



**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 19, 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. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. 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

\*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.**

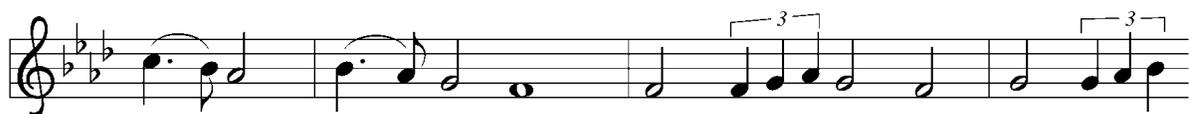
\*ENTRANCE HYMN

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow ELW#327

## Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward  
 2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the  
 3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as  
 4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -  
 ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and  
 from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the  
 with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -  
 ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the  
 per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the  
 bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall



fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the  
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which  
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -  
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing



guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of  
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing  
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y  
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all



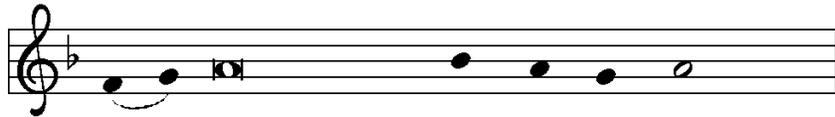
pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.  
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.  
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.  
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

## \*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.



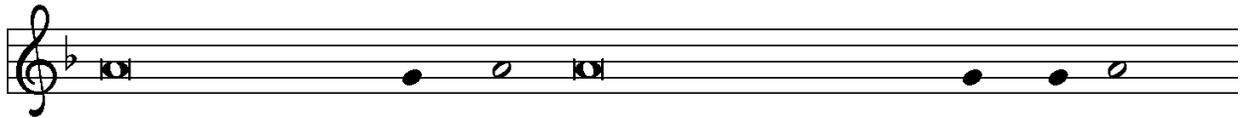
Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



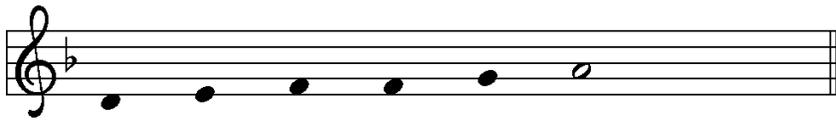
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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. Keep watch, Gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, and grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart from complacency. Strengthen those who seek equality for all. Grant that everyone may enjoy a fair portion of the abundance of the earth; 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

Pr. Lecia Beck

## FIRST READING

Genesis 31:25-27, 43-50

Laban overtook Jacob. Now Jacob had pitched his tent in the hill country, and Laban with his kinsfolk camped in the hill country of Gilead. Laban said to Jacob, "What have you done? You have deceived me and carried away my daughters like captives of the sword. Why did you flee secretly and deceive me and not tell me? I would have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre.

Then Laban answered and said to Jacob, “The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flocks are my flocks, and all that you see is mine. But what can I do today about these daughters of mine or about their children whom they have borne? Come now, let us make a covenant, you and I, and let it be a witness between you and me.” So Jacob took a stone and set it up as a pillar. And Jacob said to his kinsfolk, “Gather stones,” and they took stones and made a heap, and they ate there by the heap. Laban called it Jegar-sahadutha, but Jacob called it Galeed. Laban said, “This heap is a witness between you and me today.” Therefore he called it Galeed and the pillar Mizpah, for he said, “The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other. If you ill-treat my daughters or if you take wives in addition to my daughters, though no one else is with us, remember that God is witness between you and me.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 144:3-4, 12-15

<sup>3</sup>Womb of Life, what is humanity that you even know them,  
or the woman-born that you think of them?

<sup>4</sup>**Humanity is like a breath;  
whose days are like a passing shadow.**

<sup>12</sup>Our sons in their youth  
are like plants full grown,  
our daughters are like cornerstones,  
cut for the building of a palace.

<sup>13</sup>**Our barns are full,  
from produce of every kind;  
our sheep have increased by thousands,  
many thousands in our surroundings**

<sup>14</sup>Our cattle are heavy,  
there is no breach in the walls, no exile,  
and no cry of distress in our surroundings.

<sup>15</sup>**Happy are the people to whom such blessings  
fall;  
happy are the people whose God is the Womb  
of Life.**

## SECOND READING

1 John 4:13-21

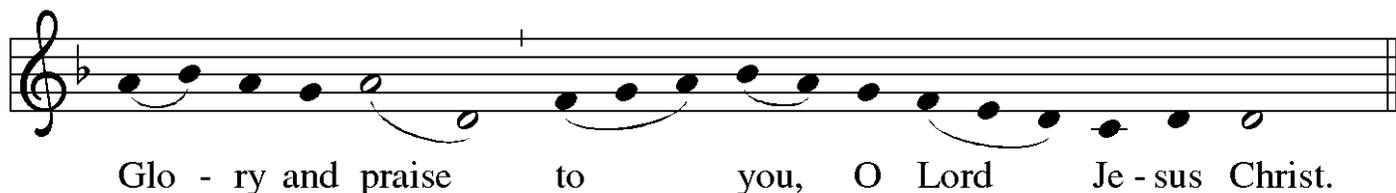
By this we know that we abide in God and God in us, because God has given us of God's Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent God's Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as God is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because God first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from God is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 12:46-50

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

While Jesus was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY  
Oh, Love, How Deep

ELW#322



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
 2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
 or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
 dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 he bore the shameful cross and death;  
 for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;  
 for us he went on high to reign;  
 for us he sent his Spirit here  
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
 for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
 the Trinity whom we adore  
 forever and forevermore.

**\*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: Holy God, sustain this congregation in abiding love for one another and abiding trust in your Spirit's presence. We pray for our neighbor congregations, University Baptist Church and Congregation Beth Shalom, and for our partners in ministry, Iglesia Santo Domingo de Guzman in Chichipate, Guatemala, The Lutheran Church of the Living Waters Church in Cherokee, North Carolina, and Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU. May we all find joy and courage in one another's faithfulness. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, your beautiful world once seemed stable and unchanging. Give us wisdom to understand and love your creation as it is now: breaking, changing, and challenging us. Hear the cries of those who suffer today from earthquakes, storms, and floods. In our concern for them, let us not forget to give thanks for the season's change and the signs of spring. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, guide those who bear the authority of government in our nation and among all nations and peoples. Turn their hearts toward peace, reconciliation, and the common good. Be with those whose souls and bodies have been scarred by combat. Show us what we can do, however small it may be, to share in your work of healing the world. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, you are the wellspring of new life. Grant healing and wholeness to those who call out to you, especially Elif, Jan, Caretta, Roger, Paula, Audrey, Deborah, Mike, Bob, Andrew, Doug, Yvonne, Jan, Evelyn, Margrethe (Mar-GREAT-uh), Helen, and Jacky. Be near to those who are afraid and those who grieve. Merciful God,  
**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Holy God, three years ago the pandemic transformed the life of this congregation. We bless you for the courage and imagination of those who maintained our shared worship when we could not stand together around this altar. We bless you for everyone who fought to stay

connected on Zoom, in phone calls, in letters, and in chilly or sweltering outdoor worship. We bless you for the crew who handled the tents every Sunday. Because your grace sustained us in a strange and frightening time, our trust in you and in one another grew stronger. Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall. Happy are the people whose God is the Lord. 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.*

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate by the door or you can also give on our website ([stlconline.org](http://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

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

11 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

Sir John Stainer

\*OFFERTORY HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

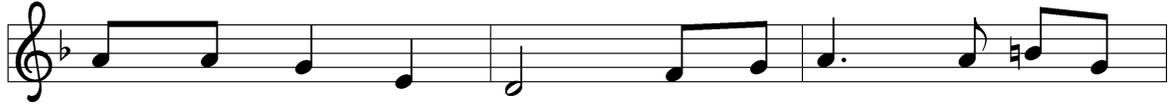
ELW#334

*Verse 1 and Lent 4*

# 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 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 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 3*

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

## *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 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.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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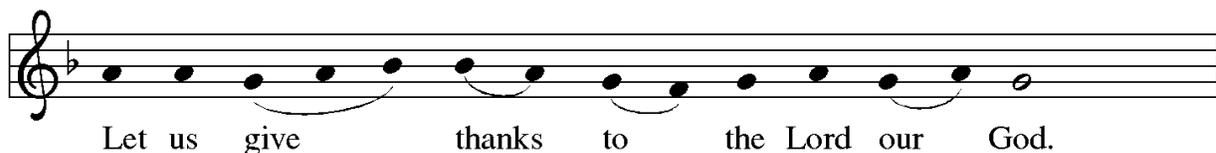
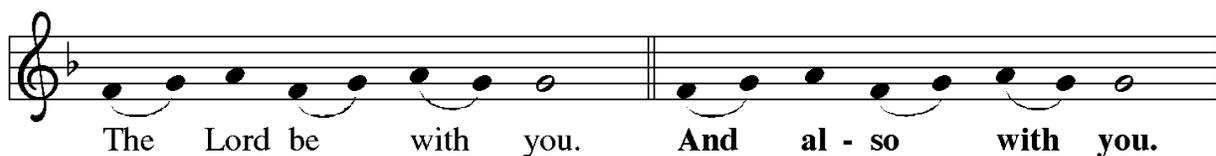
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

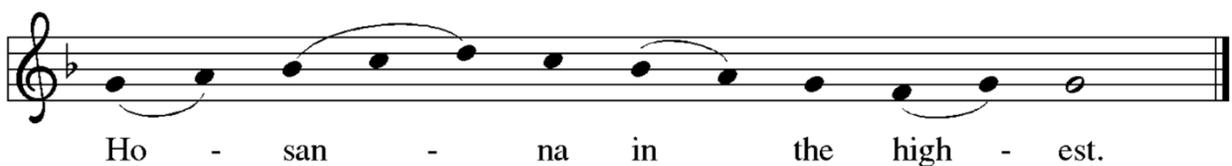
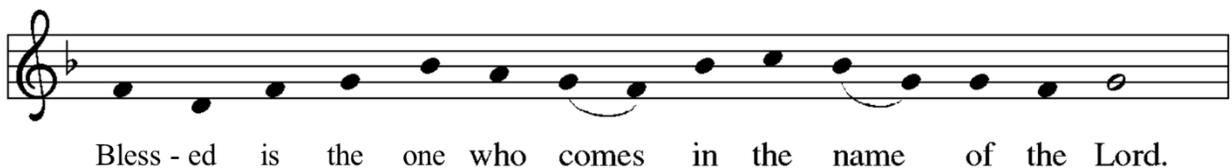
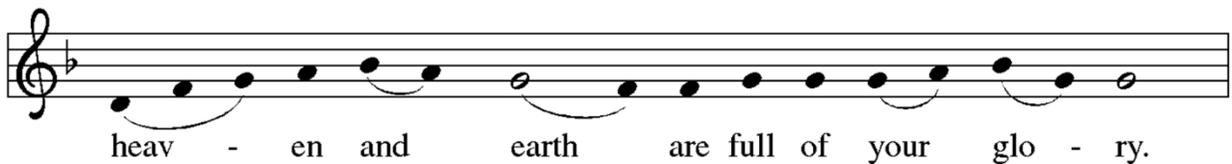
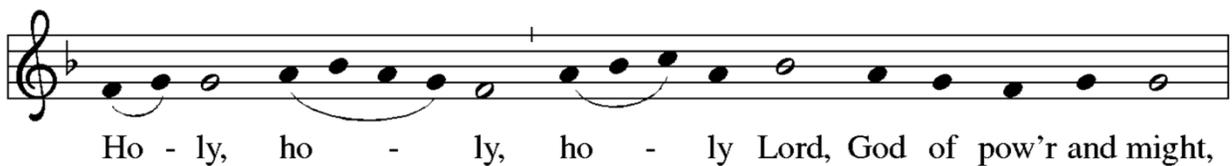
**C: Amen.**

**+ 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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. Spanish 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.**

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,  
santificado sea tu nombre.

Venga tu reino.

Hágase tu voluntad

en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.

Perdona nuestras ofensas  
como también nosotros  
perdonamos a los  
que nos ofenden.

No nos dejes caer en tentación  
y líbranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es  
el poder y tuya es la gloria,  
ahora y siempre. Amén.

#### \*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 the ushers. Hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers are offered with 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

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW#445

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW#332

## Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.  
2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.  
3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.  
One with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

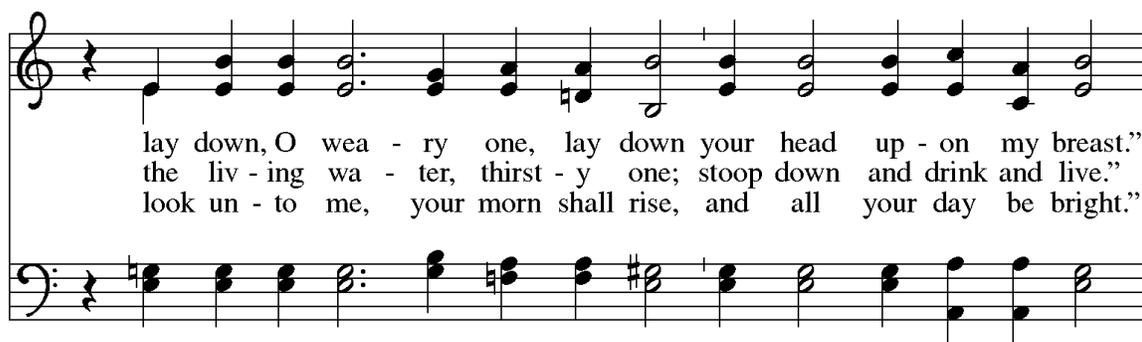
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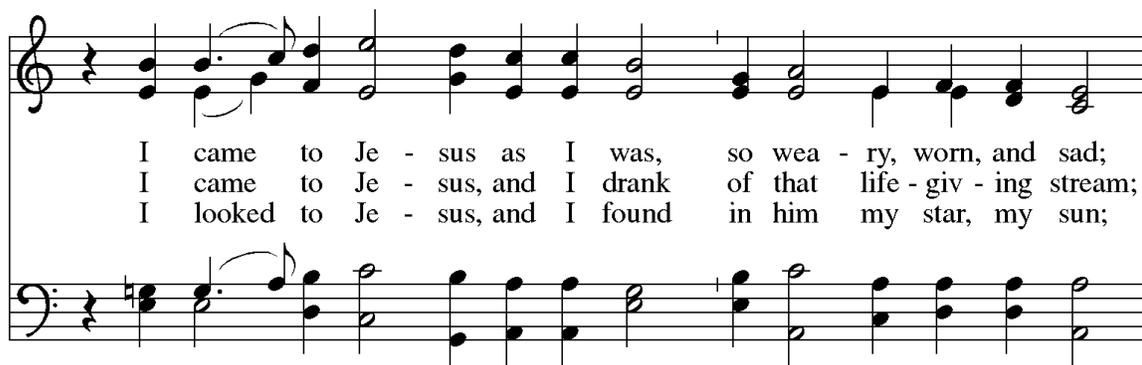
# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

**\*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**

Children of the Heavenly Father

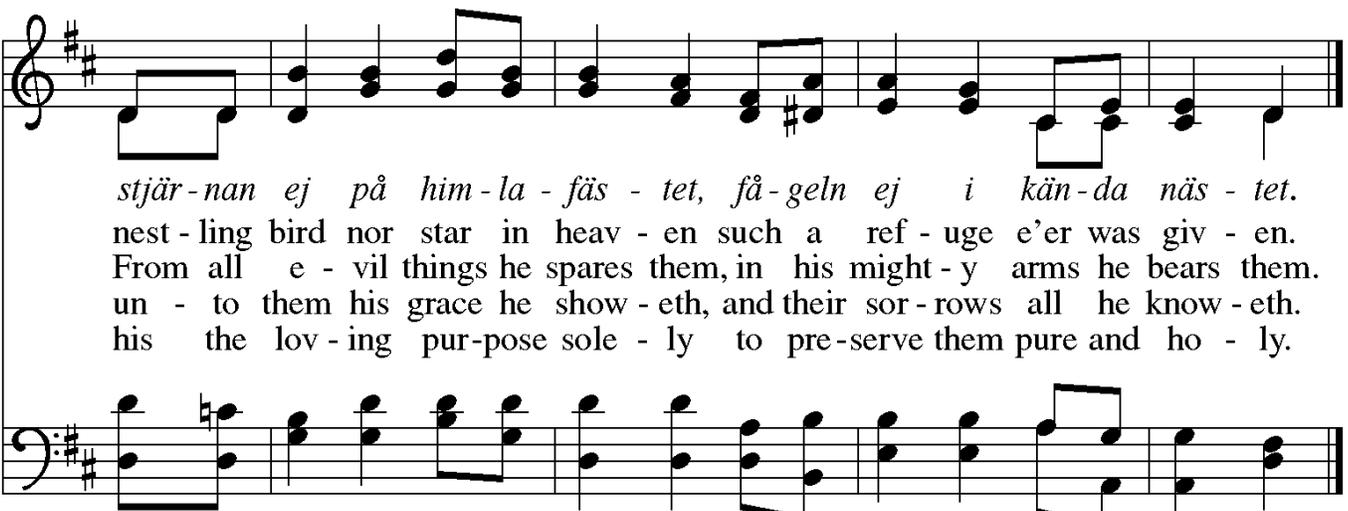
ELW#781

# Children of the Heavenly Father

## *Tryggare kan ingen vara*



*Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,*  
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;  
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



*stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.*  
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.  
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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**\*DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*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 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

### **Monday March 20**

7 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

### **Tuesday March 21**

10 a.m. Property Committee Work Day

### **Wednesday March 22**

11 a.m. Lenten Worship & Luncheon

7 p.m. Lenten Midweek Worship Service

### **Thursday March 23**

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday March 25**

7 p.m. Game Night

### **Sunday March 26**

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

2:30 p.m. Bach Cantata Concert

## **Announcements**

### **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.**

### **Lenten Worship & Luncheon**

This **Wednesday March 22** join us for worship at **11 a.m.** Sign up to attend a luncheon following the service. Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up, and to bring soup, bread, and dessert. Sign up at the welcome desk.

## **Property Committee Work Day**

The Property Committee meets **Tuesday March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** to paint, caulk, fix light bulbs, and a wide variety of other small jobs—many of them outdoors. Feel free to join us! For more information contact Sam Eichmiller at 812-797-2807.

## **Game Night**

Game Night at St. Thomas! On **Saturday March 25 at 7 p.m.** we'll have tables set up in Community Hall for those who like classic board games, new games (Blokus was a hit at our last game night), and games for children and their families. Drinks provided. Bring a snack to share. And look for a return of Trivia Night, led by Rance Fawbush, in August!

## **Bach Cantata Concert**

Music & the Arts Concert Series presents The Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. Continuing its thirteenth season, they present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own. The format is unique: a performance of a cantata, a short talk about it, and a second performance in which we hope you hear new things. Performances are free and take place on

Sunday afternoons at St. Thomas. We are grateful for the support and look forward to sharing this music with members of the St. Thomas community. The final performance opportunity for the 2022-2023 season is on **Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.:** "Preise dein Glücke, gesegnetes Sachsen" BWV 215, directed by Joanna Blendulf.

### **Easter Breakfast**

St Thomas Youth will be hosting the annual Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9 9:30-10:45 a.m. Tickets will be available for a donation ahead of time. You can get a ticket in person on March 26 or April 2 in the Narthex between services or you can purchase tickets online <https://stlconline.org/donate-to-st-thomas-ministries/> Suggested donation amount is \$5-10 per person. Funds will support youth group trips. There are also sheets in the Narthex to sign up to provide food or volunteer to help. Thank you!

### **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/3Zz2IER>

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.

## **Easter Lilies Now on Sale**

You are invited to purchase a lily for adding beauty to the sanctuary on **Easter Sunday** (April 9). Lilies will be available to take home following the 11 a.m. worship service, or in the days following Easter. 15 lilies are available for purchase at a cost of **\$14 each**. You may dedicate your plant to someone, and that name will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Sign up at the welcome desk.

## **Word in the Woods**

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it! (Psalm 24:1) After a winter hiatus, Word in the Woods is back! Join us as we enjoy God's creation, build relationships and contemplate scripture together. With the lengthening days, we will gather on the second Tuesday evening of each month at 6 p.m. Meet us at Griffy Lake boathouse for a 1.5-mile hike which closes with Holy Communion. Our next hike will be on **Tuesday, April 11**. Please let Pastor Lecia know if you plan to join us!

## **Oscar Romero**

Oscar Romero (1917-1980) is remembered today in our Prayers of Intercession. An archbishop in El Salvador, he was a powerful witness for social justice in his country's civil war. The night before he was murdered while celebrating Mass, he said on the radio: "I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is given by a man, the law of God that says 'Do not kill!' should prevail. No soldier is obliged to obey an order counter to the law of God. No one has to comply with an immoral law. It is the time now that you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin... Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you! In the name of God: 'Cease the repression!'"

## **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](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar care: Ute Coyne, Jennifer Garl,  
Haley Hatton

Bread & Wine: Letty Newkirk

Coffee Crew: Susan Goodison, Kim Arnold

### **8:30 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Ashley Ahlbrand

Lectors: Carol Seaman, Elaine Moore

Ushers: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Communion Steward: David Ellies

Greeters: Del & Letty Newkirk

Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

### **11 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Ashley Ahlbrand

Lectors: Eliot & Pamela Smith

Ushers: Kim Filiatrault & Dennis Baurle

Communion Steward: Kaye Hill

Greeters: Tim & Jennifer Garl

Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

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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!**