# March 5, 2023

### THIS IS THE WAY

#### **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**

The pages of the Bible are filled with some very human people. In the appointed Readings of the Sundays in Lent, we encounter several. In today's Old Testament Reading, we hear of Abraham, who followed the guidance of God faithfully to the land of promise. Yet in Genesis, we also read that when in a challenging situation in Egypt, he misrepresented his wife as his sister and profited from the deception. Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained the Gospel in great detail, kept his association with the Lord a secret. Even at the time of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion, Nicodemus labors with Joseph of Arimathea "secretly for fear of the Jews" (John 19:38). It is well that we are reminded as we confess in the Nicene Creed that "for us men and for our salvation" our Lord "was made man." As imperfect and very human people, we are assured by the Spirit that we are loved by God, who knows us as we are, and that we truly are "precious in the sight of the Lord" in life and in death (Psalm 116:15).

### **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

Tune: Public domain

#### **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 25:1, 2a, 4-6, 7b

- To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- O my God, in You I trust.
- L Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.
- Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.
- Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord!

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- L O God, why do You cast us off forever?
- Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
- May the Lord direct us to the ruins of our righteousness
- **C** that we may learn repentance.

  Silence for meditation and reflection.
- L O Lord,
- We poor sinners cry to You and beg Your mercy. We confess that we have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered most of all. Our Lord's name we have not honored as we should; our worship and prayers have faltered. We have not loved God above all things, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done the good Your Word desires and have done the evil Your Word forbids. May God be merciful to us, forgive us all our sins, and strengthen our faith for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. To the impenitent and unbelieving I declare that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God will not forgive your sins and will visit your iniquity upon you until you turn from your sinful ways, come to repentance, and trust in the merits of Jesus Christ alone.
- C Amen.
- May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C Amen.



### + WORD +

#### **INTROIT**

Psalm 105:4-7; antiphon: v. 8

He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations. Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered, O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones! He is the Lord our God; His judgments are in all the earth. 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. He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

### **KYRIE**

- P O Lord,
- C have mercy.
- P O Christ,
- C have mercy.
- P O Lord,
- C have mercy.

#### **SALUTATION**

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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray: Father in heaven, Your ways are justice and truth; strengthen our faith in Christ that we find in Him alone to be the way and the truth and the life. Keep the eyes of our faith focused on our Redeemer, and in the end, take us to be with Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.



- The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, chapter 12.
  - <sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

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

PSALM Psalm 121; antiphon: v. 8

- The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
- I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- M He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.
- W Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- The **Lord** is your keeper; the **Lord** is your shade on your right hand.
- M The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- W The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.
- 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.

  The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 4:1–8, 13–17* 

L The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 4.

¹What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. ⁵And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, ⁵just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

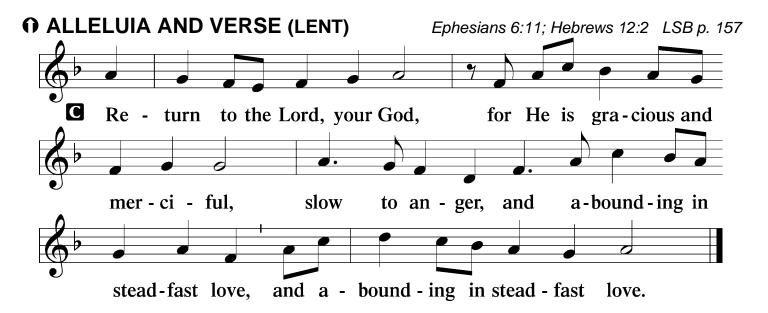
<sup>7</sup>"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; <sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."...

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring – not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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





HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1–17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

## Glory to You, O Lord.

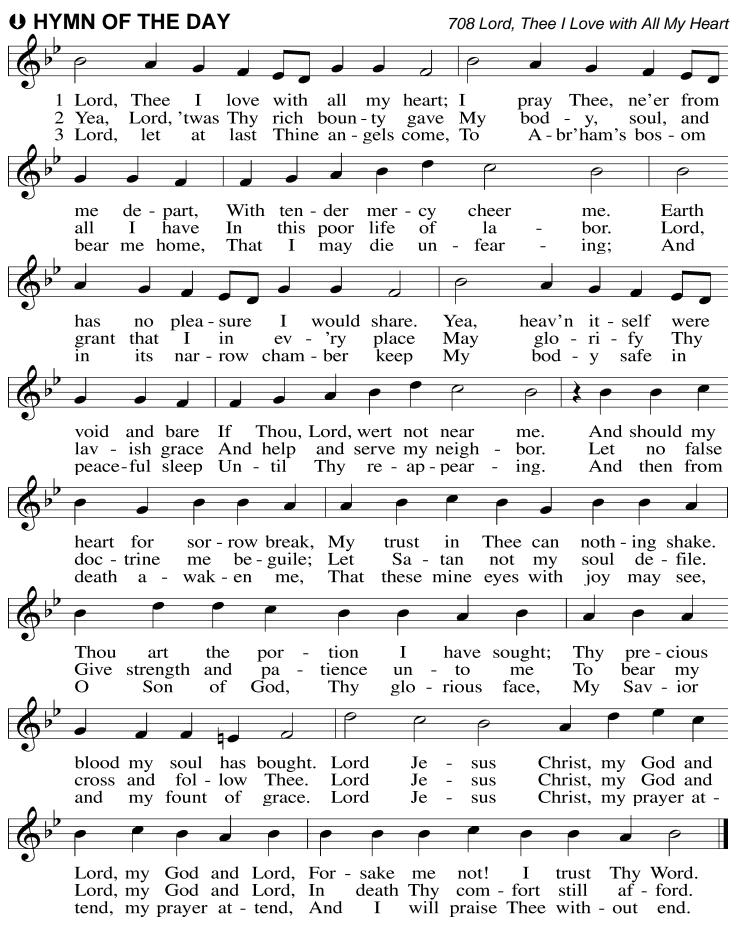
¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ¹Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' §The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.



Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur, 1577, Strassburg

Text and tune: Public domain

#### **O NICENE CREED**

The Second Article

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  $\pm$  of the world to come. Amen.

#### **O PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

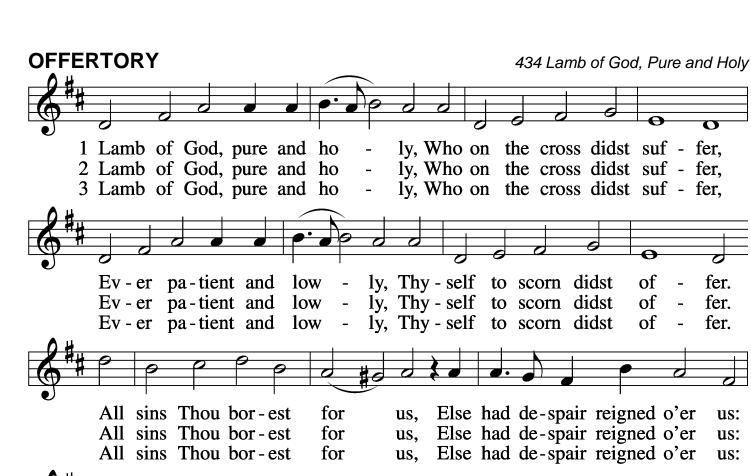
Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for all Christians around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, bless our learning and our worship and our questioning and our study and our witness as we grow in faith and devotion. O Lord,

- hear us for Your mercy's sake.
- We pray for all nations of the earth, that in all places there may be times of lasting peace. We pray for people in lands where there have been upset and strife. And we pray for our own nation that it may know safety and that people may be joyful in their daily lives. O Lord,
- hear us for Your mercy's sake.
- We pray for all those whose labor serves us as we live out our lives under Your watchful eye, especially those in the military, our police personnel, medical workers, and all those whose efforts support the common good. O Lord,
- hear us for Your mercy's sake.
- We pray for the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs, bringing to You our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes, [including . . .]. Assure us that the sufferings of this present life are but transitory and that Your grace endures forever. O Lord,
- **G** hear us for Your mercy's sake.
- Joined to the generations of the faithful, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors. Lord, inspire us by the witness of the faithful from all generations that we may complete our earthly journeys with confidence in Your gracious promises as they did in their lifetimes. We beseech You, O Lord,
- hear us for Your mercy's sake.
- L Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

**OFFERING** 

Offering Plates are passed by Ushers Please enter your attendance in the red Record of Fellowship

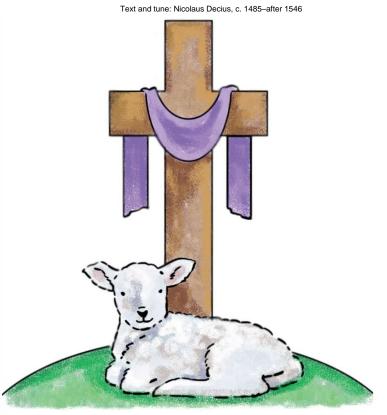




Have 0 Je sus! 0 Je sus! mer - cy on us, Je Have mer - cy 0 Je 0 on us, sus! sus! peace be with 0 Je sus! 0 Je us, sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941





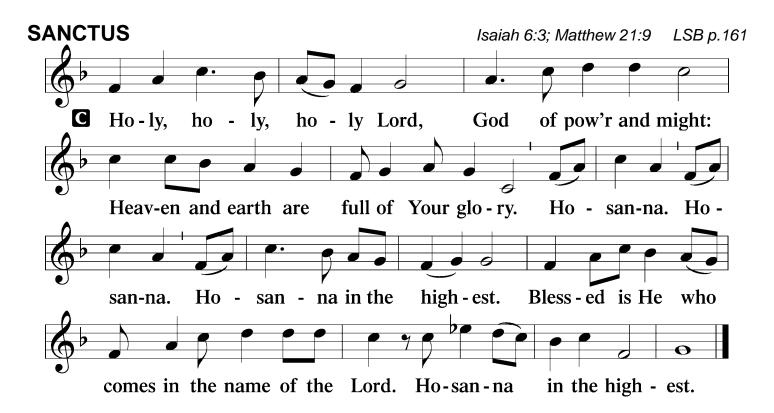
### + SACRAMENT +

#### **O** 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

- O Lord of heaven and earth, we thank You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil, and blessing our lives with lasting peace. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with gratitude and joy for all Your gifts to us. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow as people of faith and peace, hope-filled and eagerly awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.
- 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

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- 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

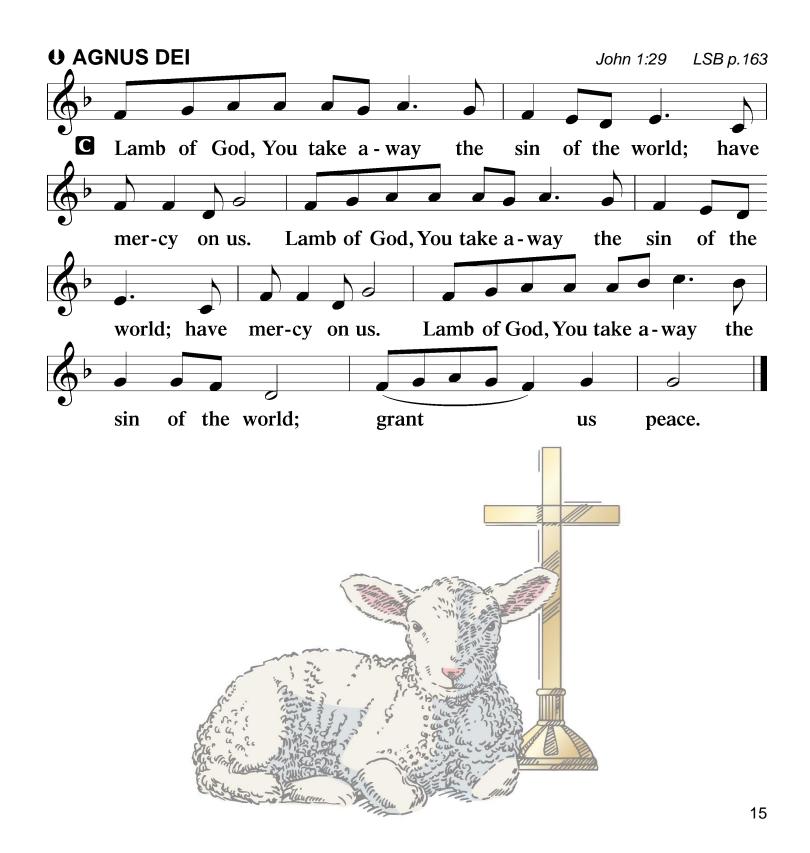
Matthew 6:9–13 LSB p.162

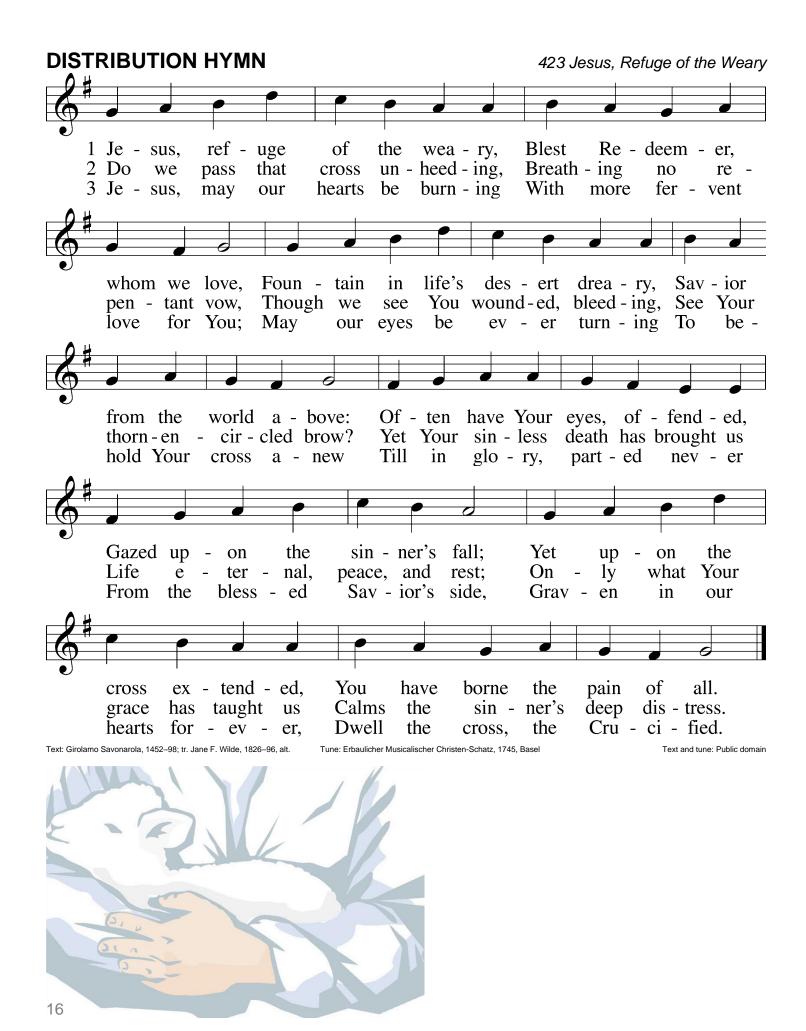
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the 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





#### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain



- 1 Come to Cal v'ry's ho ly moun tain,
- 2 Come in pov er ty and mean ness,
  3 Come in sor row and con tri tion
- 3 Come in sor row and con tri tion,

4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er;

Sin - ners, ru - ined Come de - filed, with -Wound - ed, im - po -'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; out, with - in; tent, and blind; new - ing flood. Here a pure and From in - fec - tion Here the guilt - y, God is faith - ful; heal - ing foun - tain and un - clean - ness, free re - mis - sion, God will nev - er



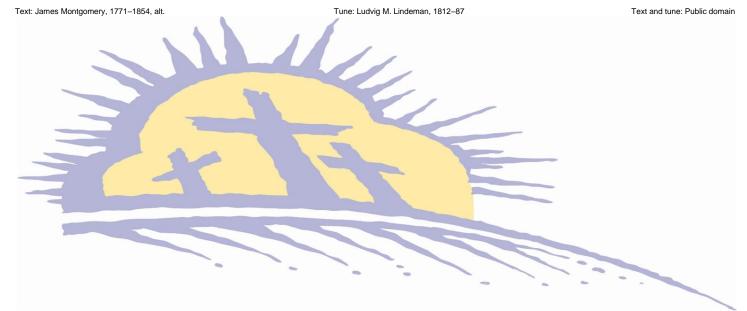
Flows for all, you, for for me, lep - ro - sy From the of sin, trou - bled, peace may Here the find. Break His cov - e - nant of blood, In a full, per -Wash your robes and Health this foun - tain Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, make them white; will re - store; deem - er died,

pened O when our Ye shall walk with Thev that drink shall Sealed when He was

Sav - ior died.
God in light.
thirst no more.
glo - ri - fied.





819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre - 2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is

3 We sought the Lord in our dis-tress; O God, in mer - cy

4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho-sen gen - er -

5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



The God of love who der - stood tion, a ning shade By keep ing. morn - ing glow eve or Our Say - ior help - less - ness hear saw us. our tion: He is their ref and their rock. uge a Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim glo ry.

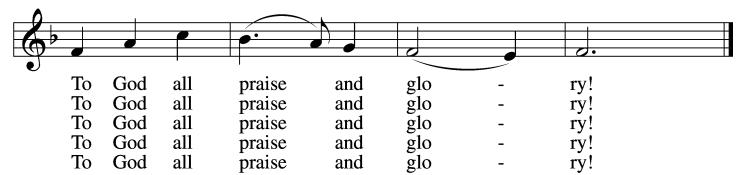


for His Our need sal - va tion. His sleep eye is nev ing. \_ er \_ And came with peace cheer us. to Their peace and their sal - va tion. loud the won - drous sto ry.

With heal - ing balm our With - in king - dom the For this we thank and moth - er's As with a Cast ev - 'rv i - dol

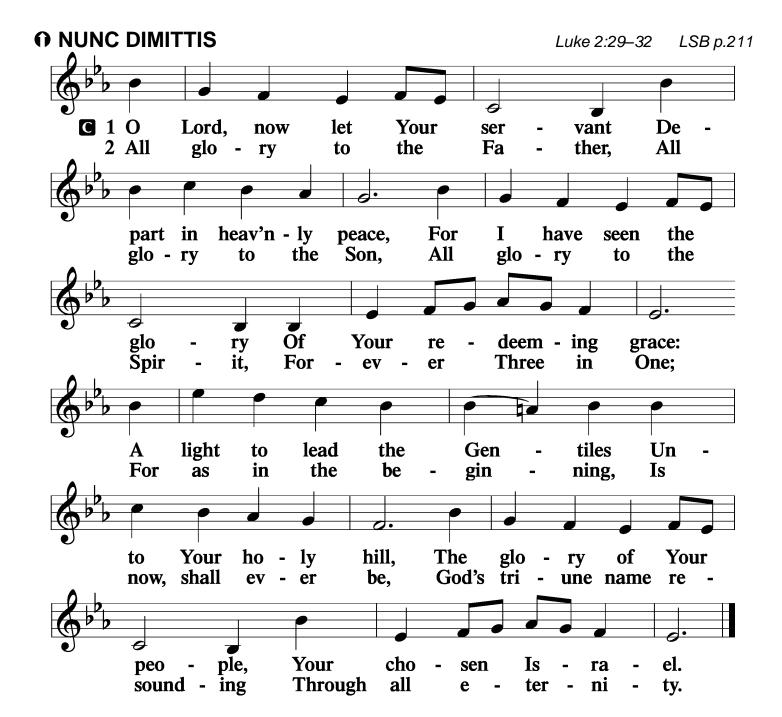


stills: souls He fills faith And less ev -'ry mur mur His might of All things iust and good and right: are praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored: ten der hand, He leads His own, His cho sen band: from its throne, For God God. He a - lone: is and



Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640–90; (sts. 1–3, 5): tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, adapt.; (st. 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, adapt. Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570–1615

Text and tune: Public domain



### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

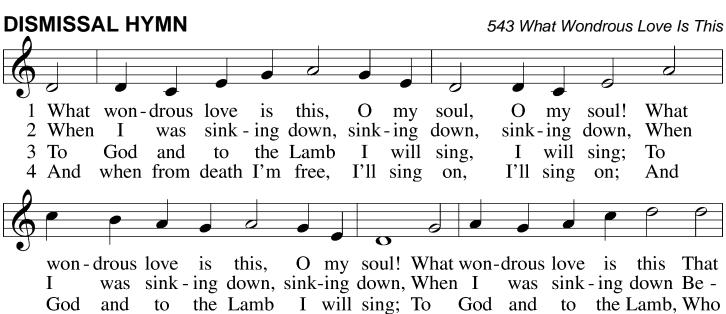
- Let us pray: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for having welcomed us at Your Table, giving us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Strengthen us through this blessed gift that we may live in hope-filled anticipation of the end of all earthly things and await with joy Your final coming in glory. Grant that Your Holy Spirit enlighten us with His gifts that we be kept in the true faith until the last and greatest day of our Lord's return. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.
- C Amen.

# **O** ANNOUNCEMENTS AND BIRTHDAYS

#### BENEDICTION

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and 

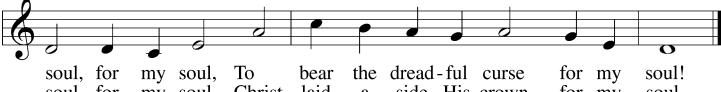
  → give you peace.
- C Amen.



I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



Lord of bliss bear the dread-ful curse caused the To mv neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my While mil-lions join the theme, the great Ι AM, will And through e - ter - ni - ty His for I'll sing love sing me,



Christ a - side His crown soul, for my soul. laid for my soul. mil-lions join the theme, will sing, While Ι will sing. sing. And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing sing on, on. on.

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

#### DISMISSAL

- L Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
- Thanks be to God! Amen!