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Holy Week

March 24, 2024 ✚ Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion



This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

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. oneline.net A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Entry into Jerusalem*. Wilhelm Morgner, ca. 1910.

All are welcome to gather downstairs for refreshments and fellowship.

The Nursery remains staffed during this time.

Gathering

Weather permitting, the assembly gathers in the Courtyard.

Those who wish my gather in the Sanctuary to greet the procession as it arrives.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest!**

Processional Gospel The holy gospel according to Mark. Mark 11:1-11
Glory to you, O Lord.

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, *Jesus* sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They told them what *Jesus* had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to *Jesus* and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Blessing of the Palms

Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior *Jesus Christ*. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same *Jesus Christ*, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace
in the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honor



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,



to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. **Hosanna in the highest!**

Please be seated.

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

Rise in body or spirit.

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. Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

The First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out
the beard;

I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.
The Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to
shame; he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

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

Psalm 31

The Cantor sings the refrain; all repeat it.

The Cantor/Choir sings the verses and all sing the refrain.

Refrain:



1. In you, O Lord I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, oh my faithful Lord, in your hands I commend my spirit.
2. For all my foes reproach me; all my friends are now put to flight.
I am forgotten, like the unremembered dead, like a dish that now is broken.
3. I place my trust in you, Lord; in your hands is my destiny.
Let your face shine upon your servant, Lord, in your hands I will place my life.

Text: Psalm 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17; Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc., refrains trans. © 1969, ICEL
Music: Marty Haugen; refrain II adapt. by Diana Kodner, © 1983, 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

The Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in
Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.


Therefore God also highly exalted him
 and gave him the name
 that is above every name,
 so that at the name of Jesus
 every knee should bend,
 in heaven and on earth

and under the earth,
 and every tongue should confess
 that Jesus Christ is Lord,
 to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Rise in body or spirit.

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



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


The Gospel **The holy gospel according to Mark.** **Mark 15:1-39**
Glory to you, O Lord.

Please be seated. The passion from Mark's gospel is read, interspersed with reflections by the preacher.


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

Silence for reflection follows. Rise in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day **A Stable Lamp Is Lighted** *The Choir sings verse 1.*



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose glow shall wake the
 2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y shall ride in tri - umph
 3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en, and yield - ed up to
 4 But now, as at the end - ing, the low is lift - ed



sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 by; the palm shall strew its branch-es, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and ev - 'ry stone shall
 high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - 'ry stone shall



cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, and
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, though
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, for
 cry. And ev - 'ry stone shall cry, in



straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 heav - y, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -



heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way to pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Please be seated.

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.

Children's Message

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.

Please be seated.

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.

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.

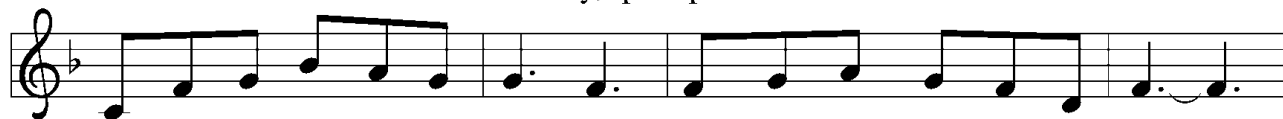
He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord.

Rise in body or spirit.

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.

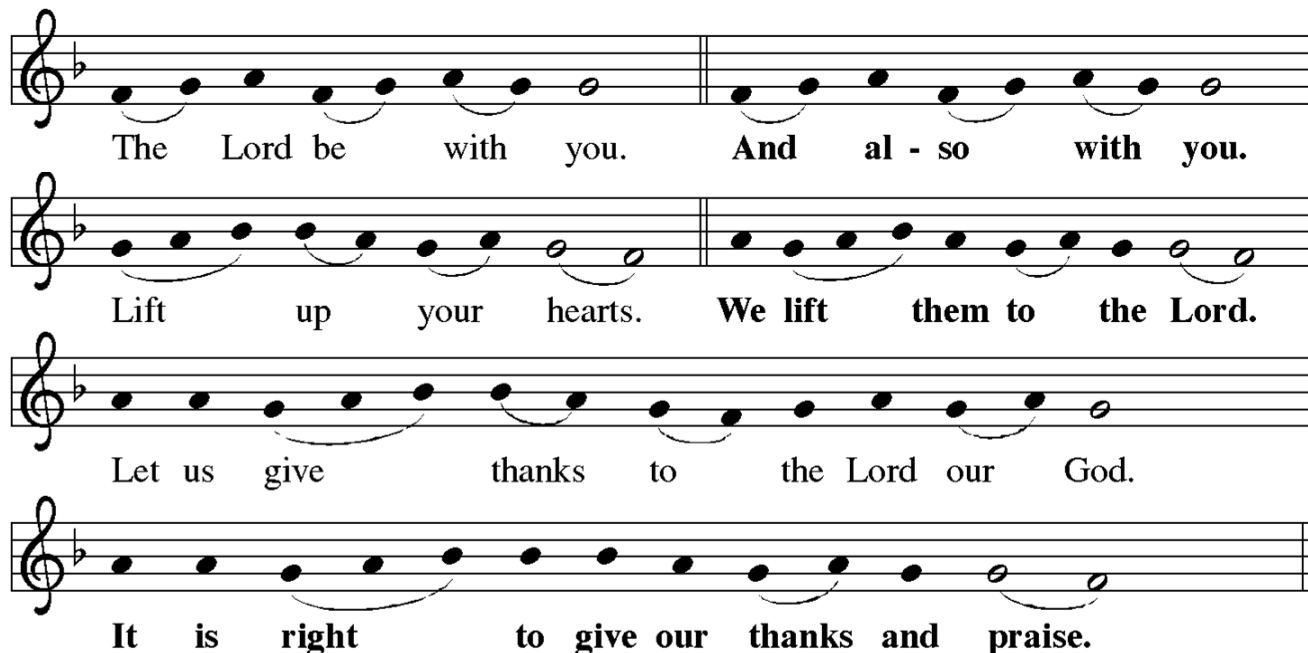
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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

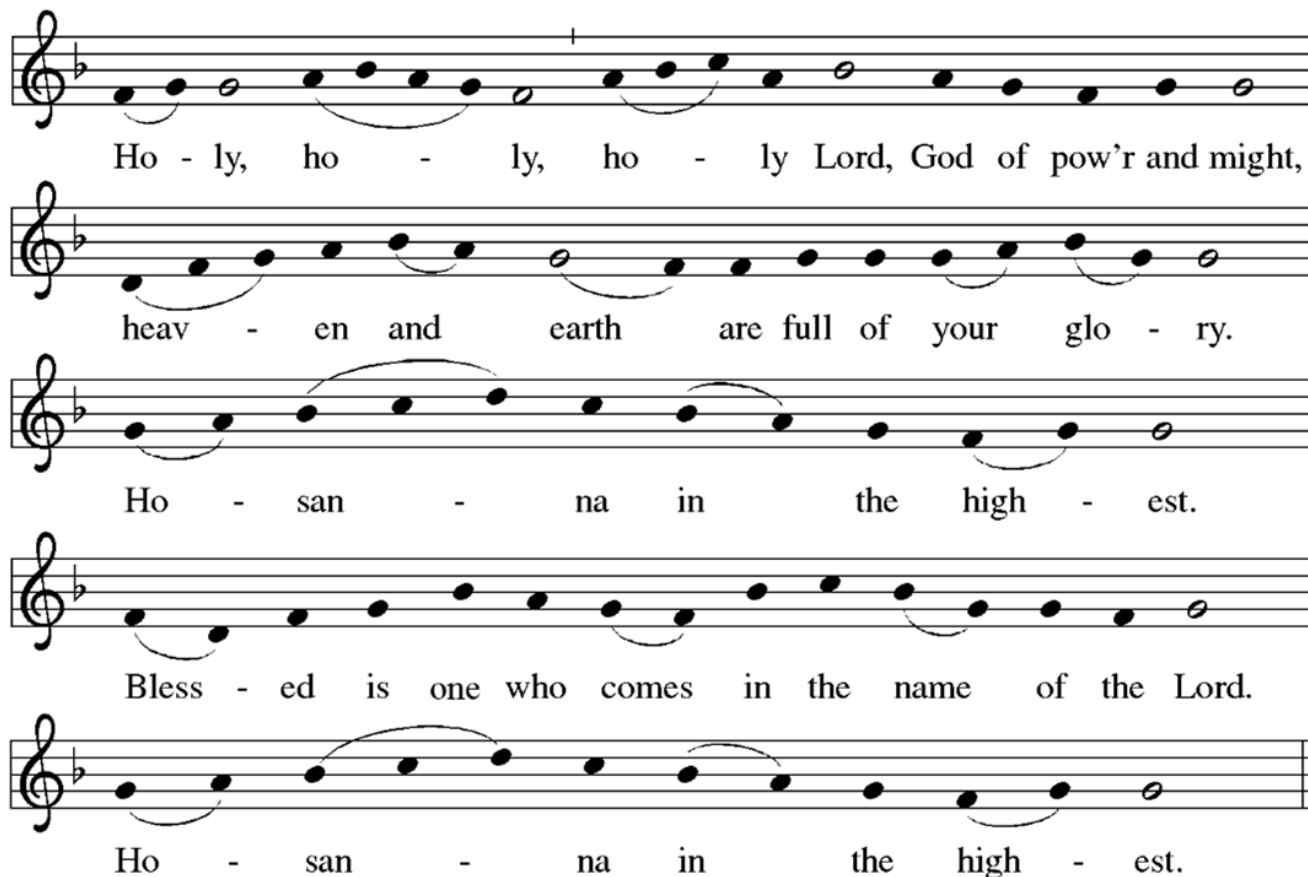


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

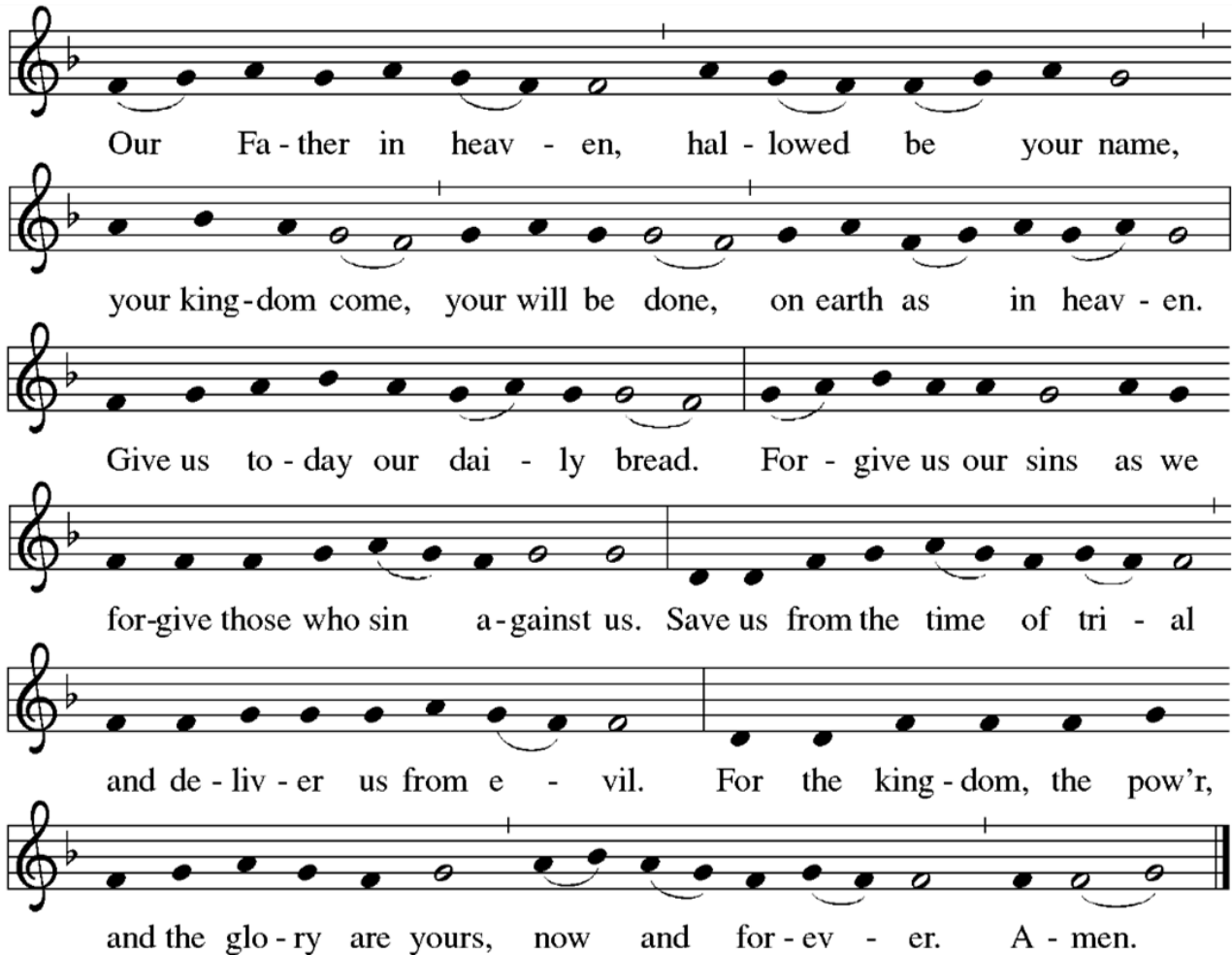


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Forgive Your People

Sing the refrain in Spanish and the verses in English.

Refrain / Estribillo



Per - do - na_a tu pue - blo, Se - ñor. Per -
For - give your . . . peo - ple, O Lord. For -



do - na_a tu pue - blo, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
give your . . . peo - ple, for - give . . . us, O Lord.



1 Por e - sos hie - rros que te cla - va -
1 For cold and cru - el nails that im - pale
2 For all the dead - ly blows that have torn
3 For bear - ing all our wounds, we a - dore
4 May your whole life out - poured now flow through



ron, por las es - pi - nas que te pun -
you, for rag - ged rings of thorns that as -
you, for all the bit - ter words that still
you. Show us your feet, your hands, we im -
us, and may your death re - store and re -



za - ron, per - dó - na - le, Se - ñor.
sail you, for - give . . . us, O Lord.
scorn you, for - give . . . us, O Lord.
plore you. For - give . . . us, O Lord.
new us. For - give . . . us, O Lord.

2 *Por tus sangrientas llagas tan crueles,
por los insultos y por las hieles,
perdónale, Señor.*

3 *Por tus heridas de pies y manos,
por los azotes tan inhumanos,
perdónale, Señor.*

4 *Por la abertura de tu costado,
por haber muerto abandonado,
perdónale, Señor.*

Text: Anonymous; English text Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951
Music: PERDONA A TU PUEBLO, Anonymous

Hymn

Amazing Love



1 My Lord, what love is this that pays so
2 And so they watched him die, de - spised, re -
3 And now this love of Christ shall flow like



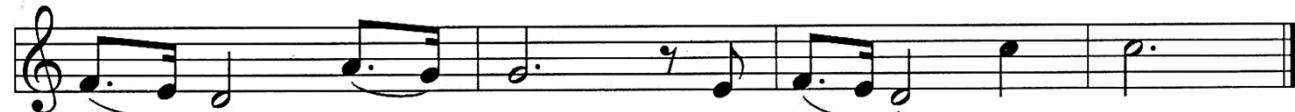
dear - ly, that I, the guilt - y one, may go free?
ject - ed; but, oh, the blood he shed flowed for me.
riv - ers; come, wash your guilt a - way, live a - gain.



A - maz - ing love, oh, what sac - ri - fice, the Son of God giv'n for



me; my debt he pays and my death he dies, that



I might live, that I might live.

Hymn

Deeper, Deeper

1. Deep - er, deep - er in the love of Je - sus Dai - ly let me
 2. Deep - er, deep - er! bless - ed Ho - ly Spir - it, Take me deep - er
 3. Deep - er, deep - er! tho' it cost hard tri - als, Deep - er let me
 4. Deep - er, high - er, ev - 'ry day in Je - sus, Till all con - flict

go; High - er, high - er in the school of wis - dom,
 still, Till my life is whol - ly lost in Je - sus,
 go! Root - ed in the ho - ly love of Je - sus,
 past, Finds me con - qu'ror, and in His own im - age

O deep - er yet, I

More of grace to know.
 And His per - fect will. O deep - er yet, I pray,
 Let me fruit - ful grow.
 Per - fect - ed at last.

pray, And high - er ev - 'ry

deep - er yet, I pray, And high - er ev - 'ry day,

day, And wis - er, bless - ed
 high - er ev - 'ry day, And wis - er, bless - ed Lord,
 Lord,
 wis - er, bless - ed Lord, In Thy pre - cious, ho - ly word.

Text: Charles P. Jones
 Tune: DEEPER, 10 5 10 5 with refrain; Charles P. Jones



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

Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - raigned;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854
Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Dismissal

Go in peace. Follow Jesus to the cross.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude