



Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

We hope you feel welcome here.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

We hope you can participate fully in worship.

Everything needed to participate in today's worship is found in this bulletin. The hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) located under the seat in front of you. Worshipers are invited to stand as you are able at the places marked * and to respond when indicated with bold type. We gently remind you to silence all electronic devices.

Our youngest worshipers and their parents may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the sanctuary or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags are available in the narthex and children's bulletins are available from an usher.

Assisted hearing devices and complete-service, large-print bulletins are available from an usher. The blue chairs with arms are reserved for people with mobility limitations. Ushers can remove chairs to place a wheelchair.

We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.

At communion, everyone is welcome--doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.

Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

We hope you know we pray for you.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors; prayer requests made before the service begins will be included in the Prayers of the People.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINISTRY MOMENT International Women's Day

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW#326

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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*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.

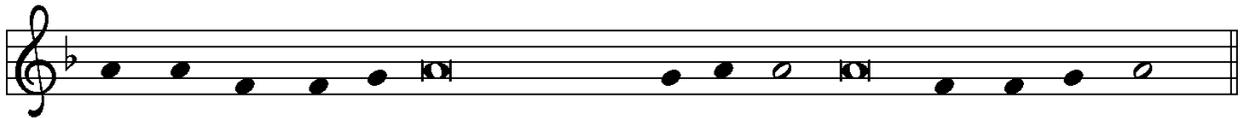
*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



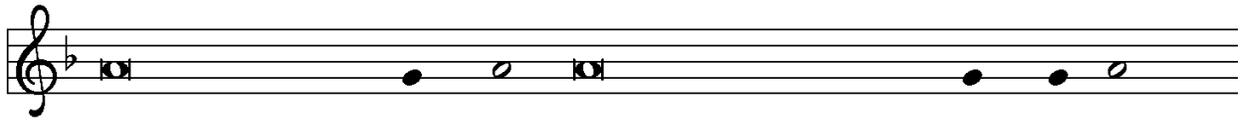
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



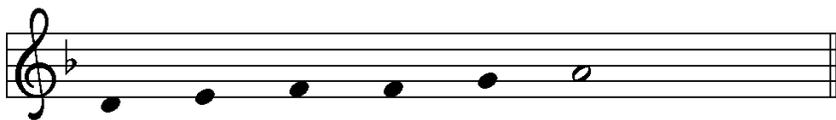
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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. Divine Gardener, you give growth to our seeds and to the towering forest trees; you raise to abundant life that which seems dead. Teach us to choose blessing and life rather than death, so that we may walk blamelessly, seeking you through reconciliation with all of your children, through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Vicar Amy Bartleson Balcam

FIRST READING

Numbers 5:5-10

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the Israelites: When a man or a woman wrongs another, breaking faith with the LORD, that person incurs guilt and shall confess the sin that has been committed. The person shall make full restitution for the wrong, adding one-fifth to it and giving it to the one who was wronged. If the injured party has no next of kin to whom restitution may be

made for the wrong, the restitution for wrong shall go to the LORD for the priest, in addition to the ram of atonement with which atonement is made for the guilty party. Among all the sacred donations of the Israelites, every gift that they bring to the priest shall be his. The sacred donations of all are their own; whatever anyone gives to the priest shall be his.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32:1-7

¹Happy is the woman or man whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

²Happy is the woman or man to whom the Holy One does not reckon iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silence, my bones wasted away in my groaning all the day.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me, my strength melted away as by the heat of summer.

⁵My sin I made known to you,
and my iniquity I did not hide.
I said, "I will make known my transgressions to
the Gracious One,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
for a rush of mighty waters
shall not touch them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you keep me from distress;
you surround me with cries of deliverance.

SECOND READING

James 5:13-18

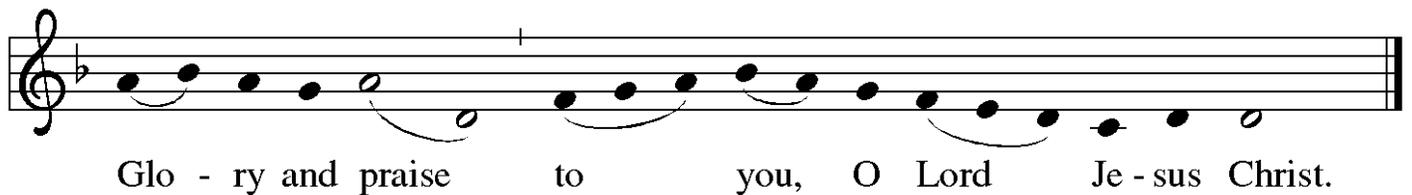
Are any among you suffering? They should pray.
Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of
praise. Are any among you sick? They should call
for the elders of the church and have them pray
over them, anointing them with oil in the name of
the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and
the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has
committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess
your sins to one another and pray for one
another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of
the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was
a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it

might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 5:21-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

“You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder,’ and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a sibling, you will be liable to judgment, and if you insult a sibling, you will be liable to the council, and if you say, ‘You fool,’ you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the

altar, if you remember that your sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your sibling, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Lecia Beck

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW#772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

***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: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A: We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue, including the Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance. Bring reconciliation among religions and denominations. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Bring restoration to areas destroyed by landslides in Indonesia. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. We pray for our transgender siblings in the mist of political battles, threats of violence, and diminished access to healthcare. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness especially Elif, Jan, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Evelyn, Margrethe, Helen, Jacky. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation, call your beloved to this font and make us a community of welcome and affirmation where faith is nurtured and your love is shared. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the lives of all your saints *especially* Gregory the Great and Patrick of Ireland, whom we commemorate this week. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.

OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community** pads. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service. These pads and pencils are sanitized at the end of each service.*

Pass the offering plate to your neighbor as it reaches you, gifts may be placed in the offering plate or you can give on our website, stlconline.org. St. Thomas collects gifts to support our mission of sharing, living, and celebrating God's grace with all people. We support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners.

8:30 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

Angus Dei

Franz Schubert

11 a.m. only

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

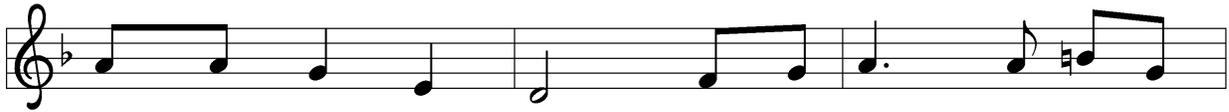
ELW#334

Verse 1 and Lent 3

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as every breath.

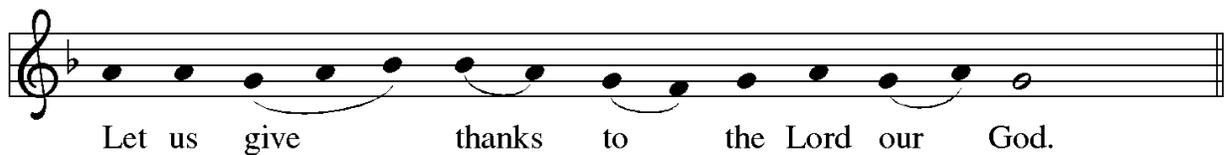
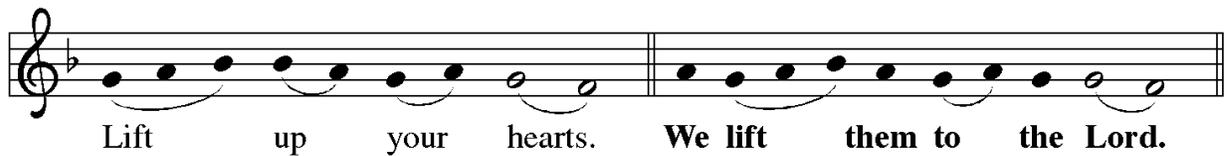
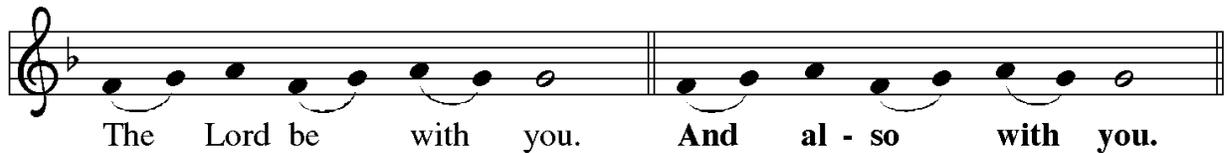
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

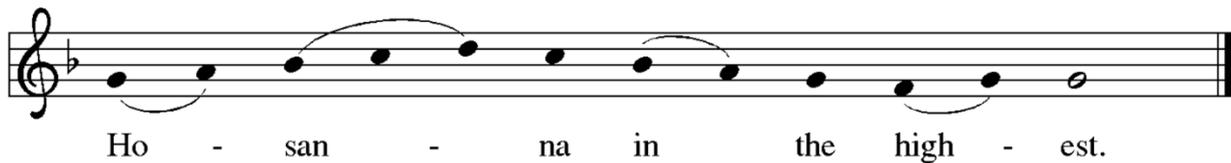
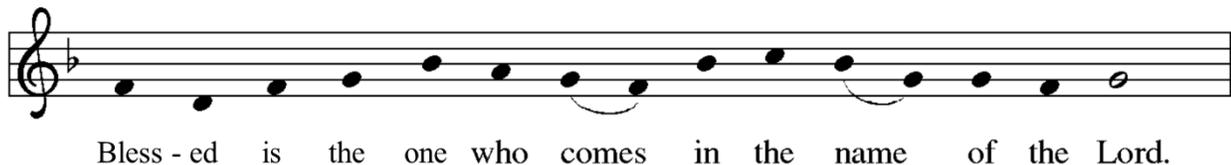
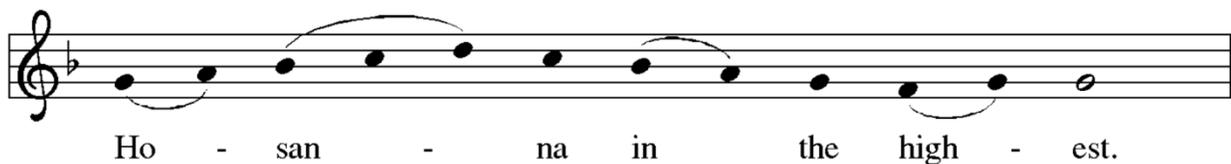
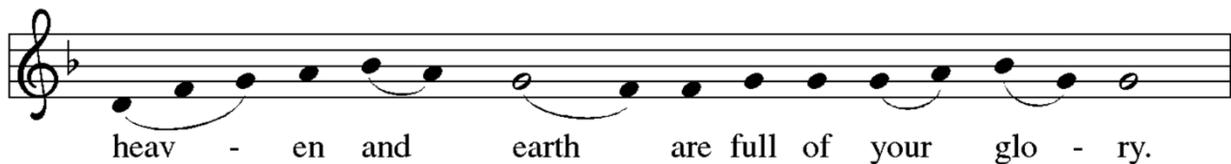
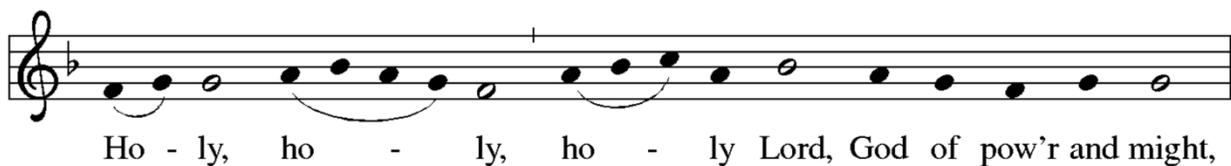
C: Amen.

+ MEAL +

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and
merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. Q'eqchi' is provided on the next page.

**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.**

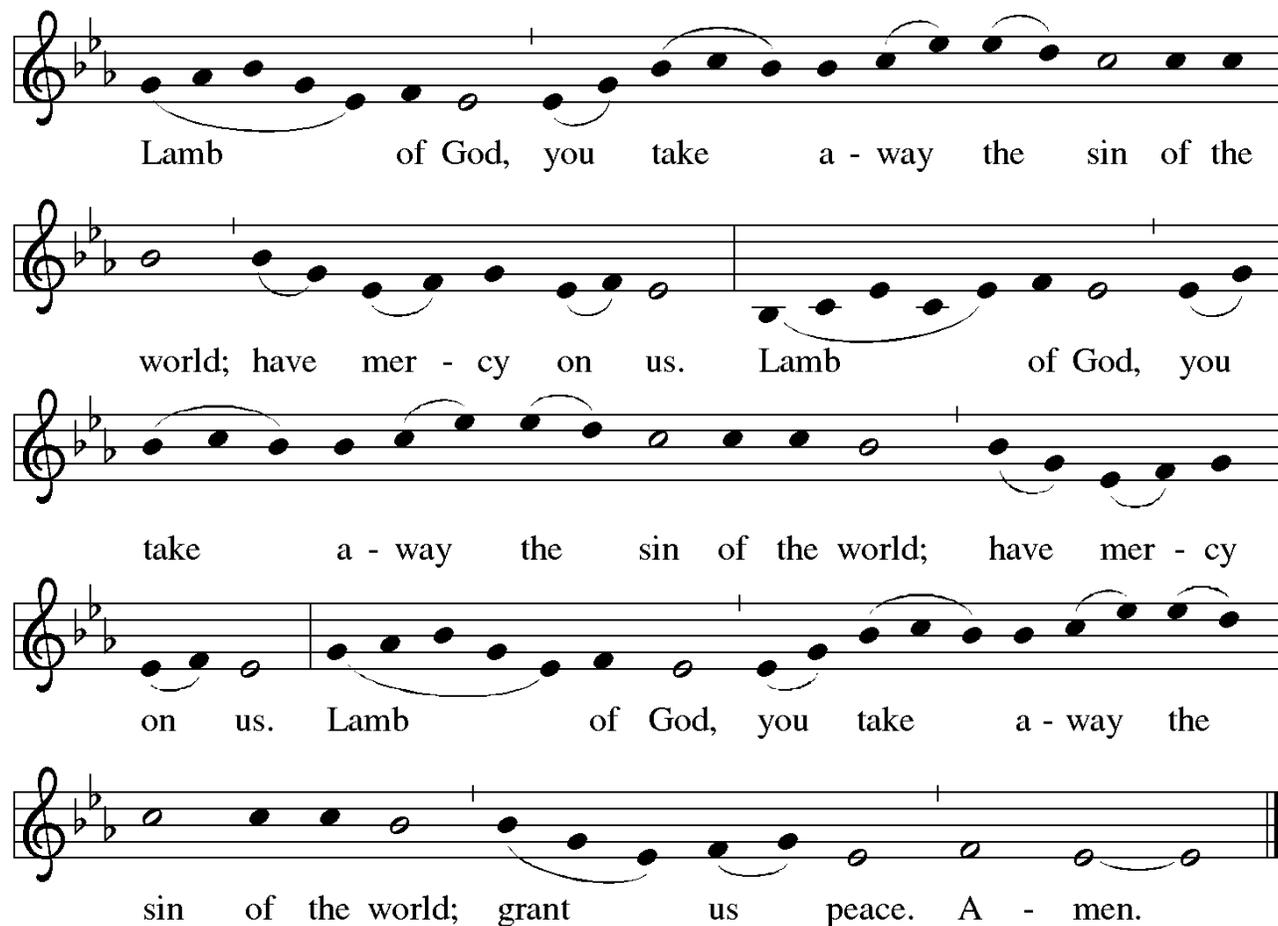
At qayuwa' wankat sa' chooxa
Usil aatinab'il ta laa k'ab'a
Chi chalq ta laa nimajwal awabejihom
Chi uxq ta li nakawaj arin sa' ruuchich'och' jo'
sa' chooxa
Chak'e ta qe hoom li qawa chi rajlal kutan
Chakuy chasach ta li qamaak
Jo' laa'o xqakuy xmaak li ani xmaako' chi qu
Ut mohaakanab' ta chi t'ane'k sa' li aaleek
Chohaakolaq b'an chi ru li maa'us
Jo'kan taxak

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

My Song is Love Unknown

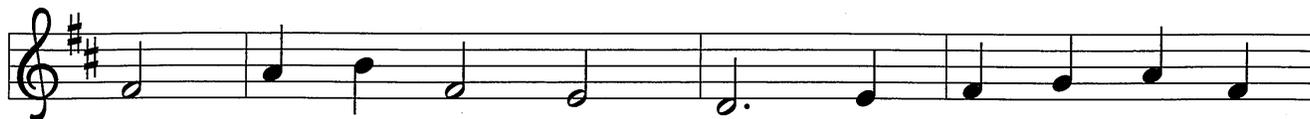
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Lamb of God

ELW#336

My Song Is Love Unknown

343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
stow; the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.

Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962

Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust

LOVE UNKNOWN

666448

LENT

Lamb of God

Your Only Son

336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris
Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

YOUR ONLY SON
LMD

***EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

***BENEDICTION**

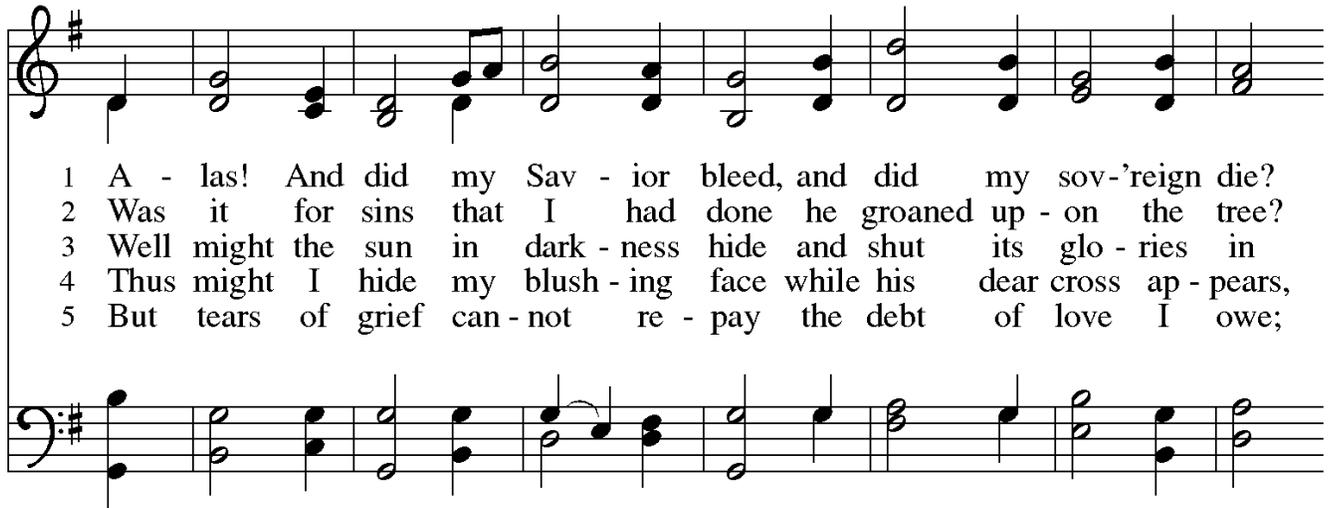
P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

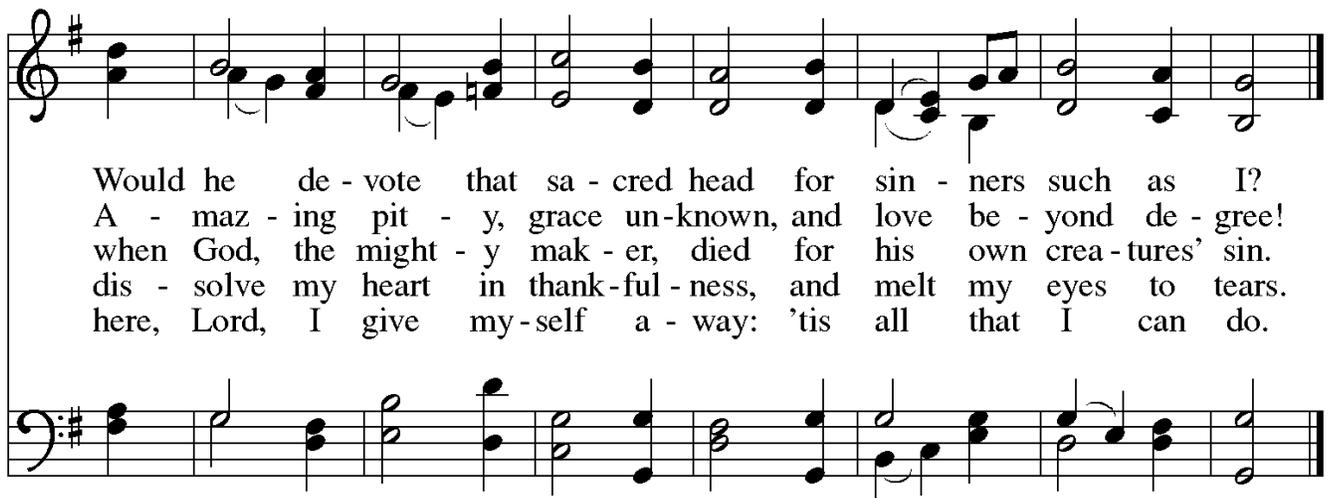
*SENDING HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

ELW#337



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship
in lives of witness to Christ's love
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

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Today's readings are selected from
A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A
by Wilda C. Gafney.

The texts for the scripture readings are from the
New Revised Standard Version,
emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of
St. Thomas.

Today's psalm is translated by Wilda C. Gafney in
A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A.

At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas

Sunday March 12

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum on *Baptized We Live:
Lutheranism as a Way of Life*

11 a.m. Worship

Monday March 13

10 a.m. Worship at Redbud Hills

Tuesday March 14

TBD LuMin Dinner

7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday March 15

7 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service

Sunday March 19

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Adult Forum on *Baptized We Live:
Lutheranism as a Way of Life*

11 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. Council Meeting

Announcements

Pastors Out of the Office

Pr. Adrienne will be out of the office March 10-12 for vacation and March 13-15 for continuing education with the Wabash Pastoral Leader's Program. Pr. Adrienne and Pr. Lecia will be out of the office on March 16 to attend the Bishop's Chrism Mass--at this service Rostered Ministers renew their ordination vows and receive anoint oils to use throughout the year.

Collaborative Collage in the Narthex

In honor of International Women's Day you're invited to add words and pictures to a collaborative collage in the narthex. All ages are welcome!

No Choir Rehearsal this Thursday

Due to Spring Break, there will be no choir rehearsal on Thursday, March 16. Choir will resume next Sunday, March 19 at the 11 a.m. service.

Donations invited for ELCA's International Women Leaders Program

In recognition of International Women's Day on March 8, the Mission Committee invites you to make a special donation in support of ELCA's International Women Leaders program. Your donations will provide scholarships for emerging women leaders from our companion churches around the world to study at ELCA colleges and universities, ELCA seminaries and other institutions, and regional leadership development seminars. This program will increase representation of women in academic and leadership positions all over the world. You can donate on our website at stlconline.org or by writing a check. Please put **WOMEN LEADERS** on the memo line.

Worship at Redbud Hills

St. Thomas members, especially those who live at Redbud Hills Senior Living Community, are invited to Worship with Holy Communion in the chapel on the third floor of Redbud Hills on **the second Monday of the month at 10 a.m.—this month on March 13.** St. Thomas members who are not residents are invited to sign up on the welcome table to be a part of the hospitality team—greeting worshippers, passing out bulletins, helping with communion, and participating heartily in the service.

March Meal for College Students

Students from a group of local campus ministries will be spending the week of Spring Break in town, working on a variety of community service projects. Help us provide dinner to these hungry, hard-working students on **Tuesday, March 14.** We need: lasagna (meat and vegetarian), garlic bread, salad, and dessert for 15-18 people. We'll collect all the food at St. Thomas and then deliver it to the VRBO house in town where the students are staying. Sign-up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk to contribute to this dinner.

Lenten Midweek Worship Services

Each Wednesday in Lent, we will explore the world's despair and the works of love Christians—and not just any Christians, but members of St. Thomas—employ in order to resist hopelessness. Our worship will feature music from Holden Village by Marty Haugen, including Holden Evening Prayer and Holden Prayer Around the Cross: Beside Still Waters. **Midweek worship will be held in Heritage Hall at 7pm.**

Easter Vigil

Our stories shape how we see the world. You are invited to come and be immersed in the story of the church at the Easter Vigil service on **Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m.** The most unique worship service of the year, we will gather around fire, water, bread, and wine to tell the story of salvation. We will hear members of our community proclaim the stories of God's faithfulness and salvation throughout history as we together proclaim that Christ is risen, indeed! Our stories remind us that love wins!

Our worship will begin outside as we gather around a fire on the circle drive, then move inside to share the stories of our faith. This worship is well suited

for children to participate with the focus on telling stories. Worship will be followed by s'mores around the fire and an Easter egg hunt.

We still have several stories that need to be told and we would like your help to tell them! You are invited to add your voice! You can tell a story, gather some friends or family members to act it out, sing a song or more. Your story telling is limited only by your creativity! View the list of stories and sign up here: <http://bit.ly/3JpbdXQ>

We are also looking for wood to use and someone to help facilitate the Easter Egg hunt. If you are able to help with one of these items, please contact Pastor Lecia.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns

Elif Ogan, Jan Ellis, Caretta Van Ruler, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Audrey Alpers, Deborah O'Brien, Mike Ost, Bob Osborn, Andrew Halvorson, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Jan Coulter, Evelyn Niemeyer, Margrethe O'Connor, Helen Kane, and Jacky Harner.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at skcolston@aol.com to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

Today's Worship Leaders

Altar care: Mary Sasse, Susan Colston

Bread & Wine: Robin Hershberger

8:30 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: David Rohlfing

Lectors: Karen Rohlfing, Nancy Mathews

Ushers: Jim & Marti Doering

Communion Steward: Kent Unger

Greeters: Gene & Gayl Laughman

Council Coordinator: Dawn Bakken

11 a.m. Service

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lectors: Janine Drake, Dean Arnold

Ushers: Randy & Nancy Nye

Communion Steward: Sharon Fawbush

Greeters: Susan Colston, Susan Goodison

Council Coordinator: Sam Eichmiller

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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the Living Waters**
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Melissa de Graaf
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**