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Lent

March 10, 2024 ✝ The Fourth Sunday in Lent



The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

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 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.

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: *Crucifixion*. Frank Wesley.

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

Prelude

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy Joe Zawinul

Silence follows; then, the ringing of bells. Rise in body or spirit.

Call to Worship

We praise you, O God, for water. **We need water to drink.**

We need water to wash. **We need water to grow.**

We praise you, O God, for baptism. **We praise you, O God, for your Spirit.**

Gathering Hymn

Wide Open Are Your Hands



1 Wide o - pen are your hands to pay with more than gold
2 Wide o - pen are your arms, a fall - en world to em-brace,
3 Draw all my mind and heart up to your throne on high,



the aw - ful debt of guilt and sin, for - ev - er and of old.
to win to love and end - less rest our way - ward hu - man race.
and let your sa - cred cross ex - alt my spir - it to the sky.



Ah, let me grasp those hands, that we may nev - er part,
Lord, I am sad and poor, but bound - less is your grace;
To these, your might - y hands, my spir - it I re - sign.



and let the pow - er of their blood sus - tain my faint - ing heart.
give me the soul - trans - form - ing joy for which I seek your face.
In life, I live a - lone to you; in death, am yours a - lone.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt.
Music: LEOMINSTER, George W. Martin, 1828–1881

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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through 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

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor *the Israelites* set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Give Thanks to God, Who Hears Our Cries

1 Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in
2 If you have ev - er lived in - side the pris - on
3 If you drew near the gates of death, too sick to
trou-bled days with won - drous works to hu - man - kind that
of your gloom and cried to God, who broke your bonds and
eat or dress, and cried to God, who heard your voice and

call for high - est praise. Let all who know God's
 raised you from your tomb, then praise the One who
 healed all your dis - tress, then sing with sounds of

sav - ing love sing grate - ful songs al - ways.
 sets you free, who makes dry plac - es bloom.
 ho - ly joy; God's won - drous works pro - fess.

4 So praise the One whose love is great, and help you have been shown,
 whose kindness is well-known, and tell the world what God has done.
 Consider well the healing hand Praise God and God alone!

The Second Reading Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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.*

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Michael Fick

Silence for reflection follows.

Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

What Wondrous Love Is This?



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Baptism

Presentation

The candidate(s) for baptism, sponsor(s), and parent(s) gather with the ministers at the font.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsor(s) for each candidate, in turn, present them: I present Theodore Adewale for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parent(s) or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ? *Response:* I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities, teaching this child to: live among God's faithful people; receive the word of God and partake of the holy supper; learn the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments; read the holy scriptures; and be nurtured in faith and prayer; so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, living in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response:* I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Theodore and pray for this new life in Christ? **We do.**

Profession of Faith

I ask you to profess faith in Christ Jesus to reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: **I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving at the Font

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, holy God. You are the maker of the waters of the earth. You are the fire of rebirth. You are the womb of all creation.

You poured out your Spirit on your people Israel. You breathe life into our dry bones. Your Beloved Jesus promised to send the Spirit to us that the world may know your peace and truth.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, and breathe new life into the one here baptized. By your Spirit adopt us all as your children, through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism

Theodore Adewale, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The baptismal party moves to the chancel. All may make the sign of the cross to bless the newly baptized.

Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter take me to the
wa - ter to be bap - tized.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with clear phrasing.

Please be seated.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Theodore with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead newly the baptized.

Theodore Adewale, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

A lighted candle is given to the newly baptized.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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

Steal Away

The Ebenezer Choir

African-American Spiritual; arr. by John Elmquist

Steal away, steal away,
steal away to Jesus
Steal away, steal away home,
I don't have long to stay here.

My Lord, He calls me,
He calls me by the thunder.

The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I don't have long to stay here.

Green trees are bending,
Poor sinner stand a-trembling,
The trumpet sounds within my soul,
I don't have long to stay here.

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.

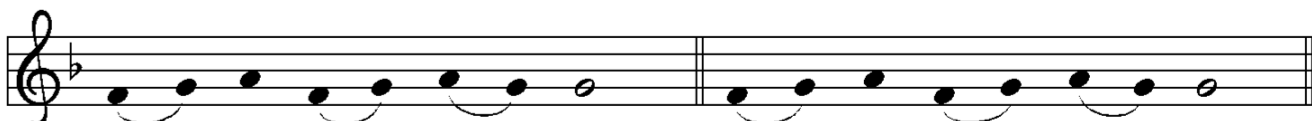
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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 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.

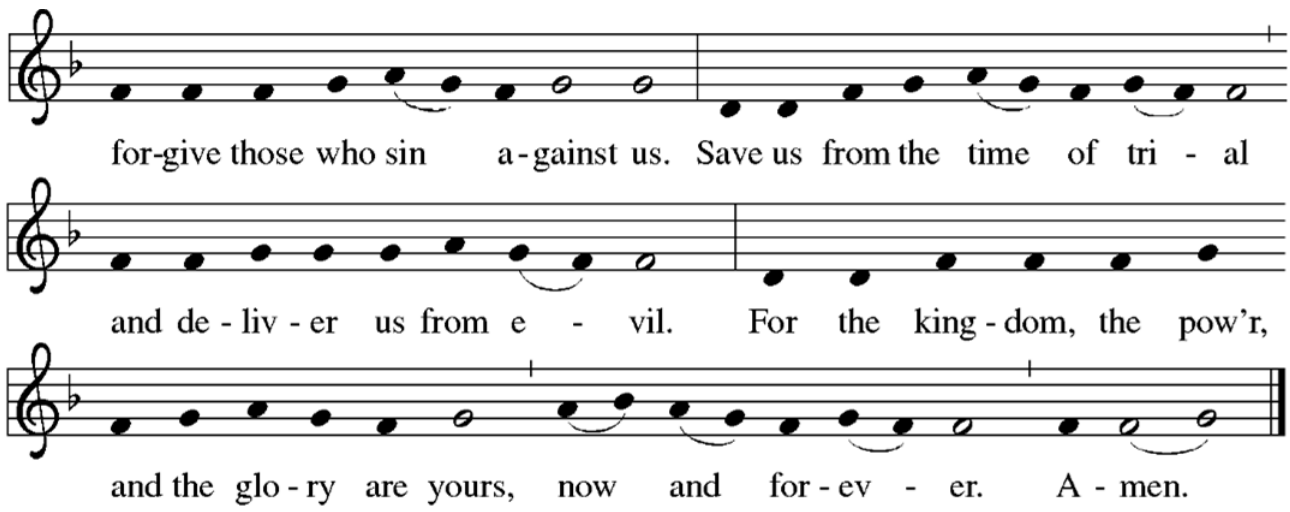
Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

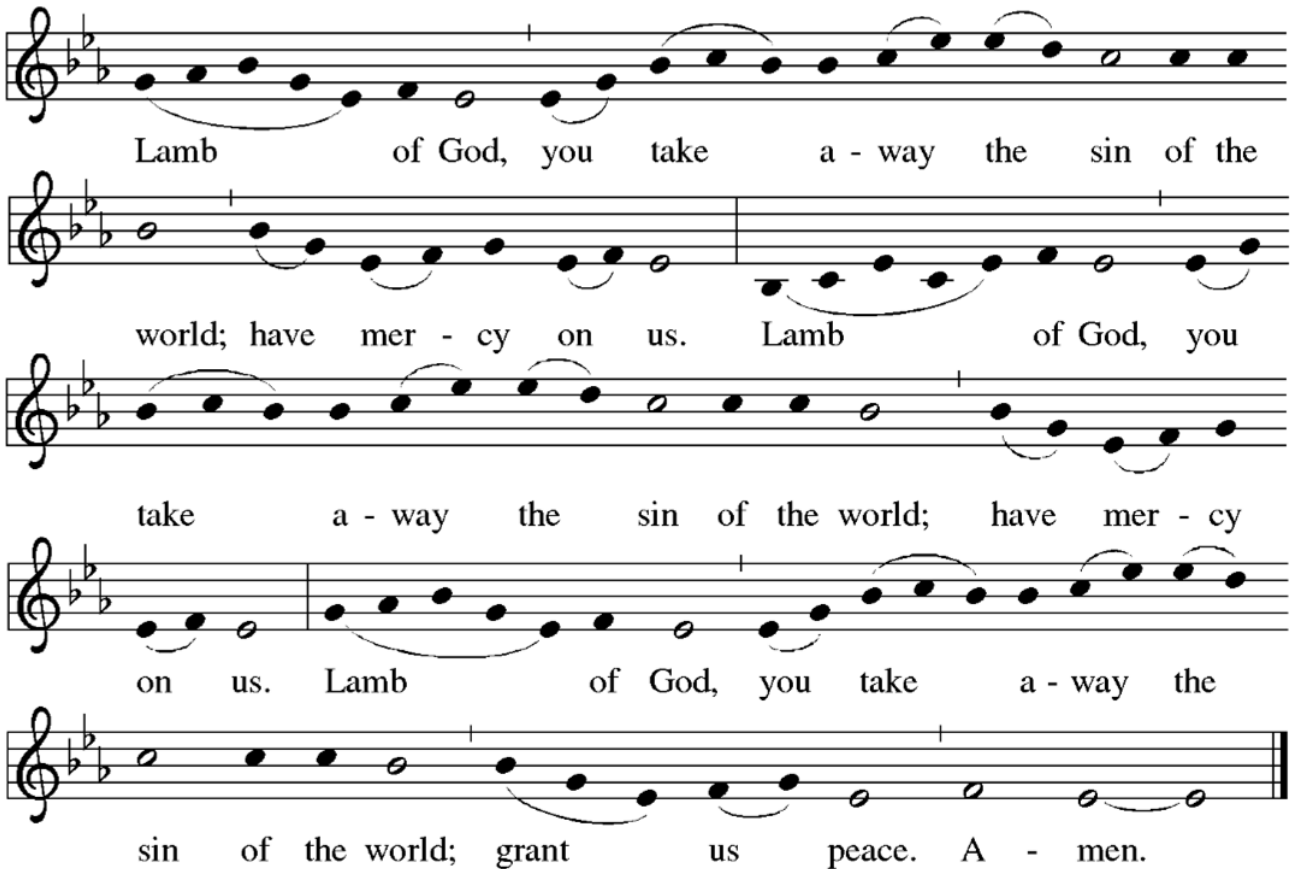
Please be seated.



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 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

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
 2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er
 3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:
 4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;
 5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,



took our sin a - way for - ev - er,
 here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.
 Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken
 all your bur - dens I will car - ry.
 bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.



bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,
 Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.
 by all those with hearts dis - tressed,
 There is noth - ing you can do
 Those you serve can taste from you



free - dom from death for us to gain.
 My blood I give for you in wine."
 by all who yearn for peace and rest.
 to earn this mer - cy; take it new."
 what won - ders God in love will do.

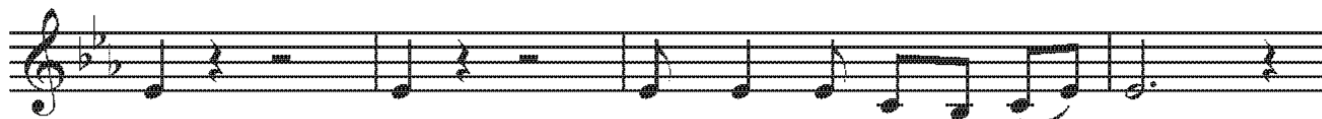
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940
 Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524

Instrumental

Totem Pole Lee Morgan

Hymn

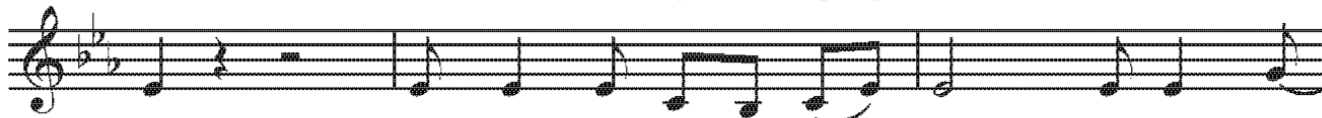
Hush, Hush, Somebody's Calling My Name



Hush. Hush. Some-bod - y's call - ing my name.



Hush. Hush. Some-bod-y's call-ing my name, Oh, hush.



Hush. Some-bod - y's call - ing my name. Oh, my Lord,

Fine

Oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

1. I'm so glad, trou - ble won't last al - ways.
 2. Sounds like Je - sus, some - bod - y's call - ing my name.
 3. I'm so glad, I'm on my jour - ney home.

I'm so glad, trou - ble won't last al - ways. Oh,
 Sounds like Je - sus, some - bod - y's call - ing my name. Oh,
 I'm so glad, I'm on my jour - ney home. Oh,

I'm so glad, trou - ble won't last al - ways. Oh, my Lord,
 sounds like Je - sus, some - one is call - ing me. Oh, my Lord,
 I'm so glad, I'm on my jour - ney home. Oh, my Lord,

Oh, my Lord, what shall I do?
 Oh, my Lord, what shall I do?
 Oh, my Lord, what shall I do?

after v.3, D.C al Fine

African American Spiritual

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.**

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Dismissal

Go in peace, lifted up with Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

The Pesky Serpent Jimmy Giuffre