



Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

THE SERVICE at 11:00 a.m.

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We encourage you to prepare for worship: gather the family, light candles, lay out bread and wine or grape juice. It doesn't need to be fancy, but do take the time to do what is necessary to make attending virtual worship a true spiritual practice for you. You are welcome at this meal.

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- GATHERING -

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sins, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: To you, O God,

C: all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our failure to love as you love us, our silence in the face of injustice, and our fear of death, even as you show that it is the way to eternal life. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your way, teach us your path, and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

P: By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of +Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

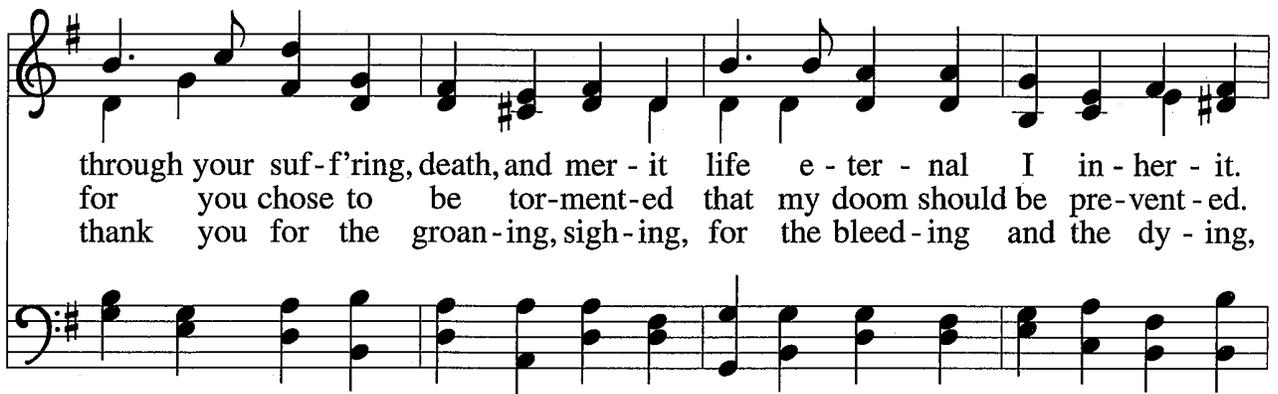
C: Amen.



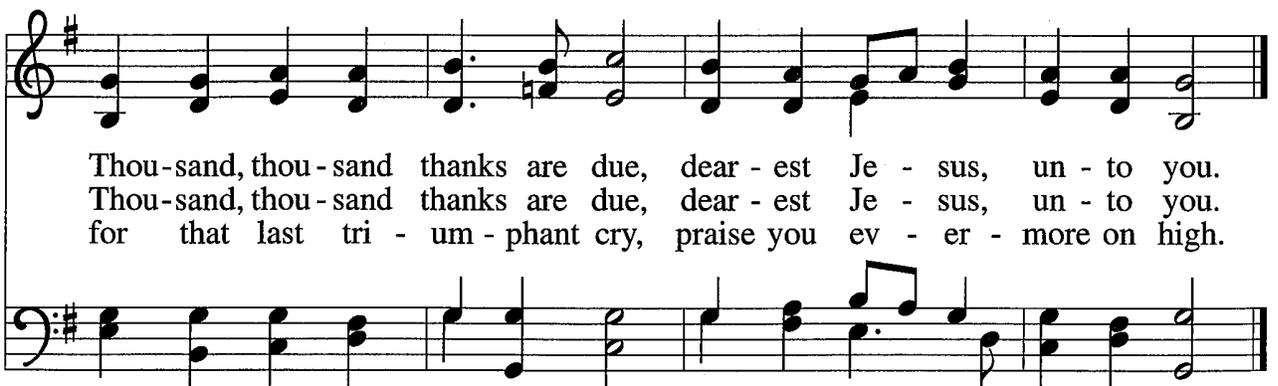
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



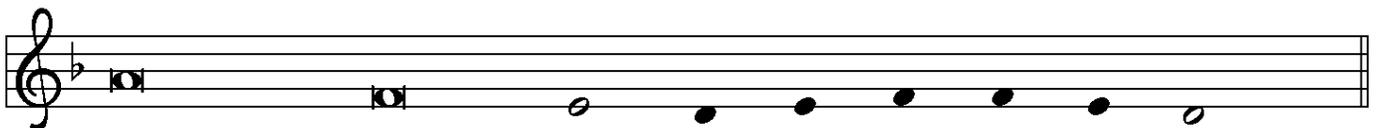
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



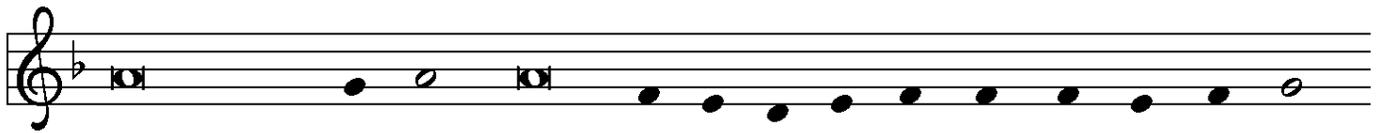
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



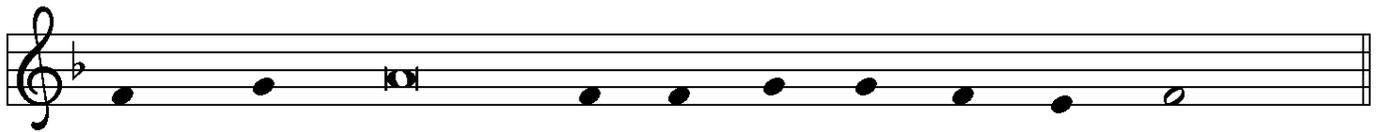
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and rulers shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarah your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; rulers of peoples shall come from her."

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:23-31 (spoken responsively, assisting minister/**congregation**)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise!

All you of Jacob's line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

**²⁴For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the LORD give praise!

May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the LORD.

**³⁰Their descendants shall serve the LORD,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:13-25

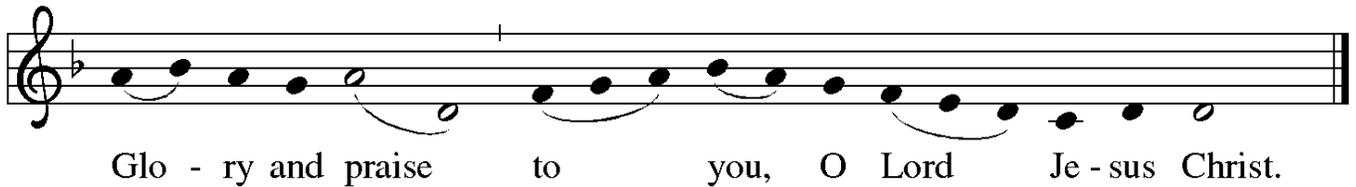
The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to him or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abraham's descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom Abraham believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what God had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38 NRSV, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eighth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[After Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah] Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. But, turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Jesus called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. "For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life! "Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? "Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father."

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for-sake, o -
 play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
 va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
 point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
 keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
 well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.



APOSTLES' CREED

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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.**

**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 THE CHURCH

A: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: All the ends of the earth worship you. Preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join in tending to creation's wellbeing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. To refugees, grant a space of belonging. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even

imagine. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. Today we pray for Erik, Maren, Betty, Dave, Margaret, Carl, Jan, Amy, Anne, Carole, Tim, Roger, Paula, Erica, Audrey, JoAnne, Deborah, and Casey-Marie. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families, including New Hope for Families. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

[Click here](#) to visit the St. Thomas website and click the green Donate to St. Thomas button to provide your offering digitally. Offerings may also be mailed to our address found on the last page of this bulletin.

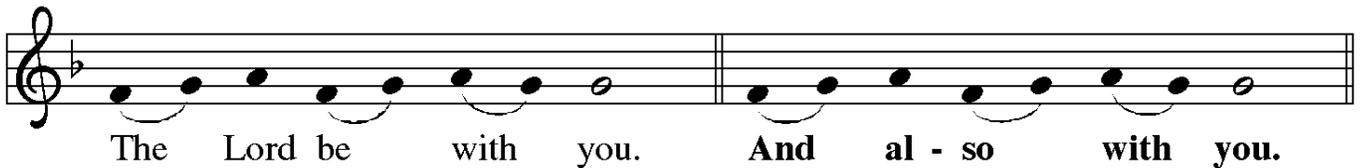
OFFERING PRAYER

A: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

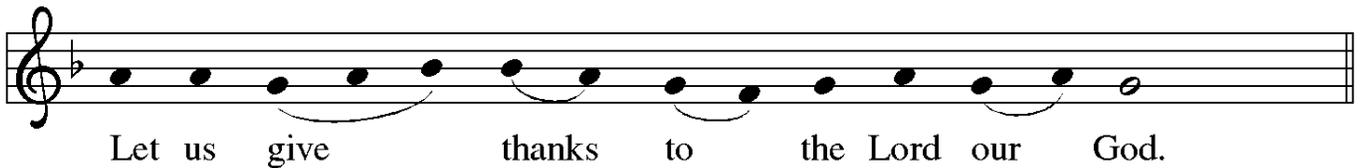
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

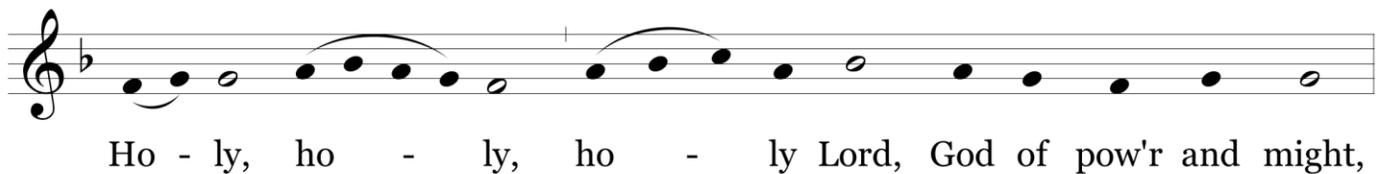


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

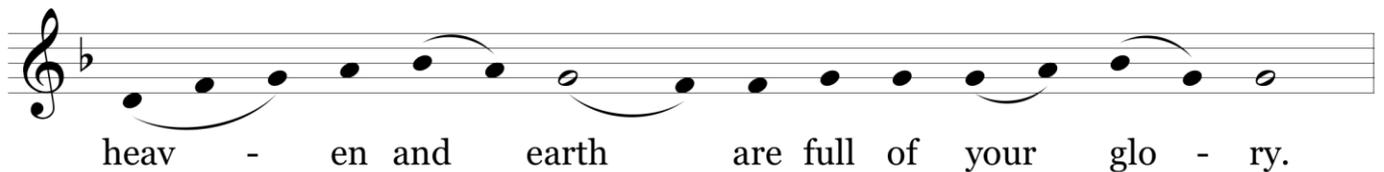


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

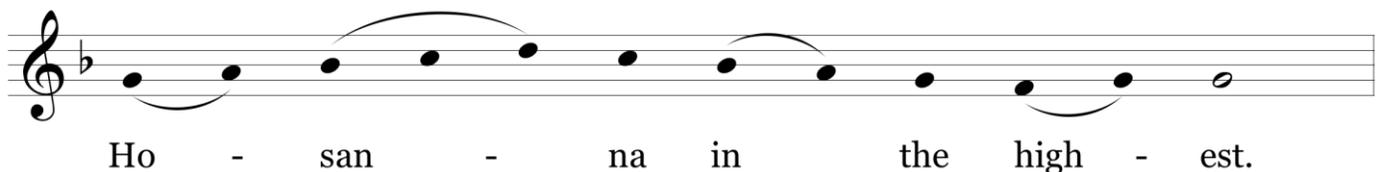
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



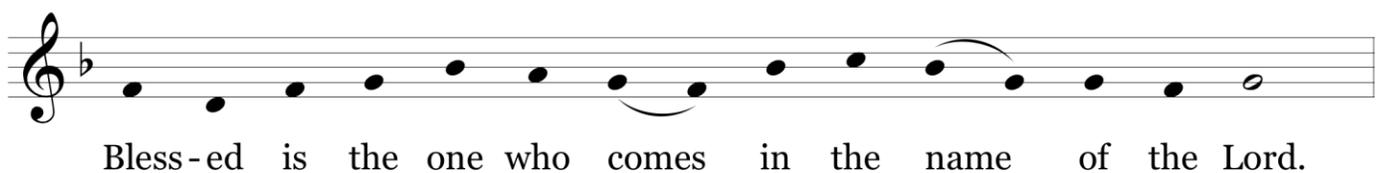
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



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

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself.
In this meal, all are fed.**

I CALL ON THEE, LORD JESUS CHRIST

I call on thee, Lord Je-sus Christ, I have none oth-er help but thee. My

heart is nev-er set at rest till thy sweet word has com-fort-ed me. And

stead-fast faith grant me there-fore, to hold by thy word ev-er-more, a-bove all things,
nev-er re-sist-ing, but to in-crease in faith more and more.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

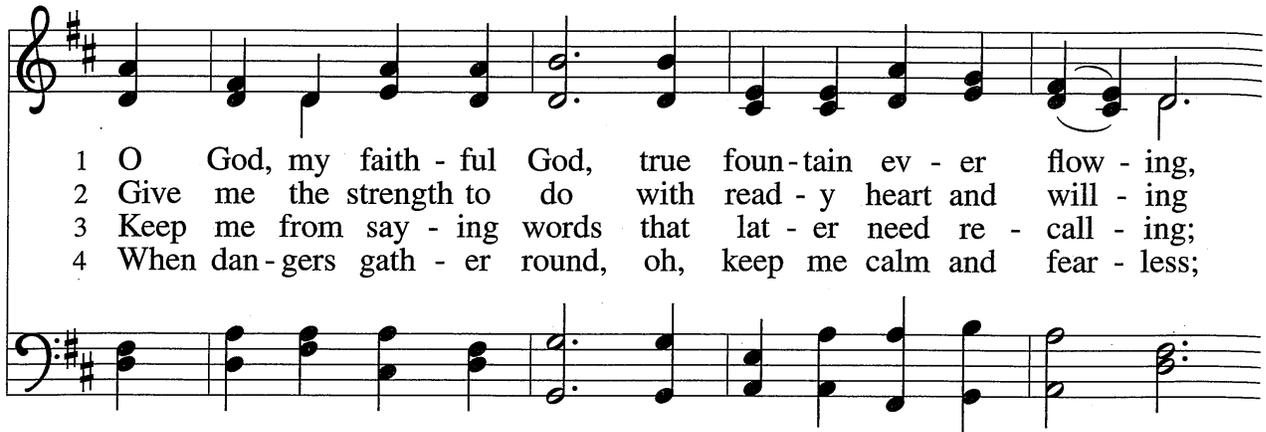
+ SENDING +

BLESSING

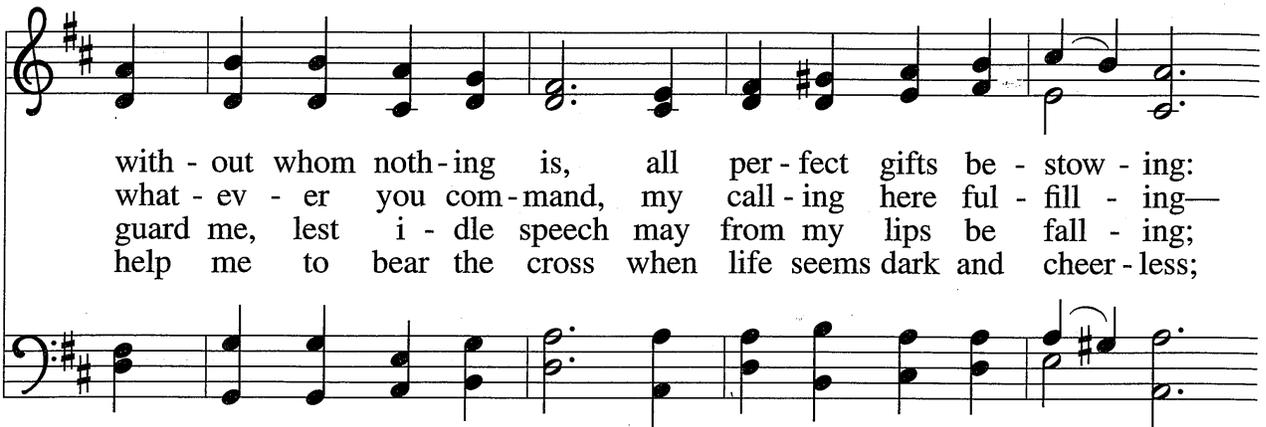
P: You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

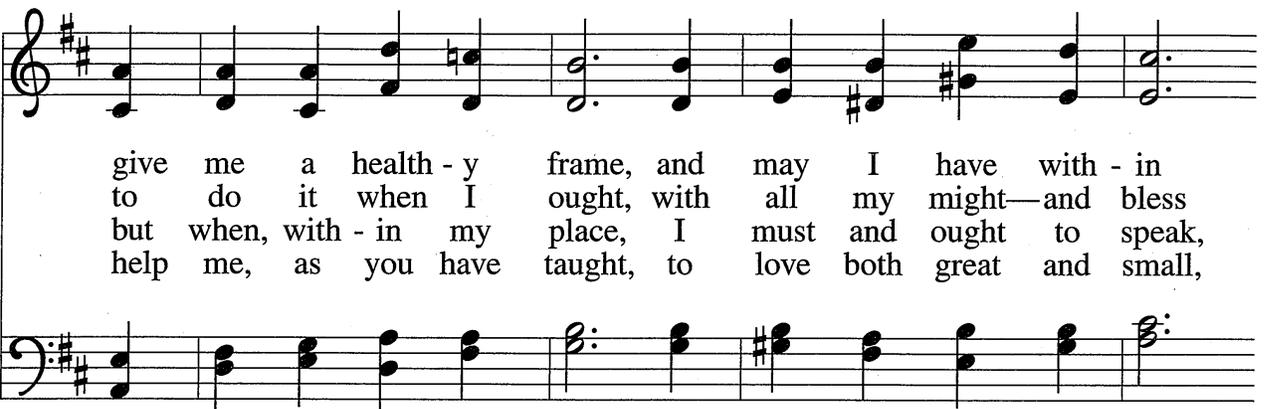
C: Amen.



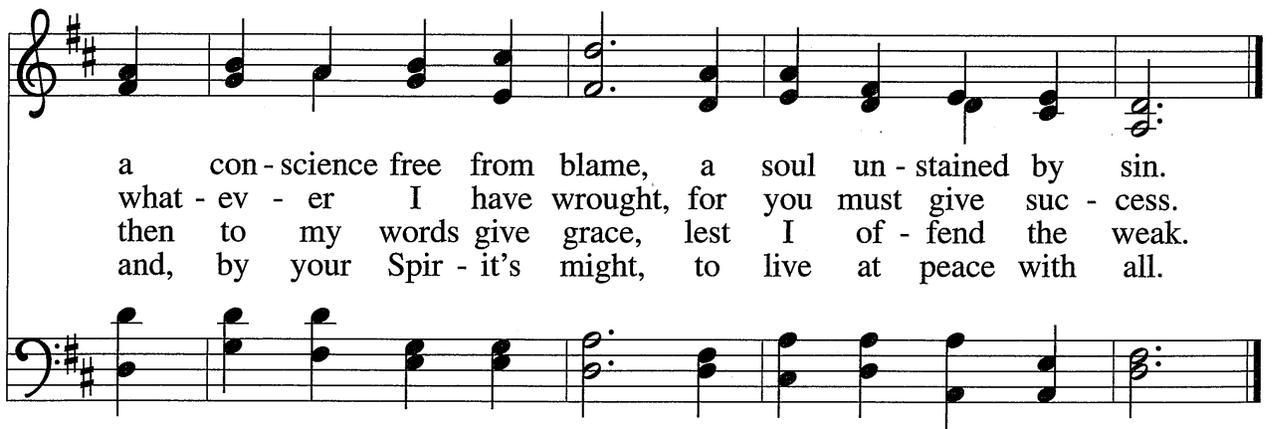
1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
 2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing
 3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;
 4 When dan - gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth - ing is, all per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
 what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing—
 guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer - less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in
 to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless
 but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.
 what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.
 then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.
 and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

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MINISTERS SERVING TODAY: Susan Colston; Tim Smith

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street

Bloomington, Indiana 47401

Phone: (812) 332-5252 Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

www.stlconline.org

Rev. Adrienne Meier, Pastor

pastoradrienne@gmail.com

Rev. Lecia Beck, Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture

pastorleciabeck@gmail.com

Susan Krieg, Administrator susank@stlconline.org

Minnie Miller, Records Manager officestaff@stlconline.org

Mike Powell, Director of Music and Organist

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