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# Lent

February 25, 2024 † The Second Sunday in Lent



The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

Masks are welcomed, especially for those who have not been boosted, cannot be vaccinated, are at higher risk, or simply prefer to do so.



Ebenezer is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**

**Welcome** to long-time Lutherans, Christians from every tradition, and people new to this faith. **Welcome** to friends new and old. **Welcome** to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; every socioeconomic and marital status, political conviction, ability and challenge.

**Welcome** to believers and questioners, and questioning believers.

**Welcome.**



This worship booklet is available in **LARGE PRINT** and may be **recycled** (in the baskets near the Welcome Center) or taken home. It is also online at [ebenezerchurch.org](http://ebenezerchurch.org).



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the liturgy.



A **platform lift** is available to access the Sanctuary, Education Center, and Restrooms. Please see an usher for assistance.



**Restrooms** are located up the stairs under the model ship, or down the stairs on the west side of the narthex entry area.



**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



**Children** are always welcome in worship at Ebenezer. A nursery is available (the attendant is vaccinated, boosted, and masked). A quiet play area is located in the narthex entry area.



**Holy Communion**, or the Eucharist, is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.

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Cover artwork: *Lenten Labyrinth* by Mike Moyers.

**All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and a time of learning and fellowship. The Nursery remains staffed during this time.**

# Gathering

Words of Welcome      Special Musical presentation of the Shrove Sunday Bingo Prize

Prelude      Bob Garrett

*Silence follows; then, the ringing of bells.*

*Rise in body or spirit.*

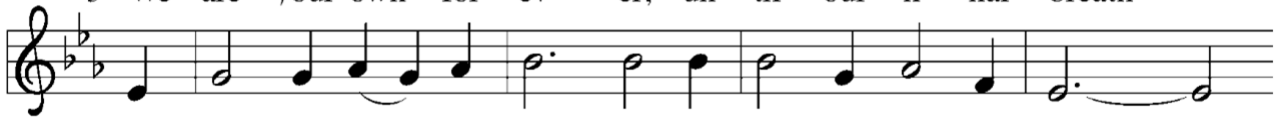
## Call to Worship

God long ago you embraced the people in covenant, **and promised them blessing.**  
Strengthen us in faith, **that, with your disciples of every age,**  
we may proclaim your deliverance in Jesus Christ **to generations yet unborn.**

## Gathering Hymn      Around You, O Lord Jesus



1 A - round you, O Lord Je - sus, your own you gath - er still  
2 We hear your in - vi - ta - tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;  
3 We are your own for - ev - er; un - til our fi - nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill.  
your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all.  
we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



You say to us so lov - ing - ly, "Take, eat! This is my  
It draws us to your lov - ing heart; it brings to us your  
de - part from you, for you are still a - mong your peo - ple



bod - y! Take, drink! This is my blood!"  
bless - ing, which nev - er will de - part.  
dwell - ing, as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. composite  
Music: O JESU, ÅN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, *Den danske Psalmebog*, 1569

## Greeting

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

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*



## Word

The First Reading          Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Refrain:**

All the ends of the earth shall re-mem-ber and turn to the Lord.



You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's <sup>1</sup> line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- <sup>1</sup> spring of Israel.

**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;**

**neither is the LORD's face hid- <sup>1</sup> den from them;**

**but when they cry out, <sup>1</sup> the LORD hears them.**

From you comes my praise in the <sup>1</sup> great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.

**The poor shall eat <sup>1</sup> and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts <sup>1</sup> live forever! Refrain**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow <sup>1</sup> before God.

**For dominion belongs <sup>1</sup> to the LORD,**

**who rules o- <sup>1</sup> ver the nations.**

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow <sup>1</sup> down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- <sup>1</sup> fore the LORD.

**Their descendants shall <sup>1</sup> serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to genera- <sup>1</sup> tions to come.**

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people <sup>1</sup> yet unborn,

saying to them, "The <sup>1</sup> LORD has acted!" *Refrain*

The Second Reading      Romans 4:13-25

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

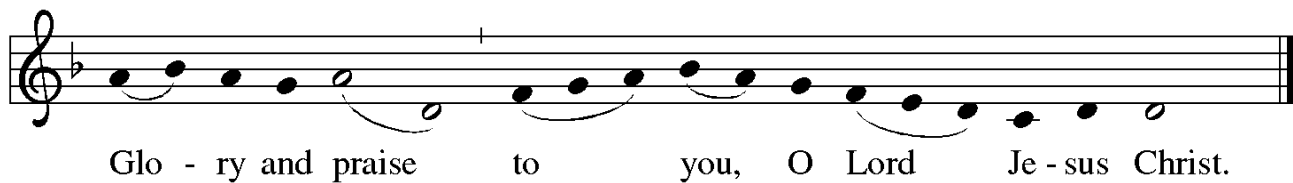
For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those

who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 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. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

*Rise in body or spirit.*

**Welcoming the Gospel** *The Cantor sings this acclamation, then all repeat it.*



**The Gospel**                      **The holy gospel according to Mark.**                      **Mark 8:31-38**  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus* began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Humanity will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastoral Intern Melissa Dailey

Silence for reflection follows. Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.  
2 This lamb is Christ, our great - est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,  
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:  
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.



He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.  
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.  
“My Fa - ther’s will is my com - mand; I’ll do as I am bid - den.”  
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.



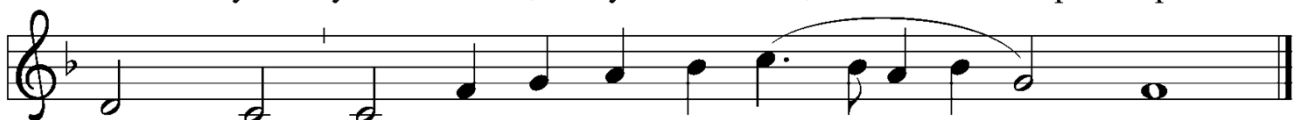
He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -  
“Go down, my child,” the Fa - ther said, “and free my chil - dren  
Oh, won - drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals  
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com - plaint; his spot - less life he of - fers. He bears the shame,  
from their dread of death and con - dem - na - tion. The pain - ful stripes  
can - not right the Son was sent from heav - en. What love, O Love,  
ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav - en, where we shall stand



the stripes, the wrath; his an - guish, mock - er - y,  
are hard to bear, but by your death they all  
who came to save by lov - ing e - ven to  
close by your side, your church, the well - ap - point -



and death for us he glad - ly suf - fers.  
can share the joy of your sal - va - tion.”  
the grave un - til the stone was riv - en.  
ed bride, when all the faith - ful gath - er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553

Affirmation of Faith      *Though not an historic Creed, contemporary affirmation can help us express our faith in new ways. This affirmation comes for the Iona community of Scotland.*

**We believe that God is Love, so we commit ourselves to reconciliation. We believe that God is the light of life, so we commit ourselves to bearing God's light in our world.**

**We believe that Jesus took the form of a servant, so we commit ourselves to serve others. We believe that Jesus gives us his Spirit, so we commit ourselves to his work in the world.**

**We believe that the Spirit speaks through us, so we commit ourselves to proclaim the good news of abundant life in the world God loves. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Children's Message

Prayers of Intercession      *The response to each intercession is: **Hear our prayer.***

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



# Meal

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

*Share a sign of peace with those around you, being mindful about touch.*

Check your neighbor's name tag:

A **yellow square** indicates a distanced elbow or fist bump is preferred.

A **red circle** indicates your neighbor prefers a verbal, distanced greeting only.



For members of the Ebenezer community, an offering is part of our expression of gratitude to God. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.



*Please be seated.*

Offertory                      By the Waters of Babylon                      The Ebenezer Choir

*After the melody is introduced, all are invited to join the choir in singing the canon five times.*

*1-organ side, 2-middle, 3-pulpit side.*

By the wa - ters, the wa - ters of Bab - y - lon,  
we sat down and wept, and wept for thee, Zi - on.  
We re - mem - ber, we re - mem - ber, we re - mem - ber thee, Zi - on.

Words: Psalm 137

Music: William Billings, 1746–1800

BILLINGS  
Irregular

*Rise in body or spirit.*

## Offering Song      Come to the Table of Mercy



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

## Offering Prayer

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

## Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue



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

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

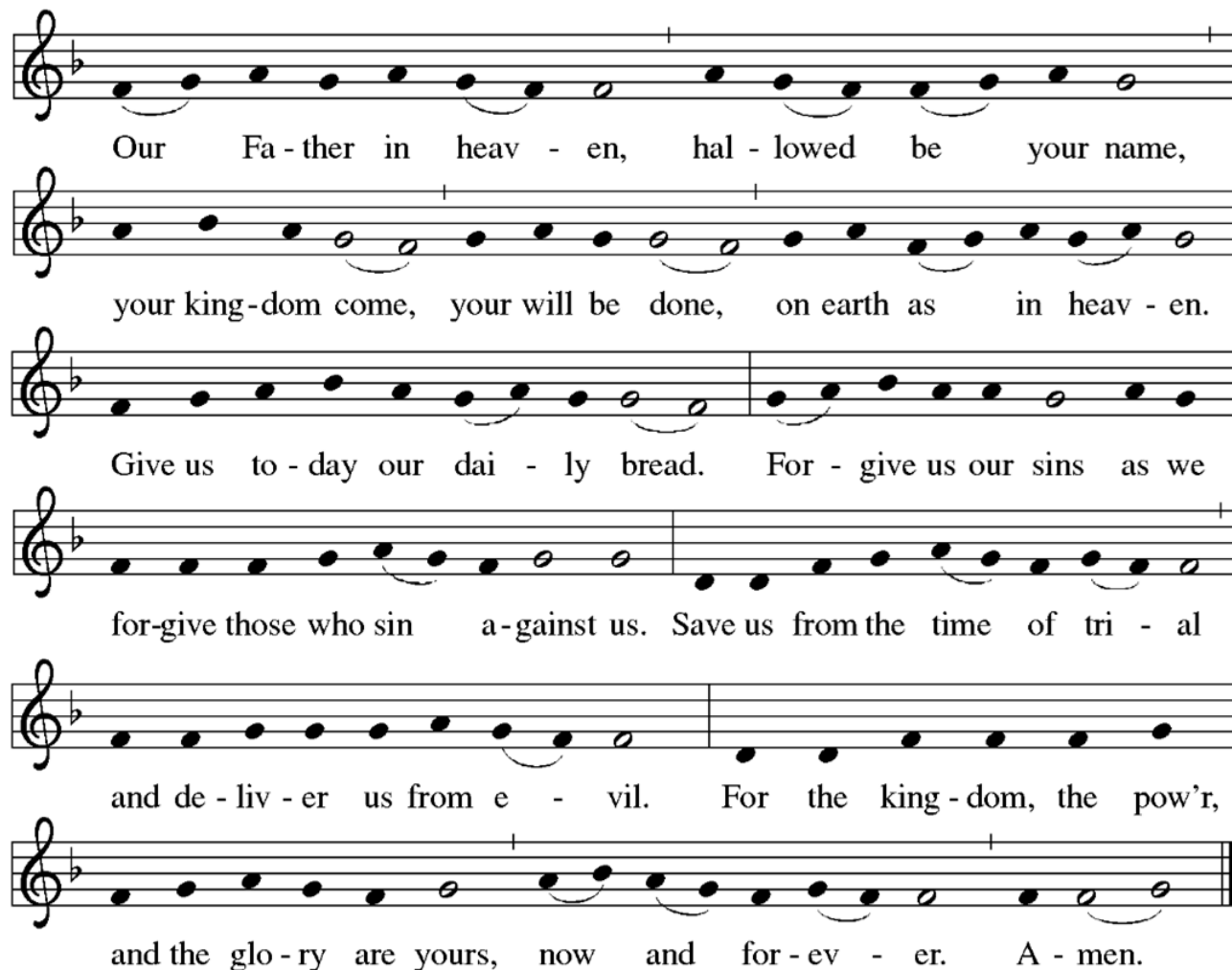
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table



## Lord's Prayer

*You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## Invitation to the Table

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome at God's table.

*Please be seated.*



All who seek Christ's presence in the sacrament are invited. This is a welcome table. At the invitation of the usher, you may come forward down the center aisle to receive the bread or a gluten-free wafer. Then, dip the bread in the cup of **red wine** or **white grape juice**, receiving the elements together. If you'd prefer to drink from a chalice, indicate this to the server and one will be made available.



Agnus Dei

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. A - men.

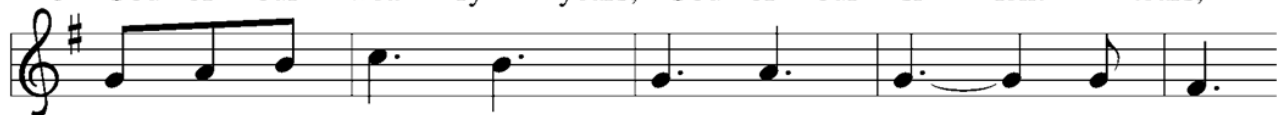


## Hymn

## Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,  
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,  
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;  
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



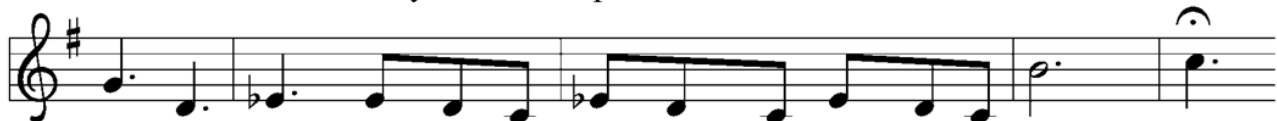
Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,  
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet  
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?  
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,  
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last  
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954



1 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, all to him I free - ly give;  
 2 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, hum-bly at his feet I bow;  
 3 All to Je - sus I sur-ren - der, Lord, I give my - self to thee;



I will ev - er love and trust him, in his pres-ence dai - ly live.  
 world-ly plea-sures all for-sak - en, take me, Jes - sus, take me now.  
 fill me with thy love and pow - er, let thy bless-ings fall on me.

*Refrain*

I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all,  
 I sur-ren-der all, I sur-ren-der all,



all to thee, my bless-ed Sav - ior, I sur-ren - der all.



Text: Judson W. Van DeVenter, 1855–1939

Music: SURRENDER, Winfield S. Weeden, 1847–1908

Rise in body or spirit.

## Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless and keep us in grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer

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

## Sending

### Benediction

May God bless us and keep us. May God's face shine on us with grace and mercy. May God look upon us with favor, ✠ and give us peace. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

### Stand Firm

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system is marked 'All' and contains the lyrics: 'Stand, O stand firm. Stand, O stand firm. Stand, O'. The second system is marked 'fine' and 'Leader' and contains the lyrics: 'stand firm and see what the Lord can do Ev'-ry-bod-y stand ver-y firm Little children, ... Trusted elders, ... All who struggle, ... Stand for justice, ... All God's people, ...'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Cameroon; Iona Community

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Take up your cross and follow.  
**Thanks be to God.**