

# + THE HOLY COMMUNION + FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Jesus answered them,



The hour has come  
for the Son of Man to  
be glorified.

John 12.23

March 17, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

## **CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA**

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“Like” us on Facebook 

*Reverend Tamera K. Jacobi – Pastor*

*Judy Johnson – Director of Music*

*Emily Engstrom - Pianist*

**Mission Statement**

*Growing in Christ, loving our neighbor!*

# *A cordial welcome to all!*

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Welcome to Cross of Christ! We invite you to sign our **guest book** in the narthex at the entrance of the church. Those who are able are encouraged to follow the directions for sitting, standing, and turning as they appear in this bulletin. If you need any assistance during the service, the ushers are here to serve you.

## *Church facilities*

**Restrooms** are available down the hallway on the left side. There is a baby changing table in each restroom.

**Classrooms** are located along the far side of the Fellowship Hall.

**The Fellowship Hall** is available for rental. For details, please call the church office.

**A Large-print Bulletin** is available from the usher.

## *Families*

**We believe that children of all ages belong in worship. They are a welcome part of the assembly, and we enjoy hearing them as well as seeing them.** There --are Children's bulletins along with crayons at the back of the sanctuary. If you find it helpful, feel free to move around the sanctuary or stand in the back to help soothe your child. If you find it necessary to leave the worship space for a short time, there is a "*Pray Station*" in the Narthex or the middle classroom off the Fellowship Hall has a rocking chair. The service can be heard through a speaker system. Please return as soon as you feel comfortable. **Children and youth of all ages are also encouraged to participate in worship leadership roles when parents feel they are ready.** If you need assistance for any reason, please don't hesitate to ask an Usher or the Council Person on duty.

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# + The Holy Communion +

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*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s light and truth into our hearts. We see God’s heart most clearly in the way Jesus shares human suffering, in an agony the Hebrews reading describes.*

*The color for the Sundays in Lent is purple, which represents royalty or penitence.*

## **GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week, the day of Christ’s resurrection.*

## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

*As you gather in the sanctuary, please be mindful of those around you that may be praying or preparing for worship by quieting their hearts and minds. During the prayers of intercession, you will have opportunity to voice your prayer concerns.*

**PRELUDE** “*The Old Rugged Cross*” arr. John Innes

The Church Pianist March/ April 2011 Vol. 27 Number 4 © Lorenz

*congregation stands.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

*The congregation faces and follows the cross.*

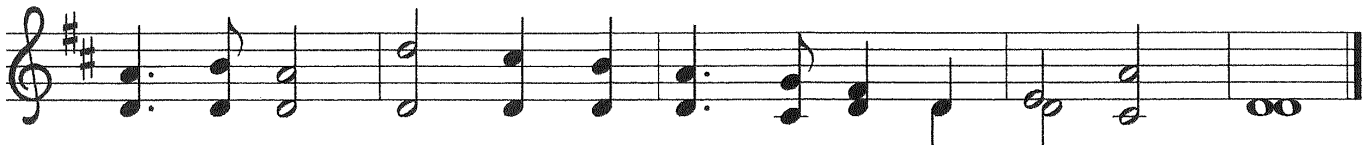
**GATHERING Hymn** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” ELW #759



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,  
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887  
Music: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

OLIVET  
664 66 64

**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. (*Silence is kept for reflection.*)

**O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.** *congregation sits.*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### WORD

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**FIRST READING**, a reading from **Jeremiah**. *(Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

A reading from **Psalm 51**, read responsively. *(Psalm 51:1-12)*

Have mercy on me, O God,  
**according to your steadfast love;**  
according to your abundant mercy  
**blot out my transgressions.**  
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**  
For I know my transgressions,  
**and my sin is ever before me.**  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
**and done what is evil in your sight,**  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
**and blameless when you pass judgement.**  
Indeed, I was born guilty,  
**a sinner when my mother conceived me.**  
You desire truth in the inward being;  
**therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**  
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
**let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**  
 Hide your face from my sins,  
**and blot out all my iniquities.**  
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and put a new and right spirit within me.**  
 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
**and do not take your holy spirit from me.**  
 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Second Reading**, a reading from **Hebrews**. *(Hebrews 5:5-10)*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

*congregation stands.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “*Return to the Lord*” ELW page 142.

S 142b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **HOLY GOSPEL** (John 12:20-33)

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

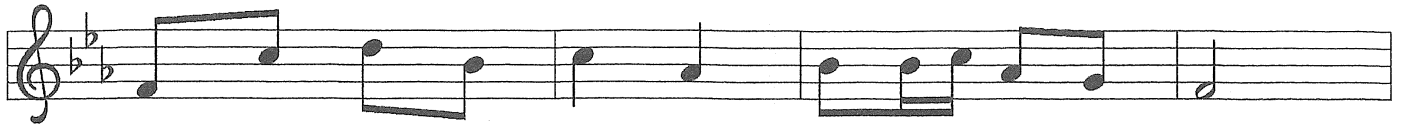
**Praise to you, O Christ!**

*congregation sits.*

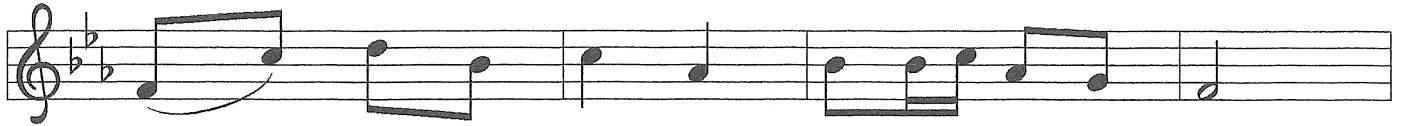
**SERMON**

congregation stands.

## HYMN OF THE DAY "Now the Green Blade Rises" ELW #379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958  
Music: French carol  
Text © Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET  
11 10 10 11

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**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 into hell.**



**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.**

**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. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world.*

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *A brief silence.*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You may now offer the prayers of your heart, whether silently or aloud (*brief silence*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us (*especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today*). Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*All greet one another with a gesture of peace, such as a handshake, using words such as, "Peace be with you."*

*congregation sits.*

## **MEAL**

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### **GATHERING OF GIFTS**

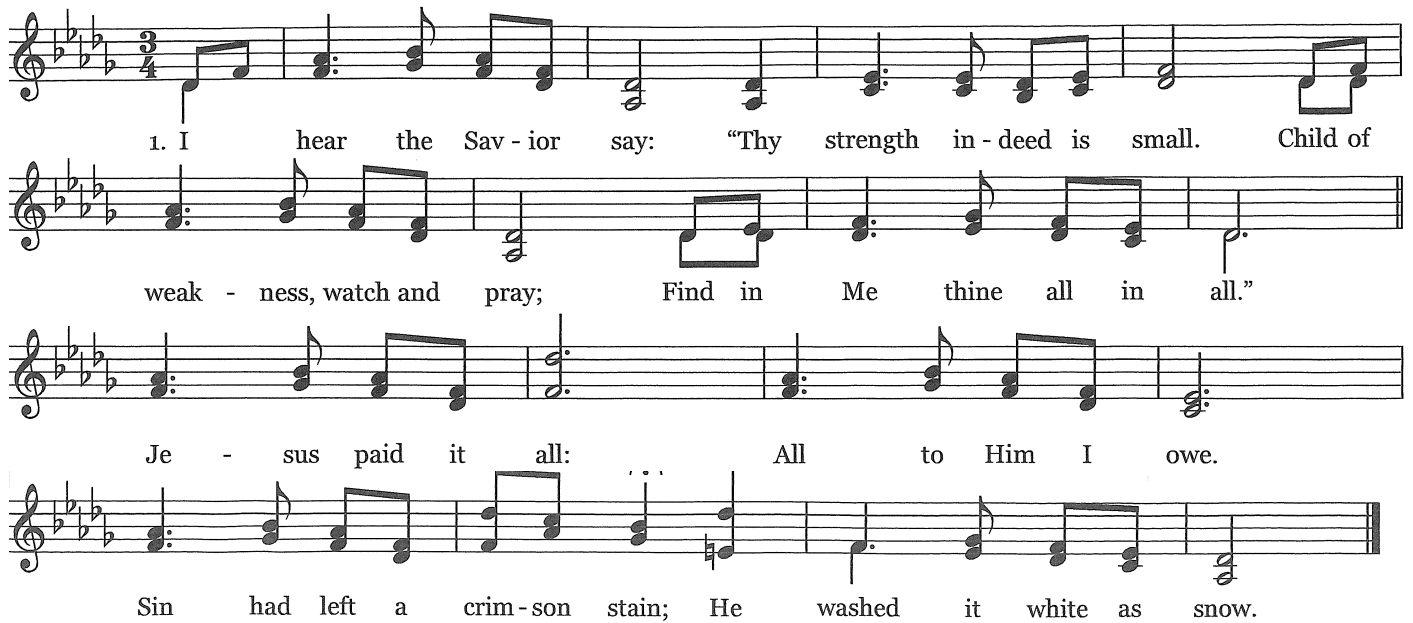
*Gifts are gathered for those in need and for the mission and purpose of our congregation. You may place your offering in the offering plate, mail it in, or you can donate on-line at [Givelify.com](http://Givelify.com). There is a wheelbarrow for the collection of food in the Narthex. If anyone needs offering envelopes, they are available in the church office. **Visitors** – your presence with us is gift enough. We expect members to support the mission and ministry of this congregation. Visitors are invited to just enjoy worship and fellowship.*

**OFFERTORY** “*What Wondrous Love Is This*” arr. Craig Curry

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As the gifts of bread, wine, and offerings are brought forward, the **Congregation stands and sings.**

**OFFERING HYMN “Jesus Paid it All”** Words by Elvina Mabel Hall Music by John Thomas Grape



1. I hear the Sav - ior say: “Thy strength in - deed is small. Child of  
weak - ness, watch and pray; Find in Me thine all in all.”  
Je - sus paid it all: All to Him I owe.  
Sin had left a crim - son stain; He washed it white as snow.

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**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. (*Silence for reflection and meditation*)

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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 Him thanks and praise.**

## THE PREFACE AND SANCTUS

Glorious God, you created the heavens as the place for your glory to dwell and the earth as the theater for your glory to come among us. You called your people to be a kingdom of priests and your church to be a priestly kingdom. In Melchizedek you show us your people's vocation to be a righteous king, and in Jesus you show us true righteousness and true majesty. You lift up your Son Jesus in cross and resurrection to draw all people to yourself. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, — full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. *Holy, Holy, Holy* ELW #190

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Righteous God, when the hour came for your Son to be glorified, he sat down with his disciples and reenacted the story of your liberating purpose for your people. We gather as your disciples to reenact your liberating purpose in the death and resurrection of your Son. Come among us now, that others may see you in us, and we may behold your glory, as these gifts of bread and wine become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

Heavenly God, you have glorified your name. Glorify it again today, that those who stand before you with prayers and supplications made with loud cries and tears may find in you the solace for their aching, the joy of their desiring, and the goal of their yearning. As you lifted up your Son through suffering to resurrected glory, lift up the wretched of the earth to find peace and rest at your side and in your heart. Bring all who would see you face to face with your Son in the power of your Holy Spirit, until all injustice is transformed by your mercy, all deceit healed by your truth, and all oppression dismantled by your grace, until your kingdom is known on earth, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

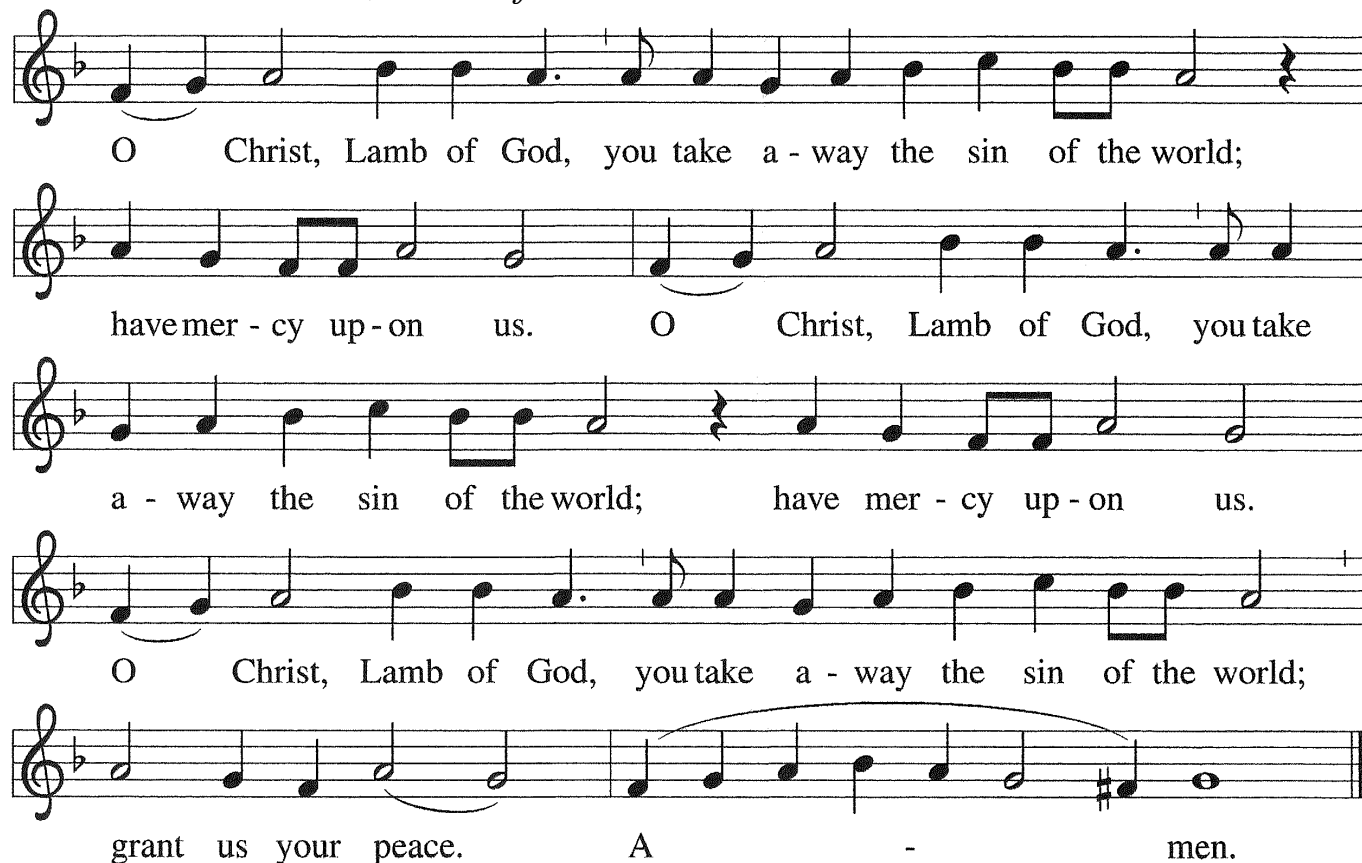
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*The minister addresses the Congregation:*

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

### AGNUS DEI “O Christ, Lamb of God” ELW #196



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

Music: J. Bugenhagen, *Christliche Ordnung*, 1528

*congregation sits.*

## COMMUNION

*Our Lord's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine to forgive and strengthen us. We practice open communion: all Baptized Christians are welcome to commune with us. White grape juice is available at communion for those who prefer it; it is in the center ring of each tray of glasses. Gluten free wafers are available. Please indicate to the pastor during distribution if you would rather have gluten free wafers. If you prefer communion at your seat, please let one of our ushers know. In preparation for receiving the Sacrament, a simple prayer such as this or another appropriate prayer may be said "May the Blood of Christ bring me everlasting life."*

### COMMUNION HYMN “My Jesus, I Love Thee” arr. Tracey Craig McKibben

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*After all have communed, the congregation stands.*

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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**

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*congregation sits.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*congregation stands.*

## **BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

The congregation faces and follows the cross.

**SENDING HYMN** “*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*” ELW #324 vs. 1, 3 & 4



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
ra - dianc e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

RATHBUN  
87 87

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Growing in Christ, loving our neighbor! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** “*Like a River Glorious*” by Frederic Chopin arr. Kendall R. Lord  
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