FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

"CROSS" PURPOSE

WELCOME

Welcome in the name of Christ Jesus. As we worship, we pray that you will open your heart in preparation as our Savior comes to us through the word and sacraments. If you are a guest, please sign your name, address and most importantly your phone number



in our Guest Book in the entrance and come and worship with us again. If we can be of assistance to you in your spiritual walk through life please let us know. We invite you to join us for refreshments after the service in the room adjoining the worship facility.

AS WE GATHER

"X marks the spot" is a reminder that a cross, whether on a treasure map or on a police investigation site outline, has a special meaning. It indicates what is at the center and is of greatest importance. In the Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther directs Christian people to make the sign of the cross to begin their day, as he writes, "In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross" (*LSB*, p. 327). He commends the same sacred action at the close of the day, writing, "In the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross" (*LSB*, p. 327). The purpose of making the sign of the cross, whether at home or in conjunction with our worship, is to indicate that all our lives are marked by the redeeming action of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for us and for our salvation. It is a most blessed sign!

COMMUNION PRACTICE

Lamb of God celebrates the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff;18:15-35;26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN



We are very happy that you are here today, whether this is your first or fiftieth time with us. If you need a little help, please ask. There are many people here at Lamb of God who will lend you a hand.

Here are some suggestions to help make worship with your children easier:

Relax! Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk a bit, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Lamb of God.

Please dare to sit toward the front, where your children can easily see the pastor, note the colors, embrace the action at the altar, and wonder at the symbols in the great stained-glass windows. What Jesus does here promises to engage them.

Explain the parts of the Divine Service to your children, encouraging them to chime in on their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And with your spirit! I believe! Our Father!* All of this belongs to them, too.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn by following your lead.

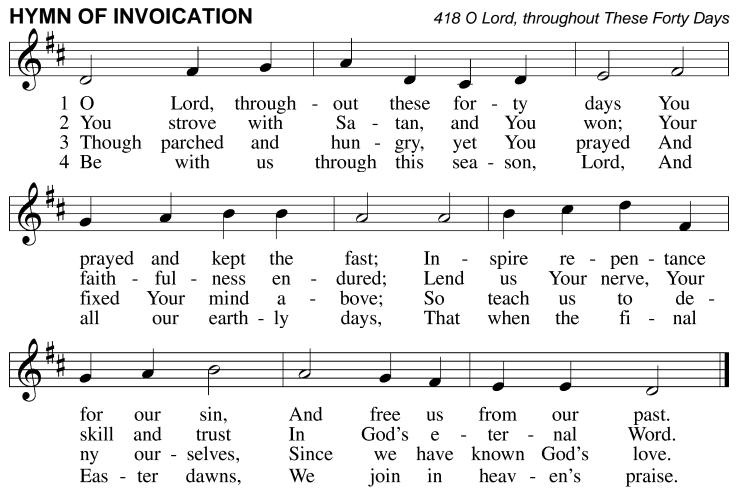
If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so – but please hurry back! Like Jesus, we want your children in the Liturgy, not out (there are soft toys and books in the nursery, and activity sheets with colored pencils in the fellowship hall which can be brought into the worship hall to help engage your child)

Remember that the way we nurture children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please know that while you are caring for your children, the rest of us will be rejoicing in Jesus' words "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (LUKE 18:16)

We know that your children are a gift to the church, so we will do our best to welcome, smile, encourage, help, and bless you all.

+ PREPARATION +



Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930 Tune: The Psalmes of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110018177

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O INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- \mathbf{L} In the name of the Father and of the \mathbf{H} Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:3–4, 5b; 61:1–2a

- L Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;
- from the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.
- L Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;
- let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!
- Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,
- and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.
- L Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,
- my salvation and my God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Let us make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we are sinful people. We have inherited the legacy of original sin from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed You in Eden. We are by nature sinful and unclean. In our daily lives we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.
- God is gracious and forgiving. He has shown His merciful power in ways that renew, restore, and heal. To those who come to Him with repentant and contrite hearts, our Lord says, "Fear not!" and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C Amen.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm* 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

- When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
- W With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.
- M Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.
- W For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.
- M You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
 When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.

KYRIE Mark 10:47

- In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **I** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

SALUTATION

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- G Amen.



■ The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 3.

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁴So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ¹Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

¹⁶To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

¹⁷And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

²⁰The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

- **L** This is the Word of the LORD.
- Thanks be to God.

- Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- W Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.
- Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

EPISTLERomans 5:12–19

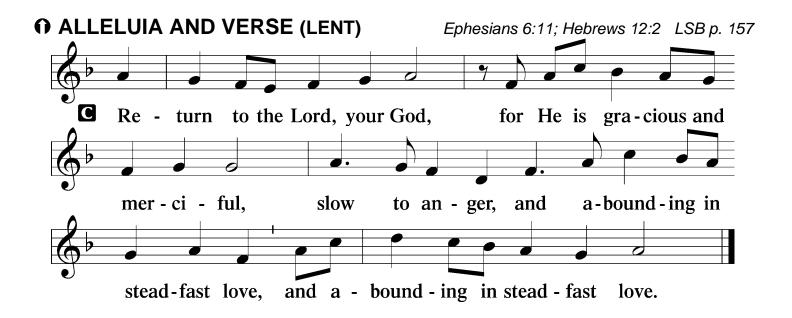
■ The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 5.

 12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned – 13 for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. 14 Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.



HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:1–11

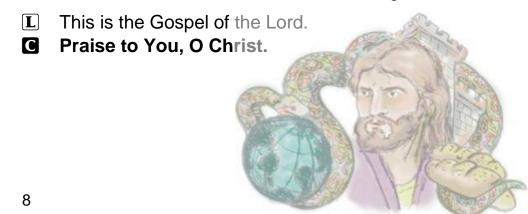
■ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

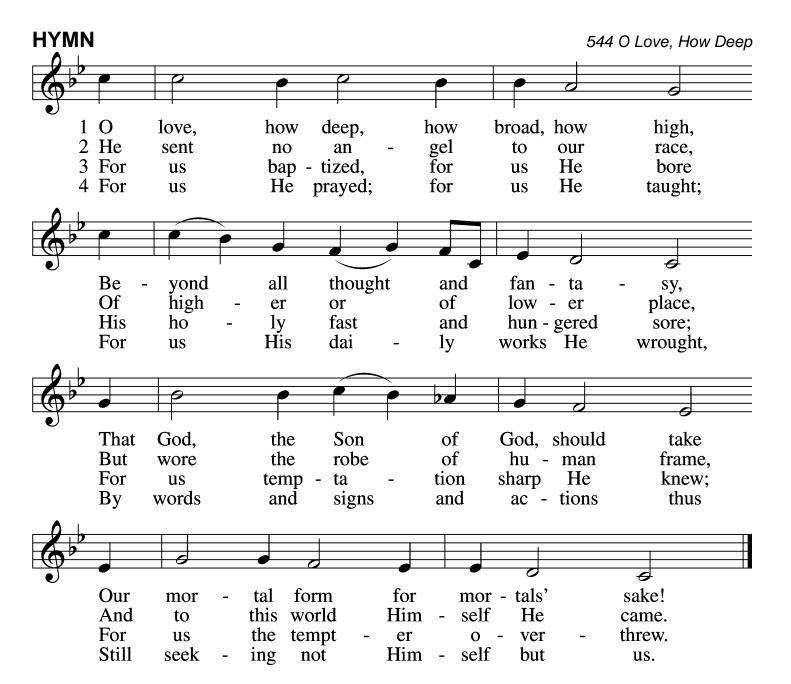
G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.""

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you,' and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.""

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." ¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.





- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed, For us, in crown of thorns arrayed, He bore the shameful cross and death; For us He gave His dying breath.
- 6 For us He rose from death again; For us He went on high to reign; For us He sent His Spirit here To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God For love so deep, so high, so broad; The Trinity whom we adore Forever and forevermore.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-85, alt.

Tune: English, 15th cent.

Text: Public domain

SERMON

↑ CREEDNicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

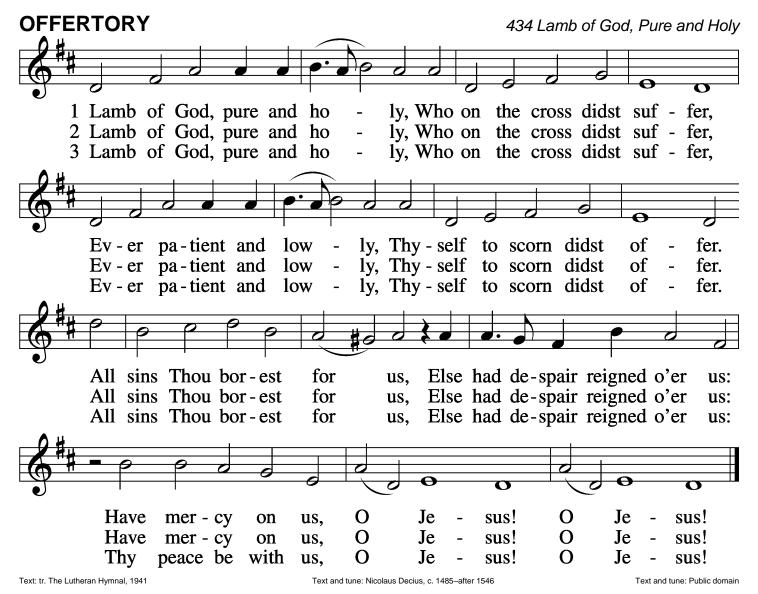
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life Φ of the world to come. Amen

OPRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- As we begin our observance of Lent, Lord, we pray, "Lead us not into temptation." Assure us that You are with us in every place, and defend us from the assaults of the evil one. Help us to treasure the cross in our hearts as it reveals Your loving purpose, and enable us to show our thankfulness for our full salvation in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- L Support and ever defend Your Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word that is able to make us wise unto salvation. Grant us every blessing through the Holy Sacraments, making us perfect in love and in all good works, especially to those of the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

- I Grant Your wisdom and heavenly grace to all pastors and to those who hold office or discharge responsibility in Your Church that, by their devoted service, faith may be nurtured and Your kingdom increase. We pray for officers of congregations and all those who serve in groups and on committees and individually where the tasks completed are often visible only to You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into a world that is dark and often hostile, send the light of Your truth. Raise up faithful and courageous servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead safe and peaceable lives. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and congress, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve the people in their areas of responsibility according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Eless us in each season, Lord. Let Your blessing remain upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, leisure and rest, and the arts and culture of our people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who put their hands to any useful task. Give them the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- By Your Word and Holy Spirit, comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, [especially . . .]. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all with special needs a full measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Enable us to be instruments of care according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We remember with affection and gratitude those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.
- C Amen.





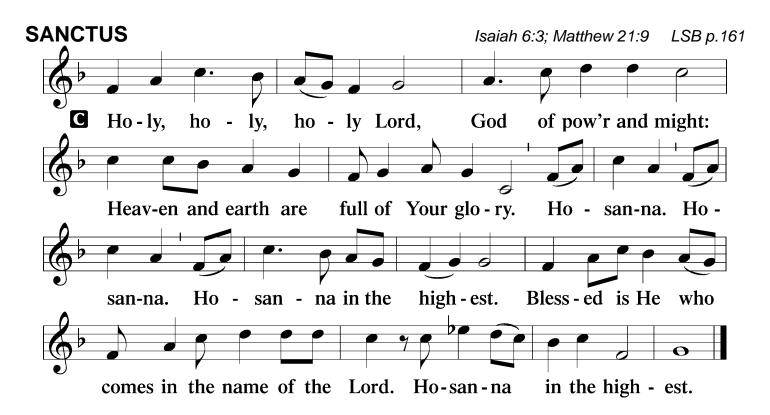
+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- **L** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- L Lift up your hearts.
- **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

E Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- L As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13 LSB p.162

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.

PAX DOMINI

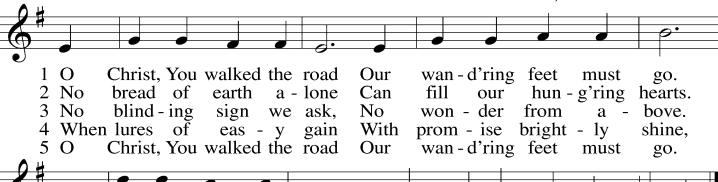
- **L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE





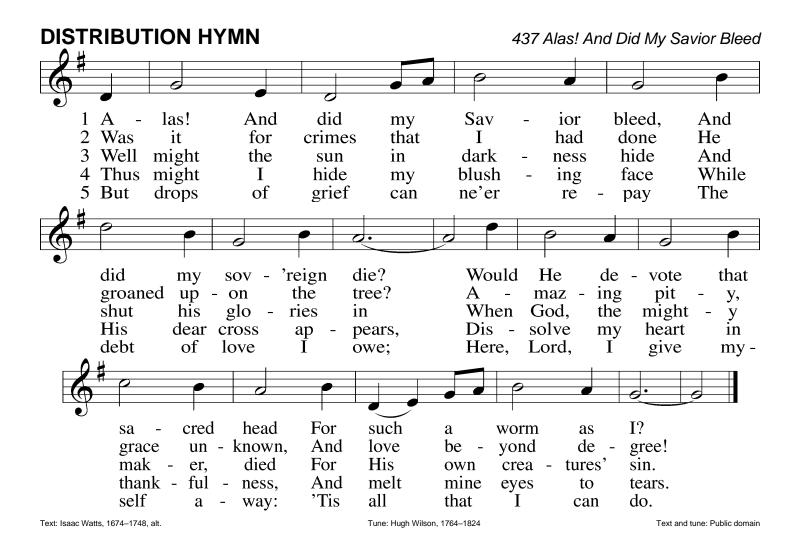
424 O Christ, You Walked the Road



temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our You faced with an - cient foe. us Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im -parts. Lord, help us seek Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un-swerv-ing love. Your king-dom first; Our wills Lord, help us seek with Yours a - lign. Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591

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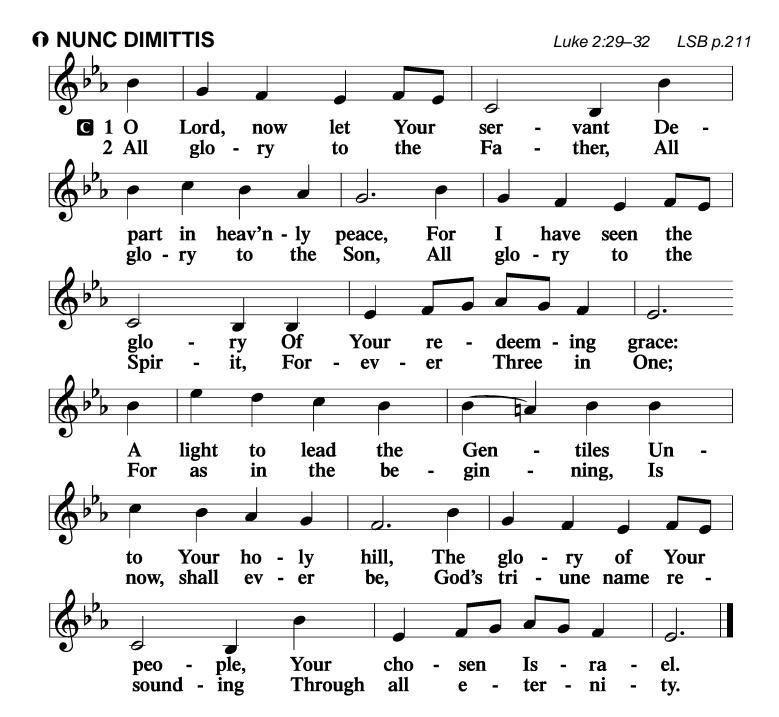


Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850, Paderborn

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Let us pray: Blessed are You, heavenly Father and King eternal, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Strengthen us through this gracious Meal that we may live with purpose, confidently resist temptation, and through acts of mercy share Your blessings. Support us in this life, and bring us at last to the unending feast in Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

O ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

BENEDICTION

- C Amen.



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DISMISSAL

- Co in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!

