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The Three Days

March 28, 2024 † Maundy Thursday



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

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.



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 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.

Acknowledgments: Liturgical Material reprinted from *SundaysandSeasons.com*. NRSV Bible, ©1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. onelicense.net A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Cross of the Eucharist*. Peter Koenig.

Gathering

An asterisk () indicates portions of the liturgy omitted at 12:00 p.m.*

The assembly gathers in silence.

Rise in body or spirit.

*Gathering Hymn Healer of Boundless Compassion *Sing three times.*

Heal-er of bound-less com - pas - sion, peace for our
suf - f'ring hearts: a - noint us with health, em - brace us with
strength, and bring us to full - ness of life.

Text: *Life Passages*, Renewing Worship 4
Music: Russell Schulz-Widmar, b. 1944

Confession and Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and evil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

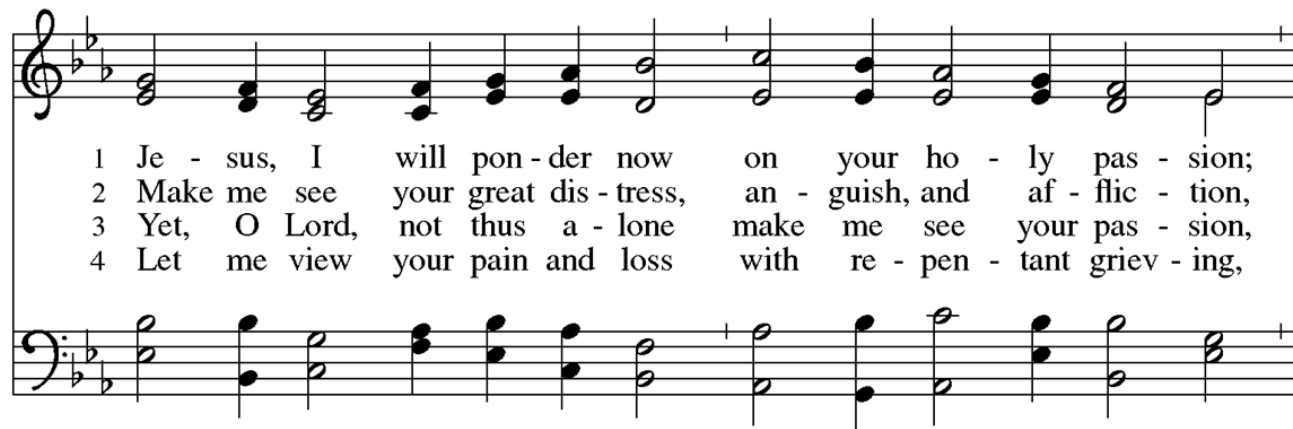
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

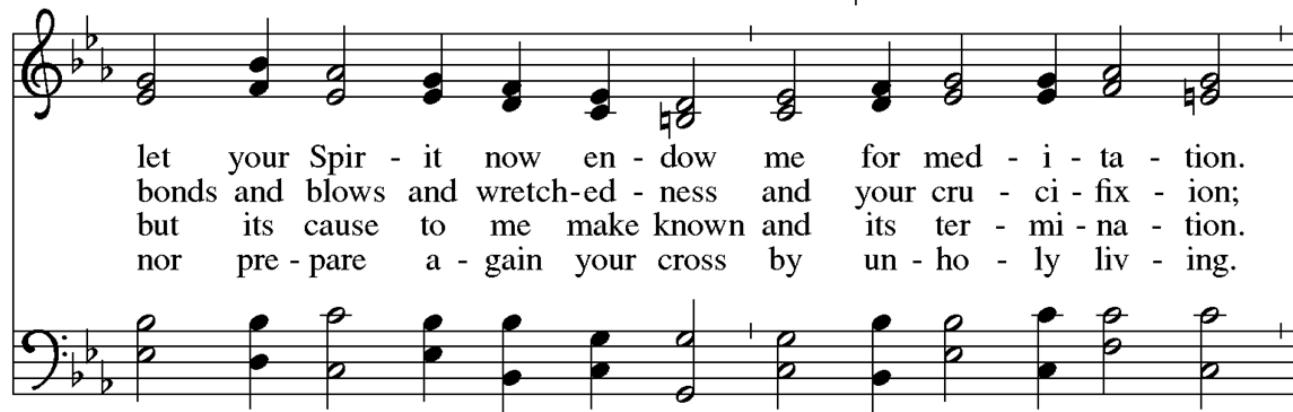
The assembly is seated. People may come forward for individual assurance of forgiveness.

Hymn

Jesus I Will Ponder Now



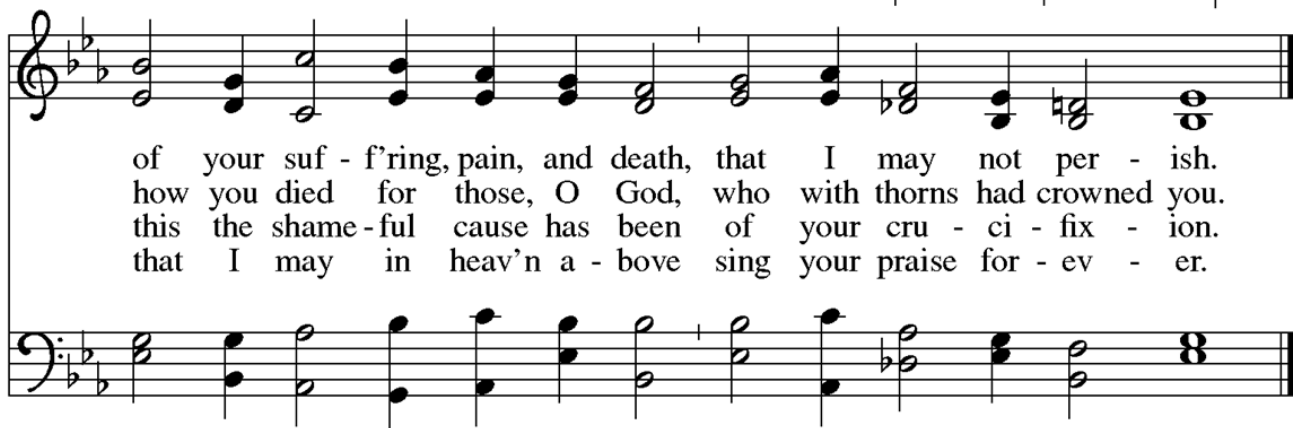
1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, an - guish, and af - flic - tion,
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,
 4 Let me view your pain and loss with re - pen - tant griev - ing,



let your Spir - it now en - dow me for med - i - ta - tion.
 bonds and blows and wretch - ed - ness and your cru - ci - fix - ion;
 but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.
 nor pre - pare a - gain your cross by un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish
 make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails, did wound you,
 For I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;
 May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,



of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death, that I may not per - ish.
 how you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.
 this the shame - ful cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
 that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN, Melchior Vulpinus, 1570–1615

Change My Heart, O God

Refrain

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot-ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

End

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. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, as we serve others in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

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

*Psalm 116

I Love You Lord, For You Have Heard My Voice

1 I love you, LORD, for you have heard my voice. You turned to me
and heard my cry for mer - cy. An - guished by death and o - ver -
come by sor - row, I turned in my dis - tress to you in prayer.

4 How can I pay you, LORD, for all your gifts? I will lift up the cup of full salvation. I will fulfill my vows to you, my Savior. With all your saints, I'll call upon your name.	5 Precious to you the dying of your saints. I am your faithful servant, freed from bondage. I'll pay my vows and, with your people, thank you. Come to God's house, O people; praise the LORD!
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The Second Reading First Corinthians 11:23-26

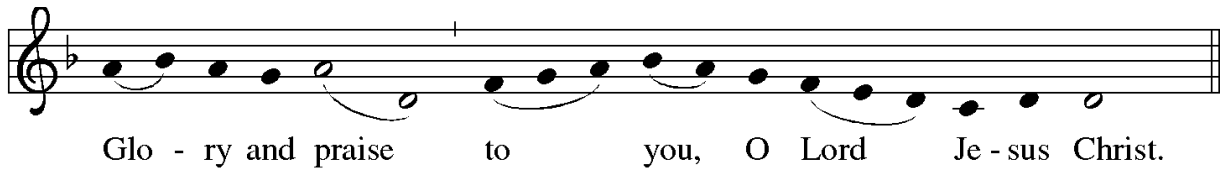
For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Rise in body or spirit.

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



The Gospel The holy gospel according to John. John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—

and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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

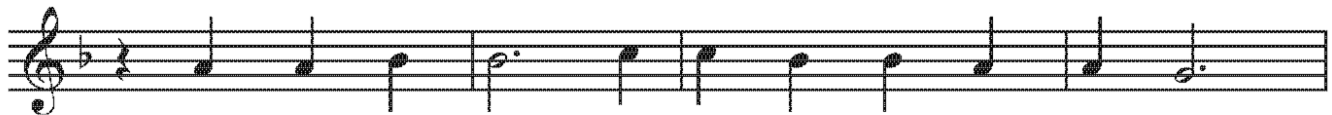
Please be seated.

Sermon Pastoral Intern Melissa Dailey

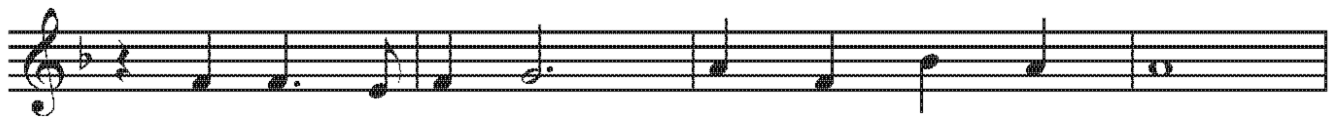
Silence for reflection follows.

Rise in body or spirit.

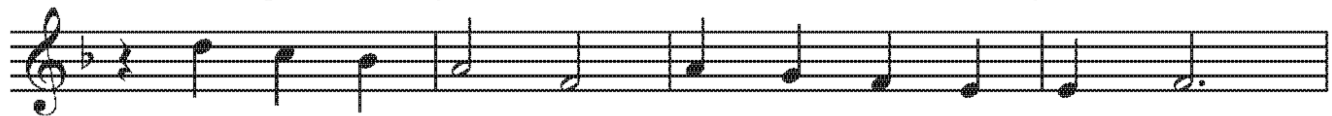
Hymn of the Day By Gracious Powers



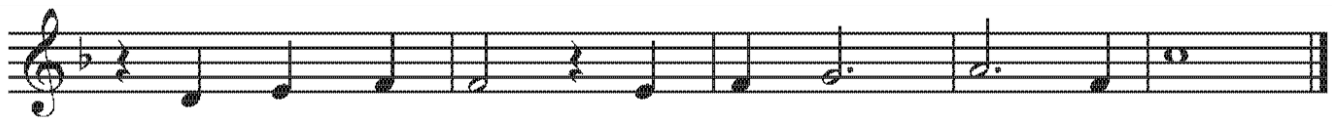
1. By gra - cious pow'rs so won - der - ful - ly shel - tered,
 2. Yet is this heart by its old foe tor - men - ted,
 3. And when this cup you give is filled to brim - ming
 4. Yet when a - gain in this same world you give us
 5. By gra - cious pow'rs so faith - ful - ly pro - tec - ted,



and con - fi - dent - ly wait - ing come what may,
 still e - vil days bring bur - dens hard to bear;
 with bit - ter suff - 'ring, hard to un - der - stand,
 the joy we had, the bright - ness of your sun,
 so qui - et - ly, so won - der - ful - ly near,



we know that God is with us night and morn - ing,
 Oh, give our fright - ened souls the sure sal - va - tion,
 we take it thank - ful - ly and with - out trem - bling
 we shall re - mem - ber all the days we lived through
 I'll live each day in hope, with you be - side me,



and nev - er fails to greet us each new day.
 for which, O Lord, you taught us to pre - pare.
 out of so good and so be - loved a hand.
 and our whole life shall then be yours a - lone.
 and go with you through ev - 'ry com - ing year.

text: Dietrich Bonhöffer, tr. Fred Pratt Green
 music: John Elmquist

Please be seated.

Footwashing and Anointing of Hands for Service

On this night we have heard our Lord's commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of feet and anointing of hands, following the example our Lord gave us on the night before his death.

All who desire may come forward for footwashing and/or the anointing of their hands.

*Hymn

Where Charity and Love Are Shown

Refrain



Where char-i - ty and love are shown, our God is



there made known, our God is there made known.



1 One as - sem - bly at one ta - ble; one the cup, the
 2 At the ta - ble we are wel - comed to the ban - quet
 3 This, the bread of life e - ter - nal; this, the sav - ing



bread, the wine; in one love we are com -
 from a - bove. We re - call the Lord's com -
 cup we claim, draw us close with - in one



pan - ions, and in u - ni - ty we dine.
 mand - ment that we live and grow in love.
 fam - 'ly, make us one in Je - sus' name.

»

Brought to - geth - er by the pres - ence and the prom - ise
 As the gifts of God are giv - en, Je - sus' bod - y
 Let us tell the liv - ing sto - ry of his suf - f'ring

of God's Word, here in joy and in re -
 and his blood, so we give our - selves to
 and his pain, and pro - claim the ho - ly

Refrain

mo - ria y la en - tre - ga de su a - mor.
 mem - brance we re - ceive our lov - ing Lord.
 oth - ers and we seek our neigh - bor's good.
 mys - t'ry: Christ has died, yet lives to reign.

Text: Joaquín Madurga, 1938–2017; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
 Music: DONDE HAY CARIDAD, Joaquín Madurga

Hymn **Make Me a Servant**

Make me a ser - vant, hum - ble and meek.
 Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
 And may the prayer of my heart al - ways be:
 Make me a ser - vant, make me a ser - vant,
 make me a ser - vant to - day.

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

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. An offering may be made in the basket near the baptismal font after the liturgy.

* Offertory

He Comes to Us as One Unknown The Ebenezer Choir
Text by Timothy Dudley-Smith; music by John Elmquist

He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred.

He comes when souls in silence lie
and thoughts of day depart;
half-seen upon the inward eye,
a falling star across the sky
of night within the heart.

He comes to us in sound of seas,
the ocean's fume and foam;
yet small and still upon the breeze,

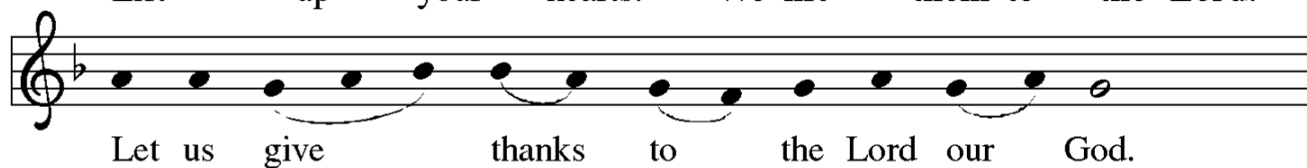
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,
a voice to call us home.

He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev'ry child of earth.

He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord.

Rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface and 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

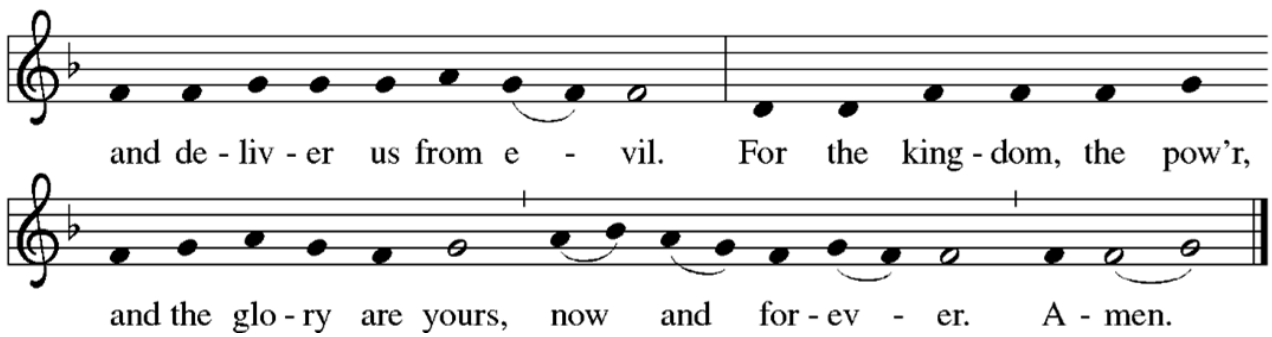
You may pray this prayer in these words; or, in language close to your heart.

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

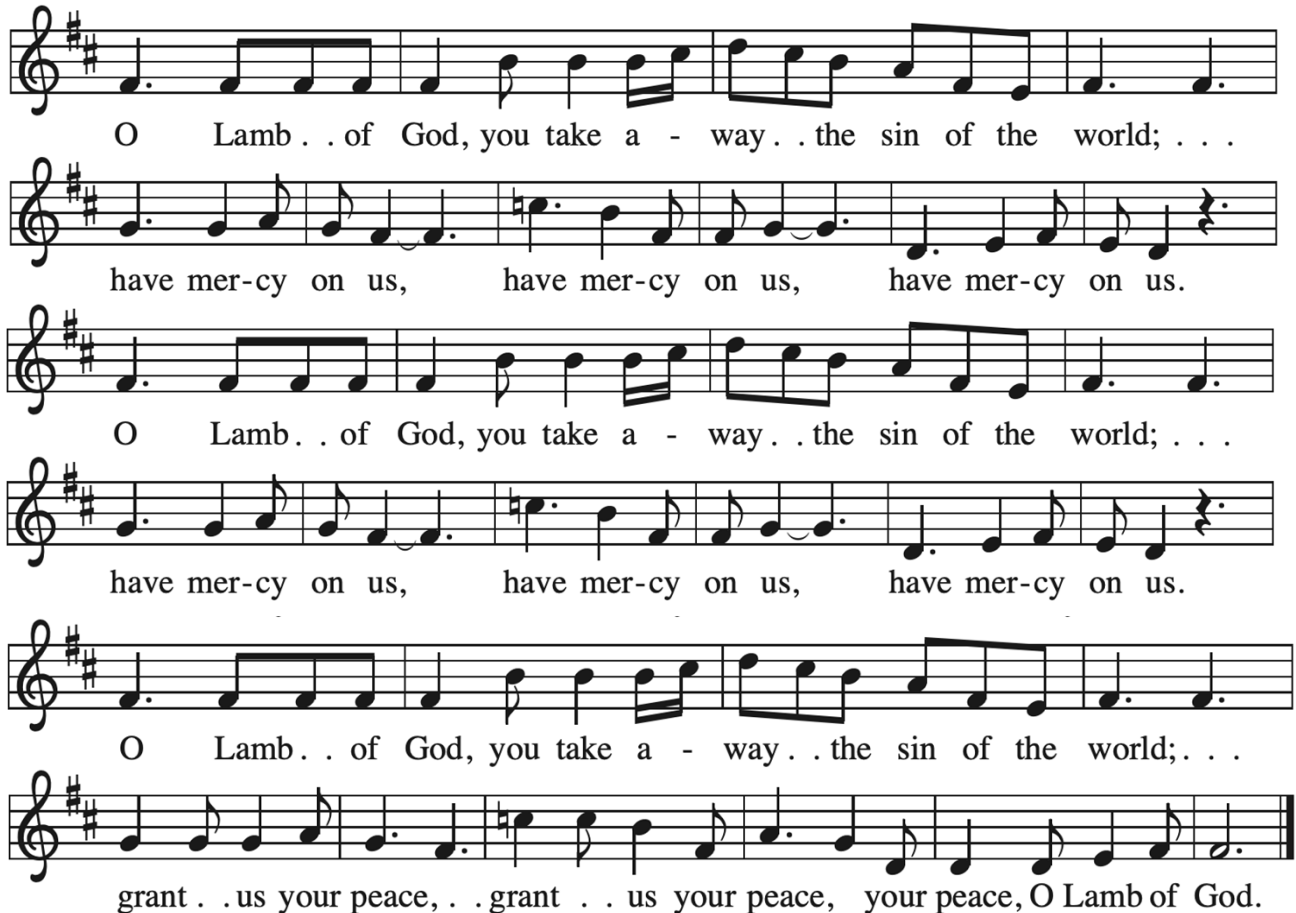
Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. All are welcome at God's table.

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

O Lamb of God



O Lamb . . of God, you take a - way . . the sin of the world; . . .
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
O Lamb . . of God, you take a - way . . the sin of the world; . . .
have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.
O Lamb . . of God, you take a - way . . the sin of the world; . . .
grant . . us your peace, . . grant . . us your peace, your peace, O Lamb of God.

Text: Traditional

Music: JUMALAN KARITSA (LAAKSONEN), Petri Laaksonen

Hymn

O Lord We Praise You



1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you, in thanks -
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en, life to
 3 Lord God, be - stow on us your grace and fa - vor, that we



giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
 win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
 geth - er here in love and u - nion, nor re - pent this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest com - mu - nion. O Lord, have mer - cy!



May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our
 Lord, your kind - ness so much did move you that your
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; by this



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead
 blood now moves us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
 ho - ly ban - quet re - make us. Give your church, Lord, to see



in all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

Text: German hymn, 15th cent., st. 1; Martin Luther, 1483–1546, sts. 2–3; tr. composite
 Music: GOTT SEI GELOBET UND GEBENEDEIET, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

*Hymn

Broken in Love

This is my bod - y, bro - ken in love; take it and
eat and re - mem - ber me. This is my blood,
poured out in love; take it and drink and re - mem - ber
me. For love is will - ing ev - 'ry day to
die in or - der to live, and love is pa - tient
for a way to share the gifts that I give.

Text: Handt Hanson

Music: BROKEN IN LOVE, Handt Hanson

Rise in body or spirit.

Blessing and Prayer

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

Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

*Stripping of the Altar *As the ministers and others strip the altar, symbolizing Christ's being forsaken, the Cantor and Choir chant Psalm 88.*



O LORD, my ¹ God, my Savior,
by day and night I ¹ cry to you.
Let my prayer enter in- ¹ to your presence;
incline your ear to my ¹ lamentation.
For I am ¹ full of trouble;
my life is at the brink ¹ of the grave.
I am counted among those
who go down ¹ to the pit;
I have become like one
who ¹ has no strength;
lost among the dead,
like the slain who lie ¹ in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
for they are cut off ¹ from your hand.
You have laid me in the depths ¹ of the pit,
in dark places, and in ¹ the abyss.
Your anger weighs up- ¹ on me heavily,
and all your great waves ¹ overwhelm
me.
You have put my friends far from me; you
have made me to be ab- ¹ horred by them;
I am in prison and can- ¹ not get free.
My sight has failed me
be- ¹ cause of trouble;
LORD, I have called upon you daily;
I have stretched out my ¹ hands to you.

Do you work wonders ¹ for the dead?
Will those who have died
stand up and ¹ give you thanks?
Will your lovingkindness
be declared ¹ in the grave,
your faithfulness
in the land ¹ of destruction?
Will your wonders be known ¹ in the dark
or your righteousness in the country
where all ¹ is forgotten?
But as for me, O LORD,
I cry to ¹ you for help;
in the morning
my prayer ¹ comes before you.
LORD, why have you re- ¹ jected me?
Why have you hidden your ¹ face from
me?
Ever since my youth, I have been wretched
and at the ¹ point of death;
I have borne your terrors ¹ and am
helpless.
Your blazing anger has swept ¹ over me;
your terrors ¹ have destroyed me;
they surround me all day long ¹ like a flood;
they encompass me on ¹ every side.
My friend and my neighbor
you have put a- ¹ way from me,
and darkness is my on- ¹ ly companion.