



**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 15, 2026**

## **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.**

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with \* and to respond are indicated with bold type. Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags and children's bulletins are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

**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.**

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. 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.

## + GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In moments of silence, or if you find yourself distracted, consider using this breath prayer to center yourself: (inhale) When there is darkness; (exhale) bring light. You can carry this prayer with you throughout the week to come.*

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: We pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess the ways we give in to hatred and permit discord to flourish; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess the things we have done that harm our neighbor, our neighborhood, or our world; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess that, too often, we put our hope and our faith in despair; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess that we hide from you, cutting ourselves off from the joy you alone give; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess we seek to console only ourselves, understand only ourselves, love only ourselves; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: God gives new life in abundance. God gives grace in abundance. In the name of † Jesus Christ, receive the forgiveness of all your sins, trusting that the One who raised Christ from the dead, gives, in abundance, life and peace, now and forever.

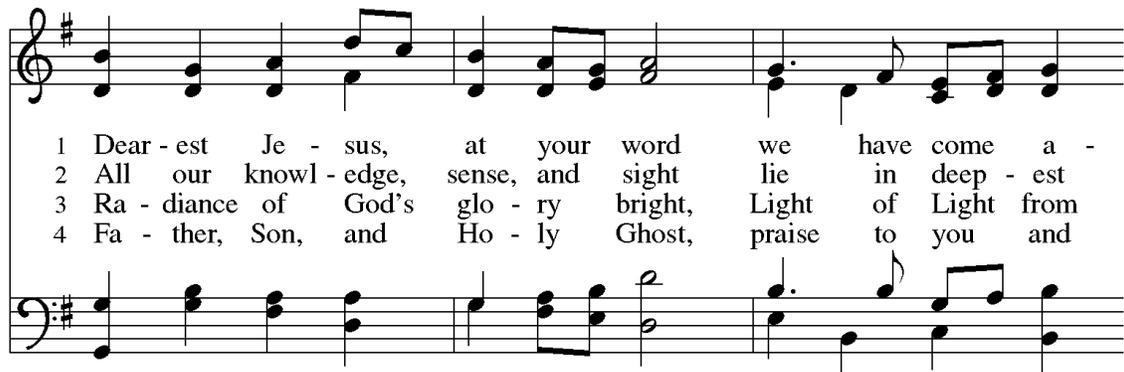
**C: Amen.**

\*ENTRANCE HYMN

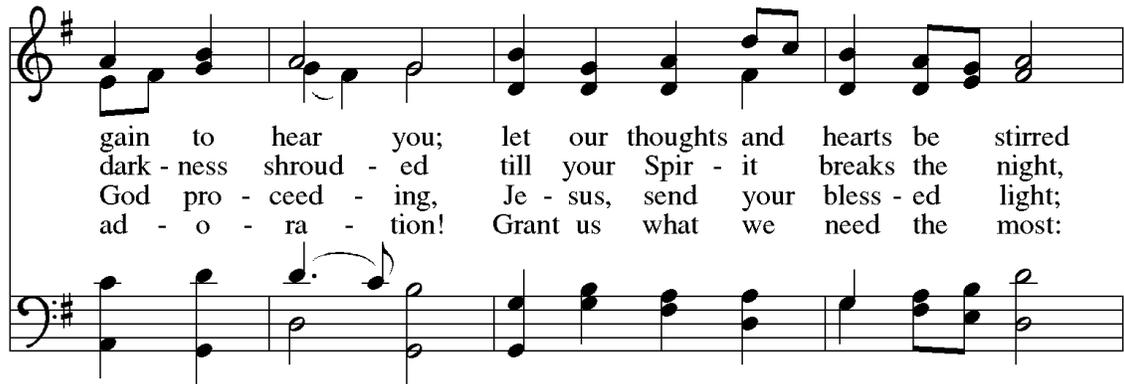
Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW #520

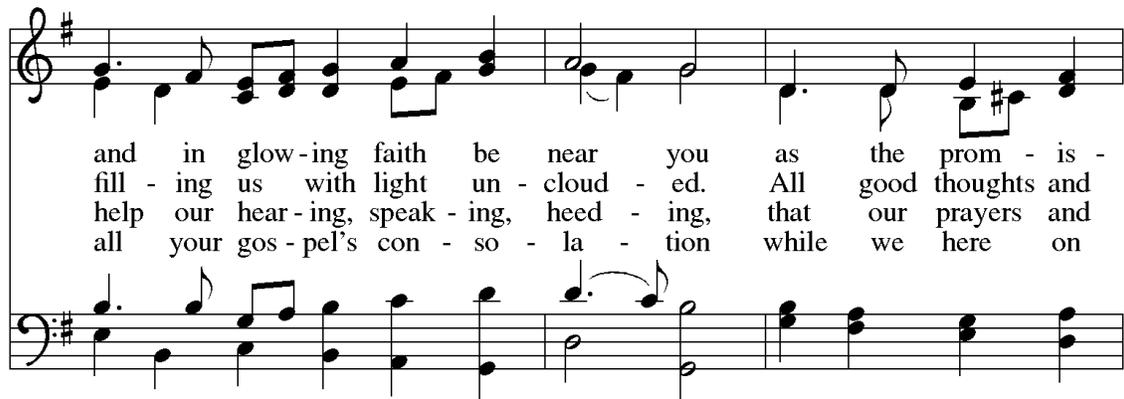
## Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



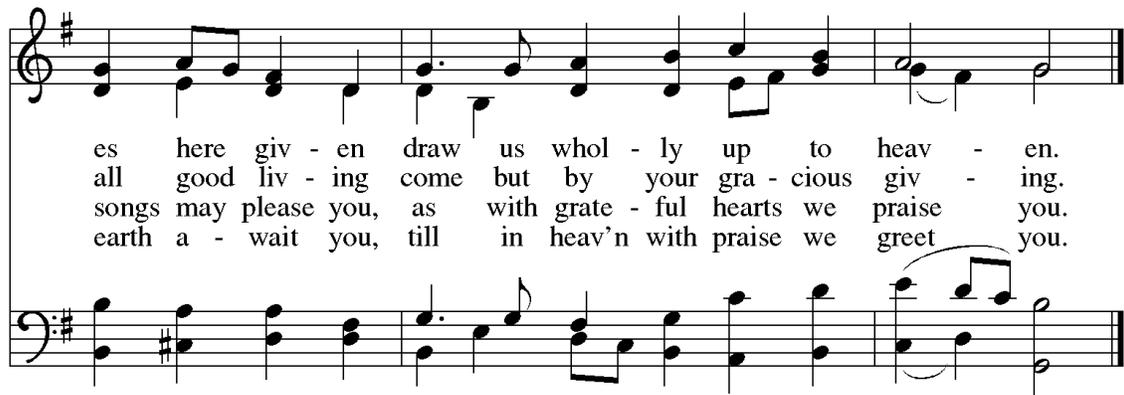
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



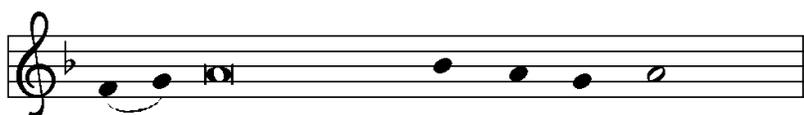
es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

## \*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.



## **+WORD+**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon

David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your  
name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the  
shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your  
staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the  
presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup  
is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of  
the Lord forever.**

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:8-14

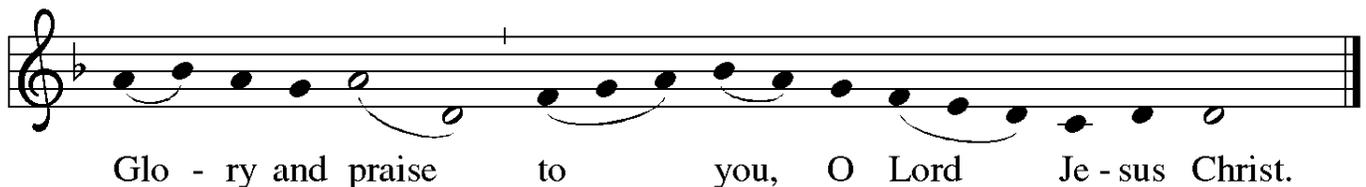
Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,  
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you."

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

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

As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this person or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this person nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When Jesus had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the person who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He

kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the person who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This person is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a person who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind person, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had

received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans, who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the person who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this person is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God

has spoken to Moses, but as for this person, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but does listen to one who is devout and obeys God's will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this person were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Child of Humanity?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Jesus. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you

were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

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

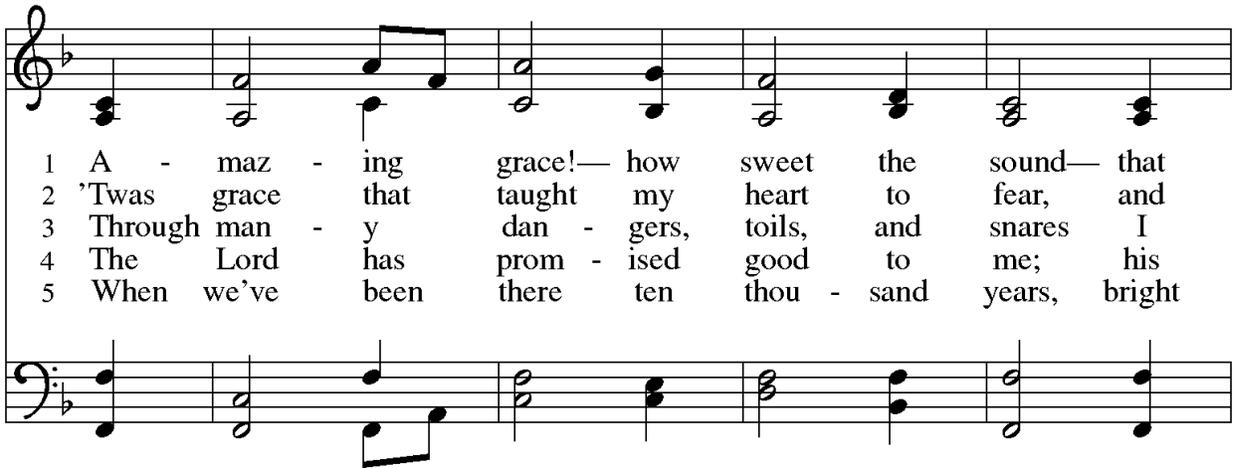
SERMON

Pr. Lecia Beck

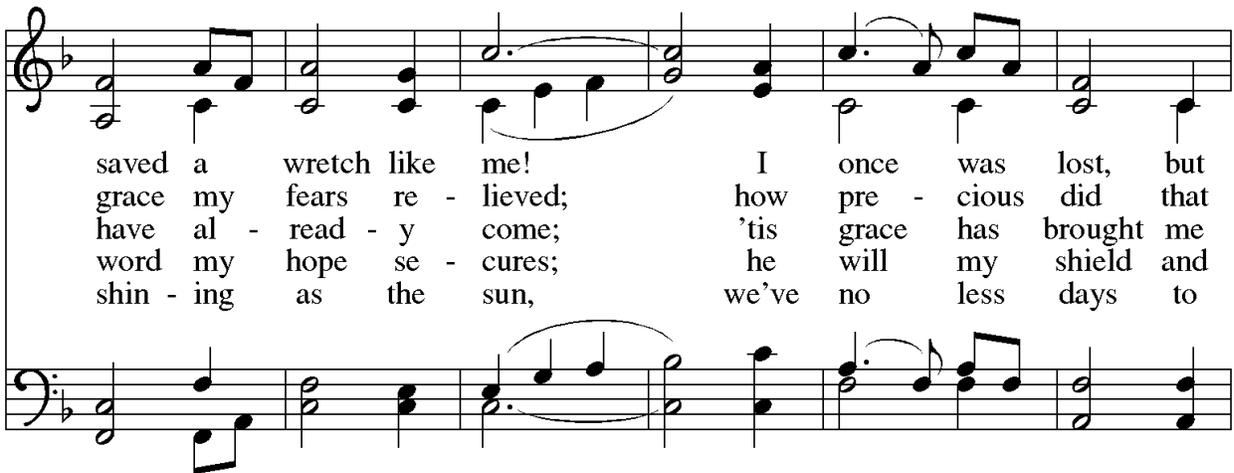
\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW#779

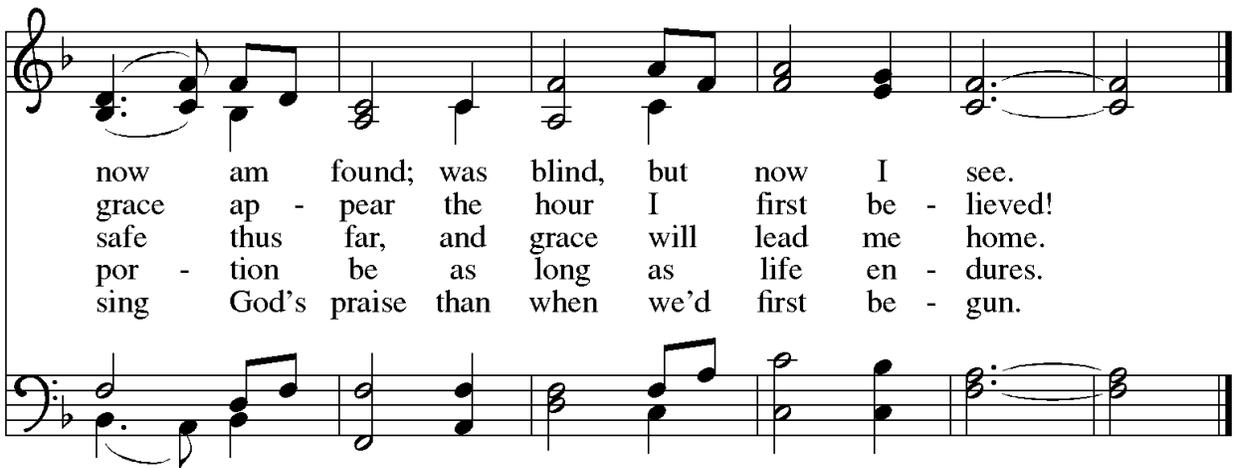
# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

8:30 a.m. only

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**C: 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.**

11 a.m. only

\*HOLY BAPTISM

ELW page 227

*During the baptism, the congregation joins the baptismal party in a profession of faith:*

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

*The presider leads the congregation in  
thanksgiving at the font:*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and  
praise.**

*The congregation shares a welcome:*

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of  
Christ and into the mission we share:  
join us in giving thanks and praise to  
God and bearing God's creative and  
redeeming word to all the world.**

*As the newly baptized is introduced to the  
congregation, all sing:*

# Jesus Loves Me!

1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;  
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;  
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are numbered 1, 2, and 3, corresponding to the three verses.

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.  
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.  
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are centered under the notes.

*Refrain*

Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,

The refrain begins with the word "Refrain" in italics. The musical notation shows a treble and bass staff with a melody in the treble and bass line in the bass. The lyrics are "Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,".

yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

The second part of the refrain continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are "yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.".

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you lead the church. Guide Christians in our community at St. Thomas and at Rose House and across the globe at Living Waters, Iglesia de Santo Domingo de Guzman, and in the churches in our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile, in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Save people and humans from disasters. In Iran, where smoke from strikes on oil facilities clogs the air and changes the rain, bring relief from danger and fear by means of the peace you along can give. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela. Protect those who give their lives in service to their country, even as we pray that you remove all causes and occasions for war. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant or incomplete, especially because of disability, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day especially Scott, Helen, Bob, Ethelyene, David, Gloria, John, Leslie, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Make of St. Thomas and your whole Church a community where everyone can find a place. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant peace to those who mourn, especially those whose grief is complicated by suddenness or violence. When we mourn, lead us beside still waters. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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.*



*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, [stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org) (the QR code above on the right will direct you).***



*Use the QR code on the left to add your volunteer hours to our 5000-hour challenge.*

8:30 a.m. only

CHORAL ANTHEM

Open My Eyes

K. Lee Scott

11 a.m. only

ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

# \*OFFERTORY HYMN

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

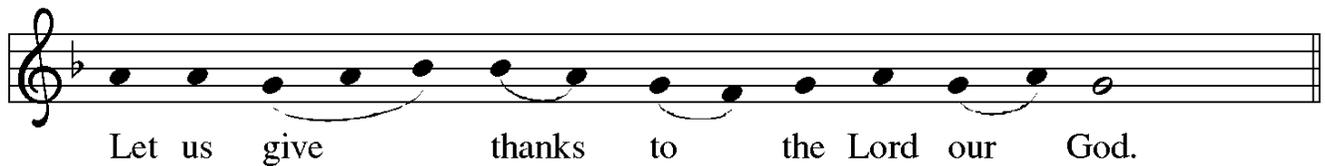
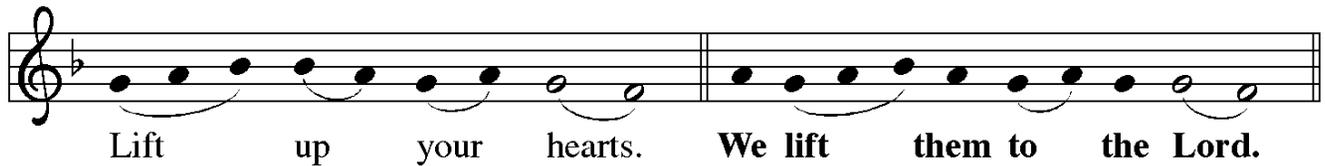
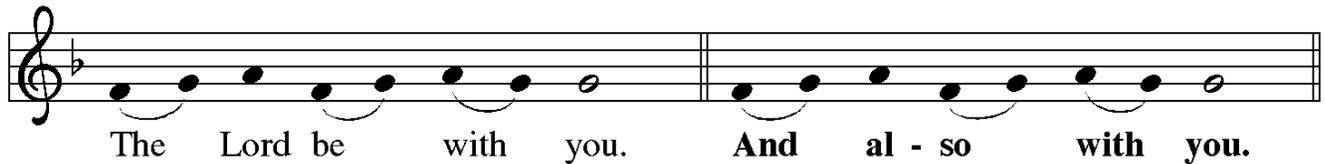
## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

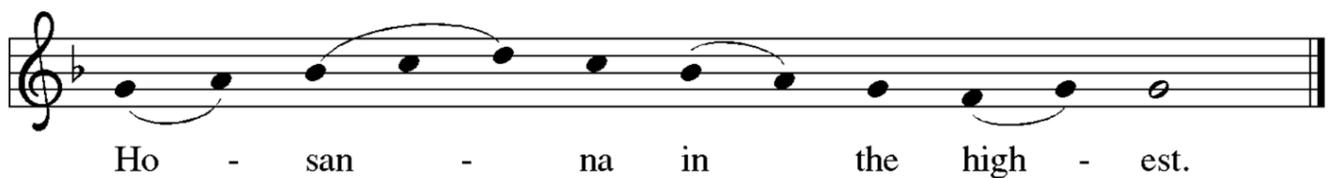
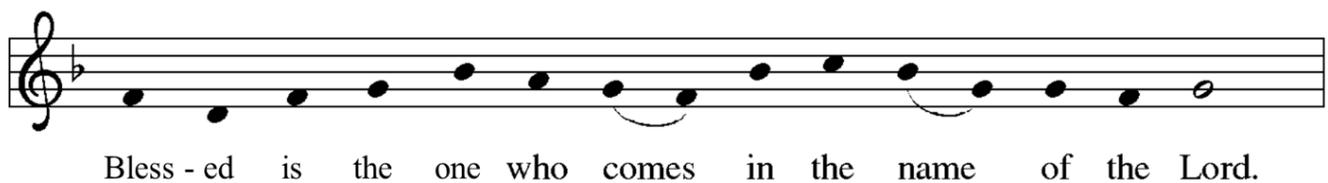
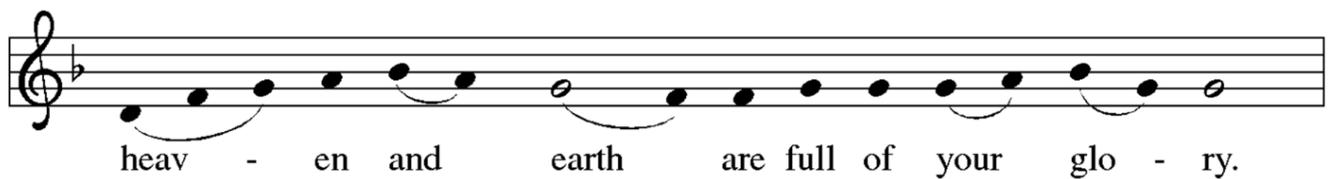
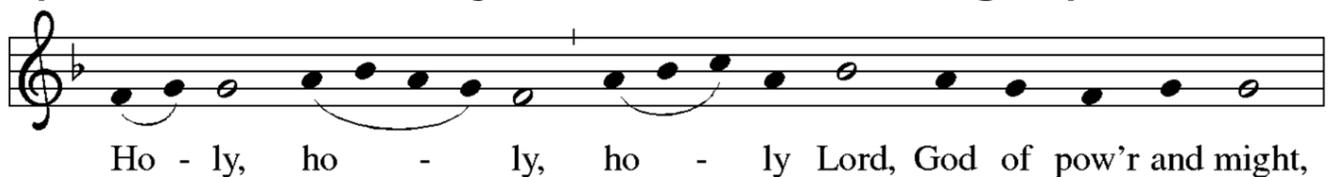
**C: Amen.**

## + 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.

P: 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. Bengali 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.**

হে আমাদের স্বর্গস্থ পিতা,  
তোমার নাম পূজিত হউক,  
তোমার রাজ্য আসুক,  
তোমার ইচ্ছা যেমন স্বর্গে,  
তেমনি পৃথিবীতেও পূর্ণ হউক,  
আমাদের দৈনিক অন্ন আজ আমাদের দাও,  
আর আমরা যেমন অপরাধীকে ক্ষমা করি তেমনি তুমিও  
আমাদের অপরাধ ক্ষমা কর,  
আর আমাদের প্রলোভনে পড়তে দিও না,  
কিন্তু মন্দের হাত থেকে উদ্ধার করো।  
[রাজ্য, পরাক্রম ও মহিমা যুগে যুগে তোমার। আমেন।]

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

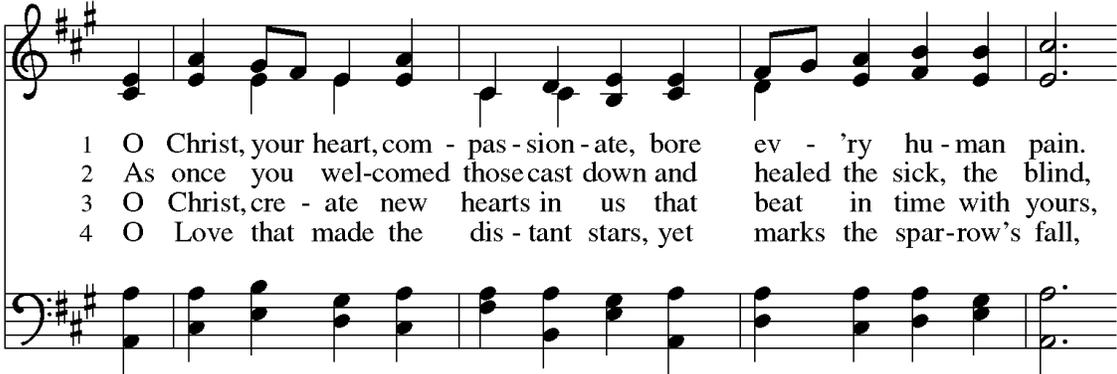
*We believe that God is our host and that all people are welcome to this feast of grace, community, and forgiveness. Come forward at the direction of an usher, and receive bread or gluten-free wafer and wine in a common chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in individual cups. If you wish to receive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

# AGNUS DEI

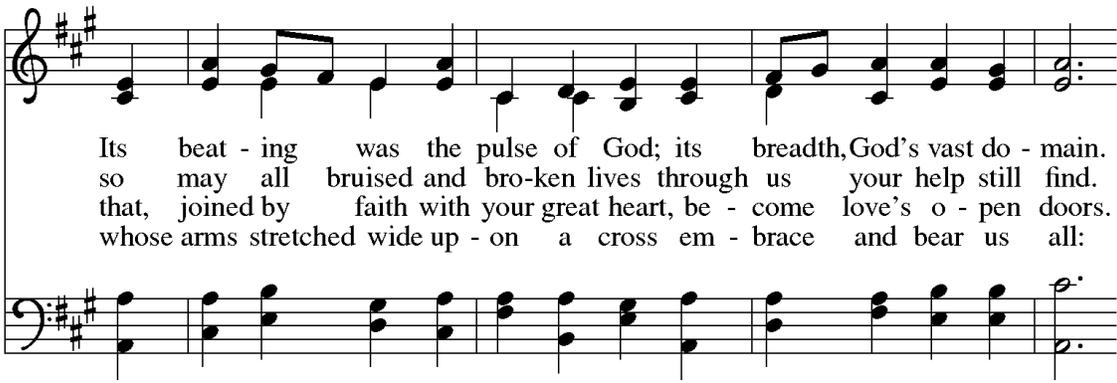
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

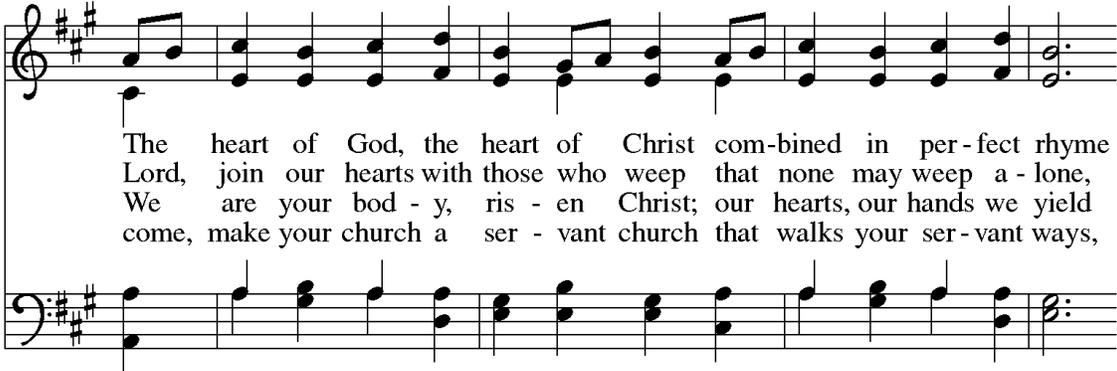
## O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate ELW#722



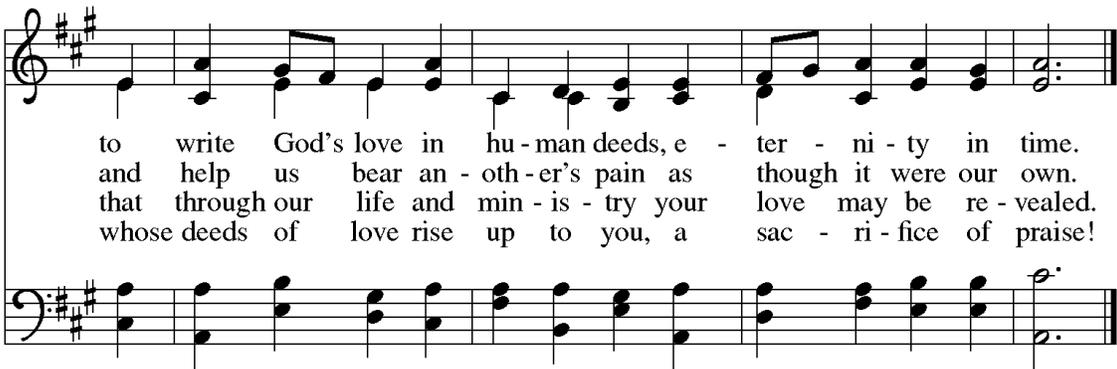
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# There Is a Balm in Gilead

ELW #614

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

**\*EUCHARISTIC 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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ †, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

# \*SENDING HYMN

## Be Thou My Vision

ELW #793



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



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



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



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

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

\*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**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.*

\*\*\*

The Liturgy is reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, setting 5. copyright © 2006 by permission of Augsburg Fortress, license #SBT005707. Hymns reprinted by permission listed within and under OneLicense #A-724450.

Today's readings are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary. The texts for the scripture readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*, emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of St. Thomas in consultation with emendations provided for Augsburg Fortress by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

## **At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas**

### **Sunday March 15**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

11 a.m. Worship

2:30 p.m. Bach Cantata Project

### **Monday March 16**

9:45 a.m. Worship at Bell Trace

1 p.m. Pastors Bible Study

### **Tuesday March 17**

12 p.m. Office Closing for the day

### **Wednesday March 18**

6 p.m. Soup Supper

7 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service

### **Thursday March 19**

5:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner

7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday March 21**

5:30 p.m. Tacos and Trivia

### **Sunday March 22**

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

11 a.m. Worship

### **Sunday School/Adult Forum**

There will not be Sunday School on March 15 or 22, due to Spring Break.

## **Welcome Child of God!**

Today we celebrate the baptism of Sophia Watson. Sophia is the daughter of Nick & Meg Watson, sister of Fletcher Watson, grandchild of Tim & Jennifer Garl, niece of Wyatt & Haley Hatton and Jonathan & Emily Kagemann, and cousin of Charlotte and Roman Kagemann.

## **Pastor Adrienne Out of Office**

Pastor Adrienne will be out of the office on Thursday, March 19 through Sunday, March 22.

## ***Next Steps***

Looking for a way to get involved at STLC? Try this next step:

### **Reception Crew**

Be a part of a large team that prepares the food and space for occasional receptions at St. Thomas, serves at meals, and cleans up afterwards.

Contact the church office if you are interested in this next step. [parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

## **Worship and the Arts Concert Series: Bloomington Bach Cantata Project Today**

Members of the St. Thomas community are warmly invited to the sixteenth season's performances by the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. They present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own; each concert includes a performance, a short talk about the day's cantata, and a second performance in which everyone can hear new and different things. Performances take place on **Sundays at 2:30 p.m.** Today is the last BBCP of the 25-26 season. "Ich habe meine Zuversicht" BWV 188. Anastasia Chin will direct.

## **Every Odd Month Event: Save the Date for Tacos and Trivia Night! Saturday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.**

Rance Fawbush is returning as our trivia master for an evening of food and some friendly competition. Join us for tacos at 5:30 and trivia around 6. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk.

## **The Easter Bunny Needs Helpers!**

The Mission Committee at St. Thomas Lutheran and the Outreach Committee at Trinity Episcopal Church are once again working together to provide Easter baskets for 100 children living in Middle Way, New Hope for Families, and Crawford shelters. The baskets are for children (ages 0 – 17) whose families have experienced homelessness or housing instability and who are currently living in supported housing. During Lent there will be a collection box in the narthex for small new items like toys, coloring books, card games, and stuffed bunnies to fill the baskets. The baskets and candy will be purchased separately. We especially need items for babies and teens. Parishioners can shop locally or online from our Amazon wish list here <https://amzn.to/4aru5TK>. Items will be collected throughout Lent. We will gather for an all-ages basket assembly project on the afternoon of **Palm Sunday, March 29!**

## **Community Soup Suppers during Lent**

On **Wednesdays** during Lent, share a simple supper of soup and bread at **6 p.m.** These suppers will be free and open to anyone who could use a warm meal and friendly company. After the supper, anyone can choose to attend Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Sign up on the Welcome Desk to set up, clean up, or to bring soup, bread, or dessert.

## **Lenten Midweek Services**

On Wednesdays in the seasons of Lent, gather in the evenings in prayer and song. Poems and scripture readings on prayer and being instruments of God's peace will anchor Holden Evening Prayer. **Worship begins at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.**

## **Order Easter Lilies to decorate our Worship Space**

You are invited to purchase a lily for adding beauty to the sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 5). 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 \$15 each. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## **Easter Vigil Service of Joy**

Be immersed in the story of the church in our

### **Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4 at 7**

**p.m.** The Easter Vigil includes many stories spanning the Old Testament and we would like your help to tell them! 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 (and 6 minutes)! View the list of stories and sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/4shDIKC>.

## **Easter Breakfast—HELP NEEDED**

Celebrate Easter with a free **Easter breakfast in Community Hall between services on Sunday, April 5**. Enjoy fellowship, share good food, and strengthen friendships. Bring your family and friends to this special event so we can celebrate together. **Sign up on the poster in the Narthex** to bring egg casseroles, coffee cake, fruit, or drinks and to help with preparing, serving, and cleaning up. Long-term, this ministry needs a champion. If hospitality or volunteer organization is among your spiritual gifts, please contact Pr. Adrienne.

# **Holy Week at St. Thomas**

## **Stations of the Cross, Throughout Holy Week**

The Stations of the Cross are a visual representation of Jesus's passion. Beginning on Passion Sunday, stations based on events during the past year and special connections to St. Thomas will be available to pray in Heritage Hall. Visit before or after any of the week's services or during office hours on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## **Sunday of the Passion, March 29, 8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Wave your palm branches and cheer alongside the crowds before walking with Jesus to the cross. Hear the Passion Narrative from Matthew's gospel. To remind us of the burden Christ willingly took upon himself, the choir will offer Gilbert Martin's uplifting arrangement of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Pr. Lecia will offer a children's message, and Pr. Adrienne will preach at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## **Wednesday in Holy Week Healing Service, April 1, 7 p.m.**

As we continue to ponder our Lord's passion, our own brokenness and need for healing is often exposed. At this gentle service, prayer and the laying on of hands are offered to all who are in pain, bereaved, feeling hopeless, needing forgiveness, or wanting to show mercy. Pr. Adrienne will preach at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.**

As Jesus gathered with his disciples on the evening before his death, we gather to wash feet and hands, share the Holy Meal, strip the altar, and so begin the Great Three Days that lead through the cross to the empty tomb. The choir will sing Ethan McGrath's "Prayer of St. Patrick," in which we acknowledge Christ's presence in all aspects of our lives. Pr. Adrienne will offer a children's message and Pr. Lecia will preach at 7 p.m. in the Worship Space.

## **A Love Supreme: The Gospel According to John Coltrane, Midday Good Friday, April 3, noon**

When John Coltrane recorded A Love Supreme in 1964, it was immediately recognized as a masterpiece. The album—its four pieces—is emotional, full of both lament and hope.

Weaving through the pieces will be readings from the Passion according to John, poems and passages, and reflections by Pr. Adrienne Meier at noon in Heritage Hall.

## **Good Friday, As Darkness Falls, April 3, 7 p.m.**

On this day, we look to the cross, where Jesus draws all people to himself. In the evening, readings from the Passion according to John are complimented by songs and growing darkness. The service includes prayers of ever widening circles as we pray for the world for which Christ died and the solemn reproaches, where we confront our failure to live in ways that honor Jesus's sacrifice. The service concludes as we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. The choral anthem, "When Jesus Wept" by William Billings, a solemn *a cappella* round, reminds us of Christ's humanity and ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Pr. Adrienne will preach, and the choir will sing at 7 p.m. in the Worship Space.

## **Easter Vigil Service of Joy, April 4, 7 p.m.**

Be immersed in the story of the church in our Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19 at 7 p.m. At this most fun, unique, and unexpected worship service of the year, we gather around fire, water, bread and wine to tell the story of salvation. We proclaim the stories of God's faithfulness and salvation throughout history as we proclaim Christ, the one who brings life out of death. Worship will begin as we light the new fire and then move into Heritage Hall for a time of storytelling and Holy Communion.

## **Resurrection of our Lord, April 5, 8:30 and 11 a.m.**

With shouts of joy we proclaim the crucified Christ, risen from the dead, which secures our own victory over death. Together we look for signs of new life which emerges even when things appear uncertain. Pr. Lecia will offer a children's message, Pr. Adrienne will preach, the choir will sing "Easter Anthem" by William Billings—one of the oldest and most joyful American anthems, and brass will accompany our worship. Between services, enjoy an Easter breakfast. Join us at 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

## **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns**

Scott O'Reilly, Helen Kane, Bob Osborn, Ethelyene Thomason, David Ellies, Gloria Hitchcock, John Kinzer, Leslie Main, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

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: Charlene Braun, Susan Colston

Bread & Wine: Robin Hershberger

Coffee Crew: Ian Bensberg

A/V Tech: Johnathan Frank

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

Assisting Minister: Carolyn Sowinski

Lectors: Eliot Smith, Pamela Smith

Ushers: Sacha Arterberry, Carol Seaman

Communion Steward: Jaydene Laros

Greeters: Mike & Jaydene Laros

Council Coordinator: Johnathan Frank

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

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lectors: Susan Colston, Vicki Polansky

Acolyte: Elaina Iversen

Ushers: Randy & Nancy Nye

Communion Steward: Peter Iversen

Greeters: Gail Seegert, Gretchen Moehlmann

Council Coordinator: Mike Witt

## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)

*Partners in ministry with*  
**Lutheran Church of  
the Living Waters**  
Cherokee, North Carolina

*Linked with*  
**Sister Parish**  
Iglesia Santo Domingo  
de Guzman, Chichipate  
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
Izabal, Guatemala

*In covenant with*  
**Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at Indiana University**  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian,  
Campus Pastor  
[lutheran@iu.edu](mailto:lutheran@iu.edu)  
Phone: (812) 333-2474  
[lcmiu.org](http://lcmiu.org)

Rev. Adrienne Meier  
Senior Pastor  
[pastor@stlconline.org](mailto:pastor@stlconline.org)

Rev. Lecia Beck  
Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture  
[christiannurture@stlconline.org](mailto:christiannurture@stlconline.org)

Erica Whichello  
Parish Administrator  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

Matthew Benkert  
Director of Music and Organist  
[directorofmusic@stlconline.org](mailto:directorofmusic@stlconline.org)

Ben Wegner  
Adult Choir Director  
[choir@stlconline.org](mailto:choir@stlconline.org)

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!**