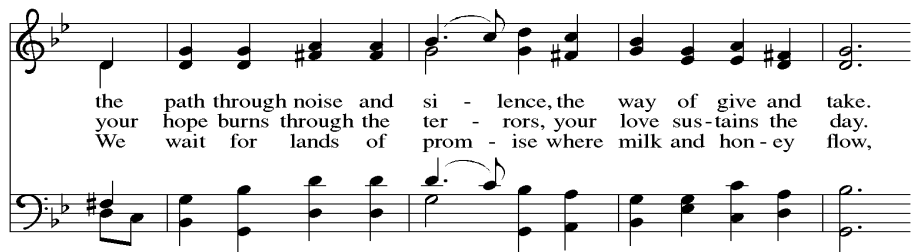
## **Blessing after communion**

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

## **Post-Communion Canticle “Bless Now, O God, the Journey” Vrs. 1, 2**




1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## Post-Communion Prayer

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

## Announcements

## Blessing

Pastor: 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. **All: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass/Tenor) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains three verses of lyrics, and the second system contains the concluding lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

**Continued** ➤ ➤ ➤



## Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, love like Jesus. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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**WELCOME** to Paradise! On this day, we gather to worship, sing, and partake of the holy meal and are thus strengthened to go out and love like Jesus – sharing God’s love with all the world.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Larry Luckenbaugh, Louise Stambaugh, Allison Trump, Ken Stambaugh, Donna Shaffer, Joyce Bentzel, Sherry Feeser; Kaleb Trump, Nancy and Jerry Frey-Markell, Ron Schwartz, Bob Markle, Samantha Zorbaugh, Gwen Schnetzka, Angie Zepp, Erika Smith, Kim Culbert, Connie Keller, Heather Shoemaker, Judy Jarvis, Bernie Tucker, Sue Sell, Joe Pohlman, Linda Schreier, Connie McNeil, Christine Ruth Smith, Jen Miller, William Brady, Ryan Yingling

*For those in prison, especially Patrick and Keith  
 For those who mourn*

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God by an anonymous donor.

**THE BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God in honor of Megan Brodbeck's birthday (3/16) by her grandfather Ron Sheaffer.

### **NOTES ABOUT WORSHIP:**

- ✓ Large print bulletins are available in the binders in the narthex. We have one copy of each service in each of the four binders.
- ✓ Offering plates are located by the entrances. Please put your offering in before worship begins, as we will be bringing the offering forward to the altar during worship. (If you forget, there will be a plate still available at the back at the end of worship.)
- ✓ As you share the peace, you are welcome to move around and greet one another with Christ's peace with a sign, handshake, or hug.
- ✓ All the baptized are invited to receive Holy Communion. If we are communing by intinction, you will receive a wafer, which you can then dip in the wine. If we are communing with bread, you will receive a piece of bread from the pastor. Then proceed to pick up a cup, which a server will fill with wine. **Gluten-free wafers are always available from the pastor's communion station.**
- ✓ When you leave, please dispose of any trash with you. Bulletins may be taken with you or placed in the box either on the table shelf outside the office or in the narthex for recycling. Thank you!

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** meets today after the late service.

**LAUNDRY LOVE** Tuesday, March 19; on duty, Darlene, Dick, and Kris.

**HOTLINE PREP** Wednesday and Thursday, March 20 and 21.

**PROPERTY WORKDAY:** On Saturday, March 23, from 9 to noon, the property committee and others will work on the rooms in the education wing (sanctuary level). If you have “stuff” in any of those rooms, please either join the gang that day OR go through the items ahead of time and clear out what’s no longer needed. Thank you!

**SKIT PRACTICE** March 24, after the early service for those who attend the early service and after the late service for those who attend that service.

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:** Join us for Palm/Passion Sunday, next Sunday, March 24, at 8 and 10:15 a.m.; for Maundy Thursday worship on March 28, 7 p.m.; and Good Friday worship, March 29, also at 7 p.m. After the heaviness of Holy Week, we break out the alleluias once again for Easter Sunday worship on March 31 at 8 and 10:15 a.m.!

**HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY** is April 7, and **we will have one service at 9 a.m.** with a skit in place of the sermon (to give the preacher a break after Holy Week!). We have some new skit players this year, so do come and enjoy! And please, oh, please, wear something goofy or funny or odd – a wig, funny hat, mismatched clothing, whatever!

**THRIVENT MEMBERS!** Please remember to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31! Either log into your account at *Thrivent.com* OR call Member Care Services at 800-847-4836.

**GIANT and WEIS CARDS** are available for purchase. See Pat Zech or Heidi Wolf. The church gets a portion of the total purchased.

**WEBSITE:** The **March** website is sponsored by Sandy Anderson and family in memory of Ted “Pappy” Anderson. Let Julie know if you’d like to sponsor a month in **2025**. Available: February, March, November, and December. Cost: \$20.

**SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE** for **March** will go to *ELCA Disaster Response* (100% of donations are used for disaster relief).

### Giving of time and tithes:

Attendance: March 10: early 23; late 36; Sunday School 15

<b>Offerings</b>	Our budget needs for God’s Mission	Your actual gifts from <b>3/10/24</b>	Difference
Current	\$4,456.00	\$8,158.00	+\$3,702.00
Benevolence	\$283.00	\$230.00	--\$53.00
Capital Improvements	\$289.00	\$210.00	--\$79.00
	<i>Actual expenses to date</i>	<i>Total actual gifts to date</i>	<i>Difference</i>
	\$44,090.65	\$52,219.40	+\$8,128.75



## **Worship Participants:**

**Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss**

**Minister of Music: Allison Trump**

Greeter: Vix Boone

Acolyte: Miriam Hipkiss

Lector: Pat Zech

Assisting Minister: Kris Gabel

Usher Captain/Communion: Chris Garrett

Tech: Linda Eisenhart

Altar Guild for March: Ralph and Fran Nace



*Church information:*

***Gathered to worship, care, and grow; sent to love like Jesus.***

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***Address: 3241 Church Road, Thomasville, PA 17364***

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