

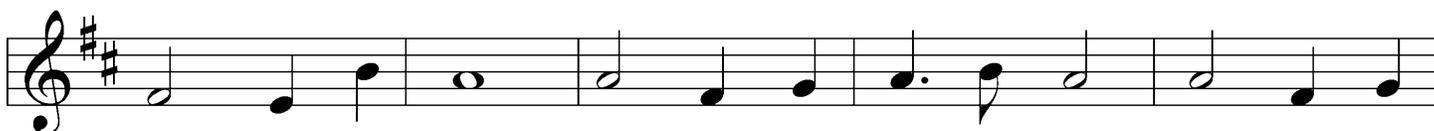
*Fourth Wednesday in Lent*

## HYMN

702 My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!  
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
 trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## PSALM

*Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 11*

- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.
- <sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.
- <sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!
- <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- <sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,  
and grant us your salvation.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.
- <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup>Yes, the Lord will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.
- <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

## SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## COLLECT

**P** Let us pray: God of love, You lifted up Your Son on the cross so that You could draw all people to Him. Fill us with thanksgiving for this incredible love that we dare to believe is ours. Help us to be faithful servants of Your new covenant, reaching out to all those whom You claim; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

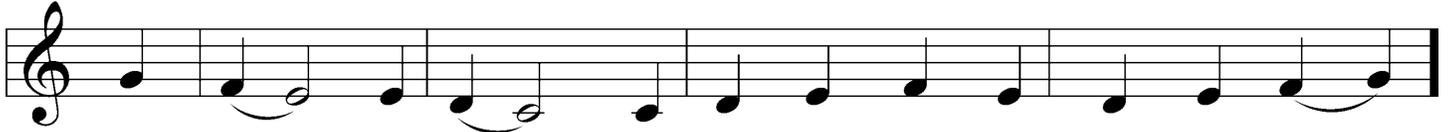
**C** Amen.

# HYMN

547 *The Lamb*

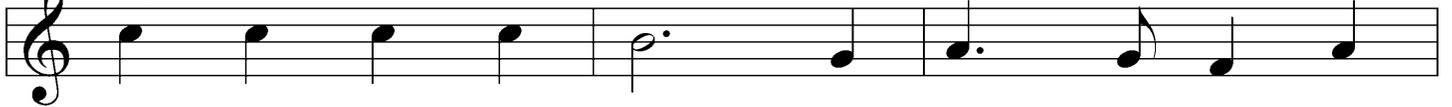


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.

## *Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953–2023

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# FIRST READING

*Ezekiel 33:7–20*

**P** The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 33.

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

<sup>10</sup>“And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, Thus have you said: ‘Surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

<sup>12</sup>“And you, son of man, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, <sup>15</sup>if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

<sup>17</sup>“Yet your people say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just,’ when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by them. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PRAYER RESPONSE

**P** Let us pray: Gracious Father in heaven, in countless ways we have sinned against You, but You have been merciful to us and have forgiven our transgressions. As Your Son covered Himself in our guilt that our sins may be covered in His redeeming blood, help us to find our peace in Him, who gave Himself for us, for in Him we are protected from trouble, and Your grace is our hiding place; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Corinthians 10:1–22*

**P** The Epistle is from 1 Corinthians, chapter 10.

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, <sup>10</sup>nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. <sup>11</sup>Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup>Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup>No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup>I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. <sup>16</sup>The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? <sup>17</sup>Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. <sup>18</sup>Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? <sup>19</sup>What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything? <sup>20</sup>No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. <sup>21</sup>You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. <sup>22</sup>Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

*Romans 10:17*

**C** Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 13:1–9*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>There were some present at that very time who told [Jesus] about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

<sup>6</sup>And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup>And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup>Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

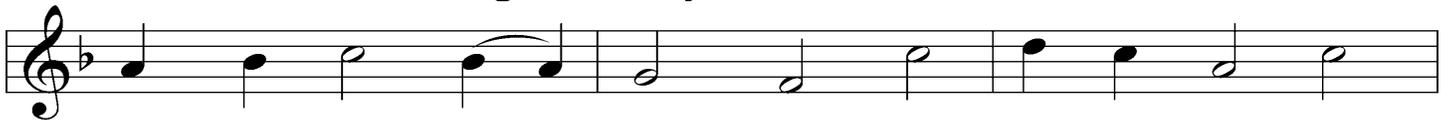
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

438 *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*



1 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, The  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The  
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll  
 4 Lord, when Your glo - ry I shall see And



guilt of sin - ners bear - ing And, lad - en with the  
 Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, Whom God the Fa - ther  
 bear what You com - mand Me. My will con - forms to  
 taste Your king - dom's plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al



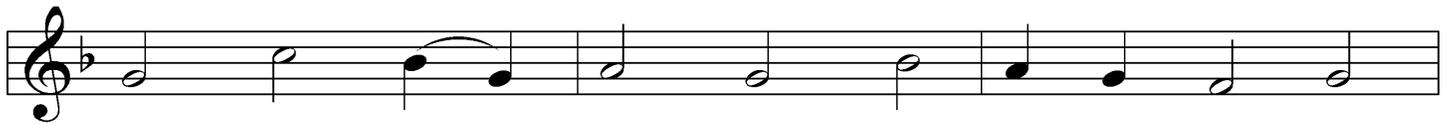
sins of earth, None else the bur - den shar - ing; Goes  
 chose to send To gain for us His fa - vor. "Go  
 Your de - cree, I'll do what You have asked Me." O  
 robe shall be, My joy be - yond all mea - sure! When



pa - tient on, grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with -  
 forth, My Son," the Fa - ther said, "And free My chil - dren  
 won - drous Love, what have You done! The Fa - ther of - fers  
 I ap - pear be - fore Your throne, Your righ - teous - ness shall



out com - plaint, That spot - less life to of - fer, He bears the  
 from their dread Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and  
 up His Son, De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how  
 be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in



stripes, the wounds, the lies, The mock - er - y, and  
 stripes are hard to bear, But by Your pas - sion  
 strong You are to save! You lay the One in -  
 gar - ments rich - ly wrought, As Your own bride shall



yet re - plies, "All this I glad - ly suf - fer."  
 they will share The fruit of Your sal - va - tion."  
 to the grave Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 we be brought To stand in joy be - side You.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
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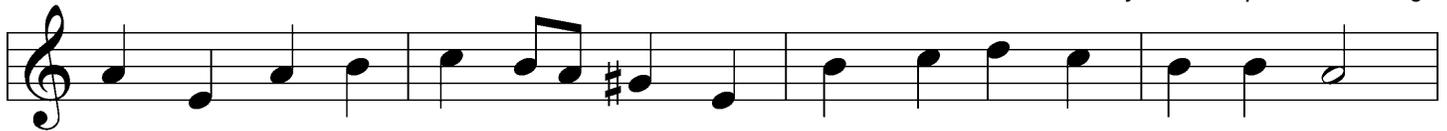
Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553  
 Tune: Public domain

## SERMON

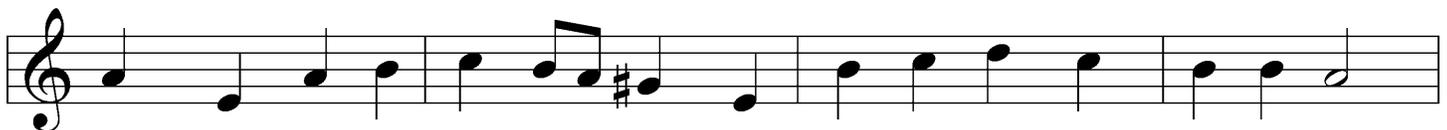
*Pastor Eugene Larmi*  
 1 Corinthians 10:14–22

## HYMN

422 *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

## CREED

*Apostles' Creed*

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

## PASSION READING

*John 18:28–32*

**P** A reading from John, chapter 18.

<sup>28</sup>Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup>They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." <sup>31</sup>Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup>This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSIVE LITANY

**P** Hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C** Let our cry come to You.

**P** Gracious God, heavenly Father, as You did not withhold Your Son, Your only Son,

**C** but gave Him up for us,

**P** grant us peace and assurance

**C** in the knowledge of Your saving love.

**P** For this is love—not that we have loved You but that You have loved us

**C** and have given Your Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**P** Grant that this Good News spread throughout creation that more people in every place may know that You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son,

**C** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**P** Hear us, O Lord, as we silently bring You our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

**P** Trusting in Your mercy, we pray as Your Son taught us:

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C** 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.

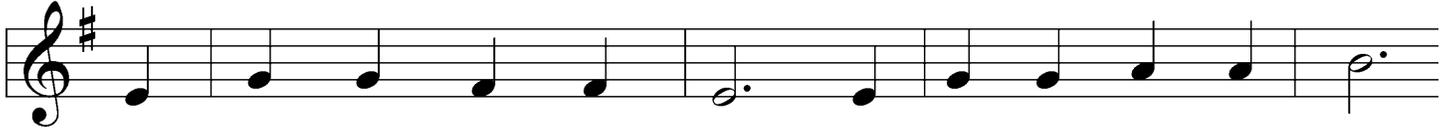
## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you, defend you from all evil, and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

431 *Not All the Blood of Beasts*



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain  
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;  
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,  
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear  
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con - science peace Or wash a - way the stain.  
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.  
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.  
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.  
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591

Text and tune: Public domain

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.