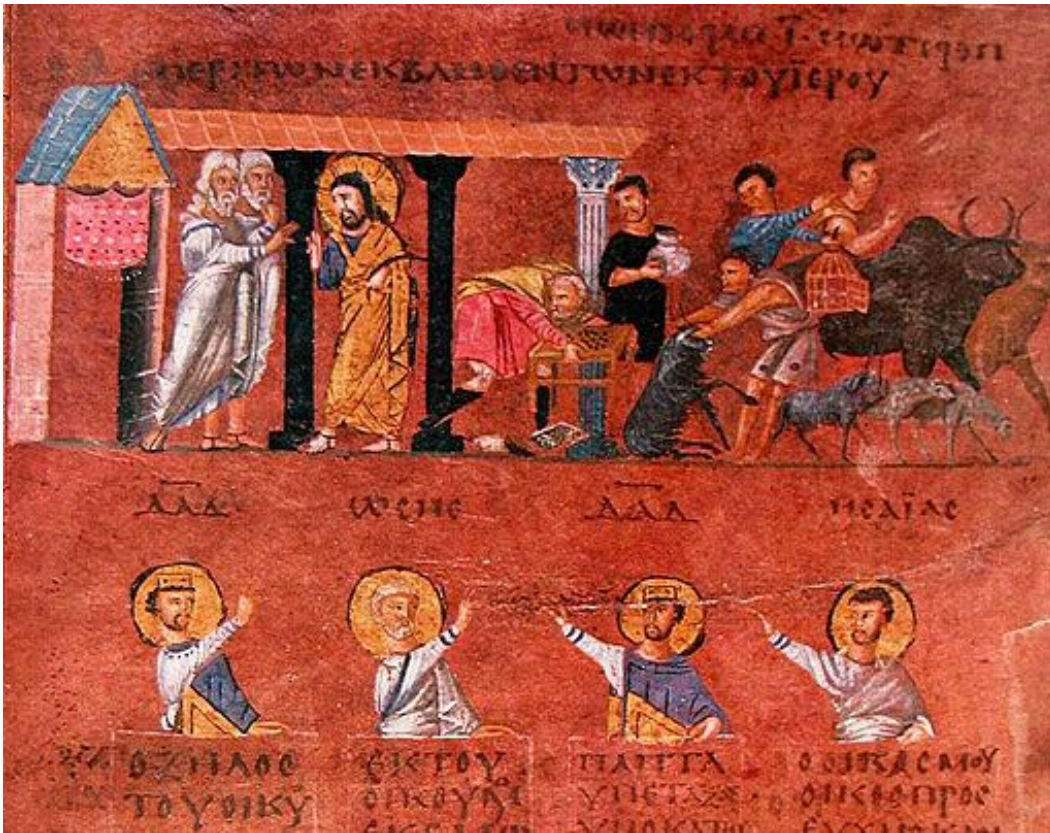


# Lent

March 3, 2024 † The Third Sunday in Lent



The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

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.

**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](http://oneline.net) A-704767; CCLI 1875300; Augsburg Fortress 13045.

Cover artwork: *Cleansing of the Temple*. Manuscript illumination, 6<sup>th</sup> cent., Italy.

**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 Sicilienne Maria-Theresia von Paradis

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

*Rise in body or spirit.*

## Call to Worship

Holy One, creator of the stars and seas,

**your steadfast love is shown to every living thing:**

your word calls forth countless worlds and souls; **your law revives and refreshes.**

Forgive our misuse of your gifts, **that we may be transformed by your wisdom**

to manifest for others **the mercy of our crucified and risen Lord.**

## Gathering Hymn Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

## 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, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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          Exodus 20:1-17

God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

Psalm 19

The Stars Declare Gods Glory



1 The stars de-clare God's glo - ry; the vault of hea-ven springs  
2 The dawn re-turms in splen - dor, the hea - vens burn and blaze,  
3 So shine the Lord's com - mand - ments to make the sim - ple wise;  
4 So or - der too this life of mine, di - rect it all my days;



mute wit - ness of the Mas-ter's hand in all cre - at - ed things, and  
the ris - ing sun re - news the race that mea - sures all our days, and  
more sweet tha hon - ey to the taste, more rich than an - y prize, a  
the med - i - ta - tions of my heart be in - no - cense and praise, my



through the si - lenc - es of space their sound-less mu - sic sings. \_\_\_\_  
writes in fire a - cross the skies God's ma - jes - ty and praise. \_\_\_\_  
law of love with - in our hearts, a light be - fore our eyes. \_\_\_\_  
rock, and my re - deem - ing Lord, in all my words and ways. \_\_\_\_

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); para. of Psalm 19  
Music: *Aldine*, Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

76. 86. 86

The Second Reading First Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 John.

John 2:13-22

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

Holy God, Holy and Glorious



1 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and glo - ri - ous,  
2 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and pow - er - ful,  
3 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and beau - ti - ful,  
4 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and on - ly wise,  
5 Ho - ly God, ho - ly and liv - ing one,



glo - ry most sub - lime, you come as one a - mong us  
pow - er with - out peer, you bend to us in weak - ness;  
beau - ty un - sur - passed, you are de - spised, re - ject - ed;  
wis - dom of great price, you choose the way of fol - ly:  
life that nev - er ends, you show your love by dy - ing,



in - to hu - man time, and we be - hold your glo - ry.  
emp - tied, you draw near, and we be - hold your pow - er.  
scorned, you hold us fast, and we be - hold your beau - ty.  
God the cru - ci - fied, and we be - hold your wis - dom.  
dy - ing for your friends, and we be - hold you liv - ing.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
Music: NELSON, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950

**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.*

Installation of the Congregational Council and Officers

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                                      A Better Resurrection                                      The Ebenezer Choir  
Words by Christina Rossetti; music by John Elmquist

I have no wit, no words, no tears;  
My heart within me like a stone  
Is numb'd too much for hopes or fears;  
Look right, look left, I dwell alone;  
I lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief  
No everlasting hills I see;  
My life is in the falling leaf:  
O Jesus, quicken me.  
My life is like a faded leaf,  
My harvest dwindled to a husk:  
Truly my life is void and brief  
And tedious in the barren dusk;

My life is like a frozen thing,  
No bud nor greenness can I see:  
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;  
O Jesus, rise in me.  
My life is like a broken bowl,  
A broken bowl that cannot hold  
One drop of water for my soul  
Or cordial in the searching cold;  
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;  
Melt and remould it, till it be  
A royal cup for Him, my King:  
O Jesus, drink of me.



*Rise in body or spirit.*

## Offering Song      Come to the Table of Mercy



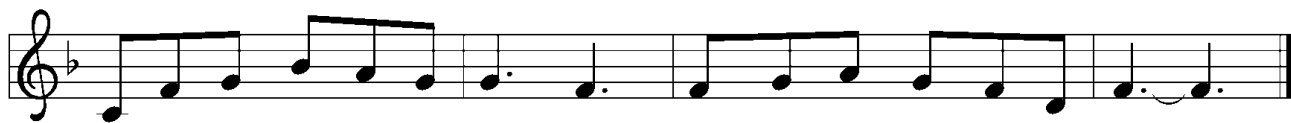
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



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.

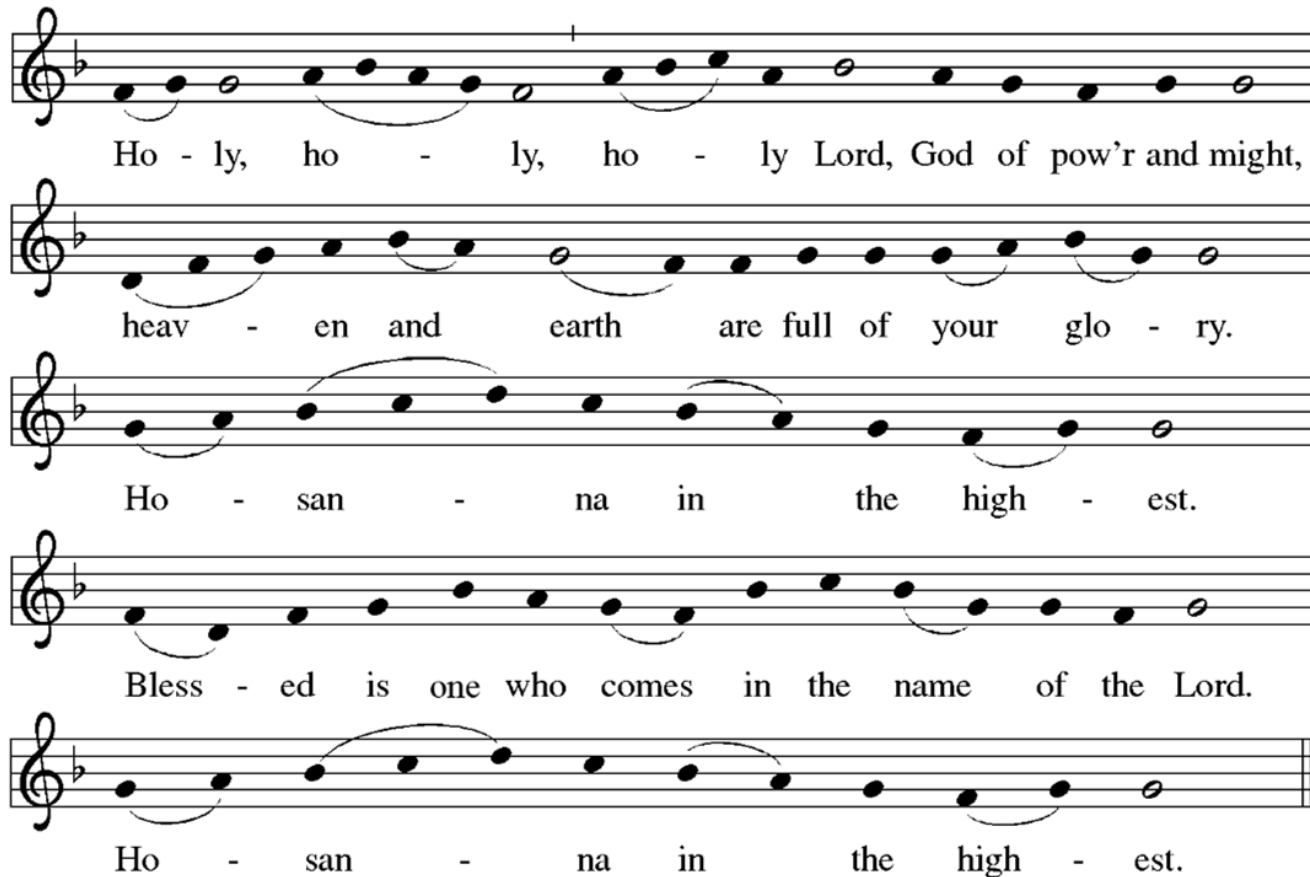


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

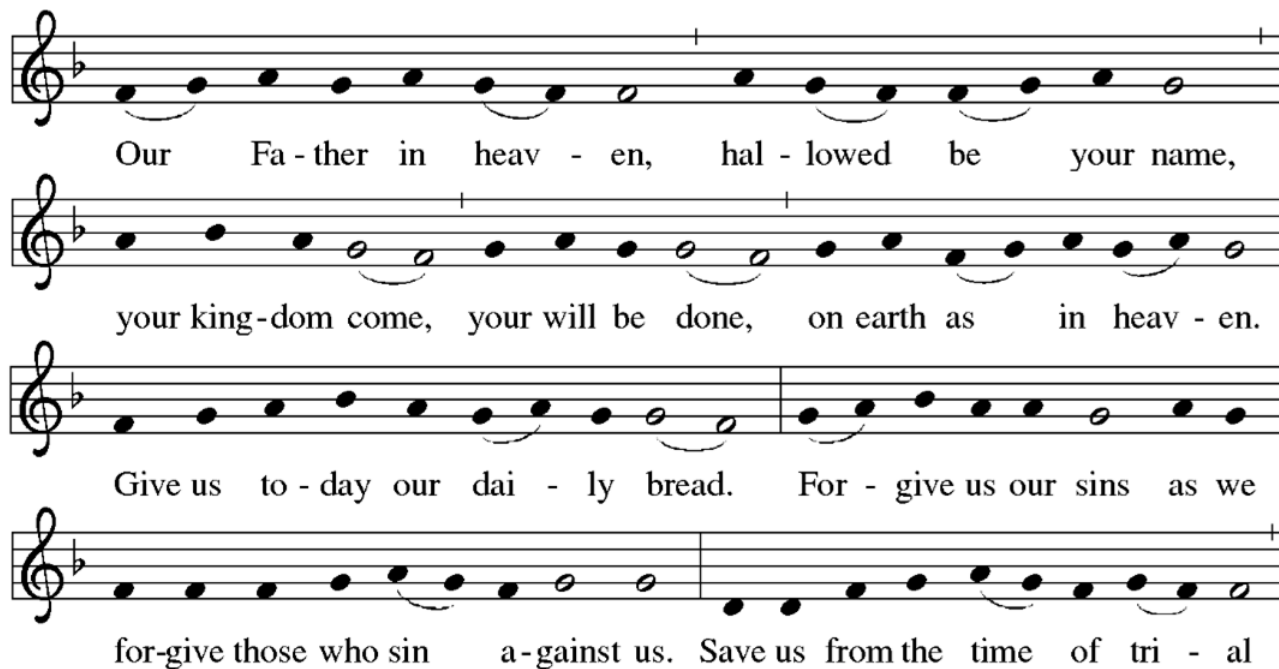


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

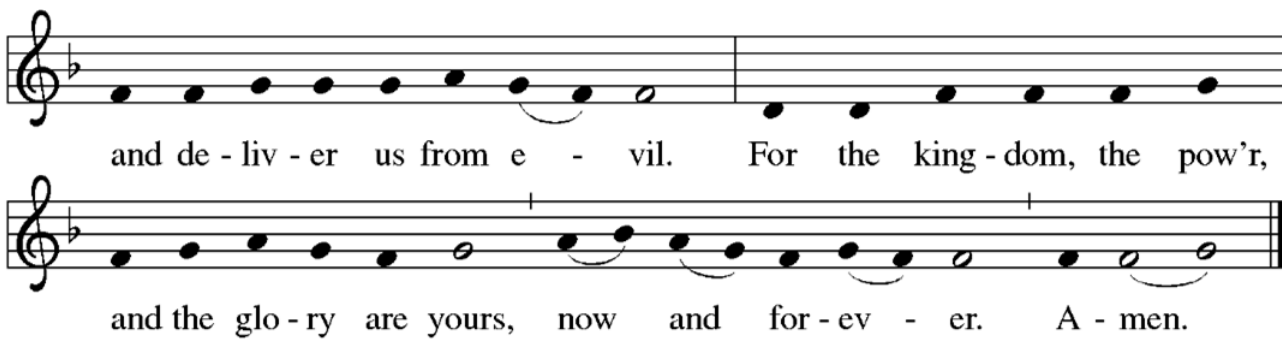
Thanksgiving at the Table

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.

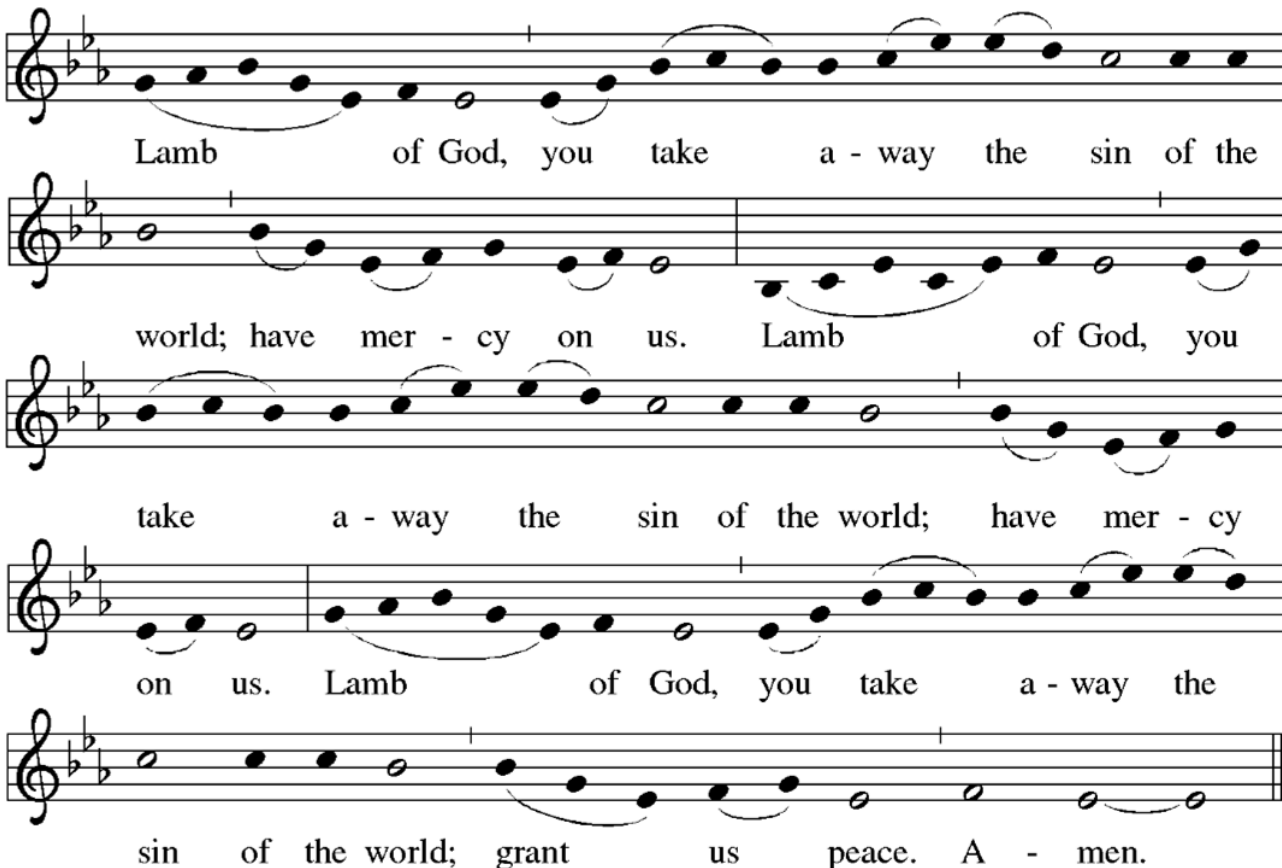
*Please be seated.*



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

Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive  
 2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning  
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing  
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the  
 tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to  
 fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as  
 End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all  
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing  
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y  
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor  
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise  
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from  
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.  
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.  
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.  
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991

Hymn

God, the Sculptor of the Mountains



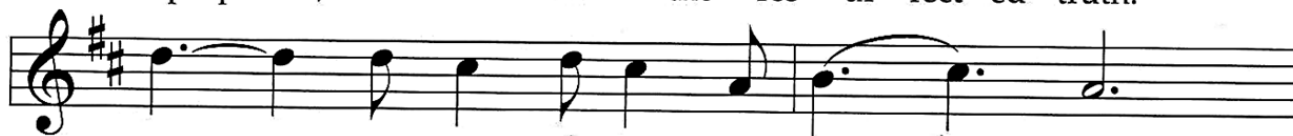
1 God the sculp - tor of the moun - tains, God the  
 2 God the nui - sance of the Pha - raoh, God the  
 3 God the dress - er of the vine - yard, God the  
 4 God the un - ex - pect - ed in - fant, God the



mill - er of the sand, God the jewel - er of the  
 cleav - er of the sea, God the pil - lar in the  
 plant - er of the wheat, God the reap - er of the  
 calm, de - ter - mined youth, God the ta - ble - turn - ing



heav - ens, God the pot - ter of the land:  
 dark - ness, God the bea - con of the free:  
 har - vest, God the source of all we eat:  
 proph - et, God the res - ur - rect - ed truth:



you are womb of all cre - a - tion;  
 you are fount of all de - liv - erance;  
 you are host at ev - ery ta - ble;  
 you are pres - ent ev - ery mo - ment;



we are form - less; shape us now.  
 we are aim - less; lead us now.  
 we are hun - gry; feed us now.  
 we are search - ing; meet us now.

TEXT: John Thornburg, 1993, alt.  
 MUSIC: Amanda Husberg, 1995

JENNINGS-HOUSTON  
 8.7.8.7.8.7

## Hymn

## All the Way My Savior Leads Me

1 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; what have I to ask be - side?  
 2 All the way my Sav-ior leads me, cheers each wind - ing path I tread,  
 3 All the way my Sav-ior leads me; oh, the full - ness of his love!

Can I doubt his ten - der mer - cy, who through life has been my guide?  
 gives me grace for ev - 'ry tri - al, feeds me with the liv - ing bread.  
 Per - fect rest to me is prom - ised in my Fa - ther's house a - bove.

Heav'n - ly peace, di - vin - est com - fort, here by faith in him to dwell!  
 Though my wea - ry steps may fal - ter, and my soul a - thirst may be,  
 When my spir - it, clothed im - mor - tal, wings its flight to realms of day,

For I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well;  
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see;  
 this my song through end - less a - ges—Je - sus led me all the way;

for I know, what - e'er be - fall me, Je - sus do - eth all things well.  
 gush - ing from the rock be - fore me, lo, a spring of joy I see.  
 this my song through end - less a - ges—Je - sus led me all the way!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ALL THE WAY, Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

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

How Great Thou Art *Sing in parts on verse 3.*

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me

all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

»

thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou  
 art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989  
 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the word that Jesus has spoken.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

La Cinquantaine Jean Gabriel-Marie