

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 12:1-8



First Lutheran Church

04/06/2025

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SAINT CHRISTOPHER

James Southbridge

Prelude on Beneath the Cross of Jesus

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

(Please stand)

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(Please kneel)

C: Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.

We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

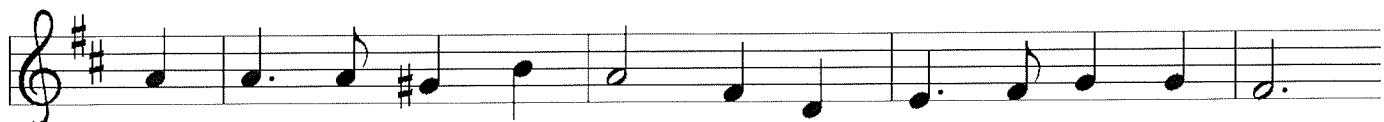
P: Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.
In Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

GATHERING SONG

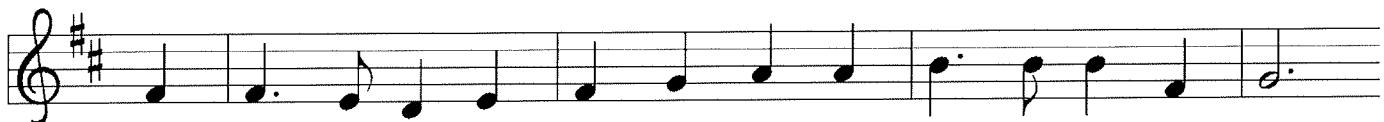
Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

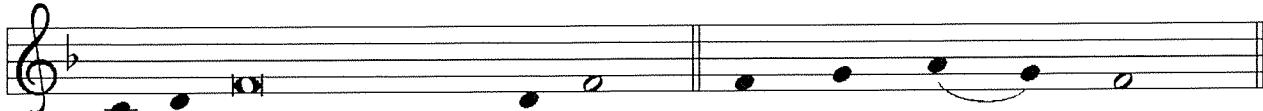
Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

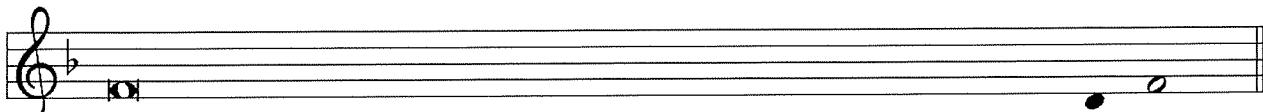
GREETING

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.

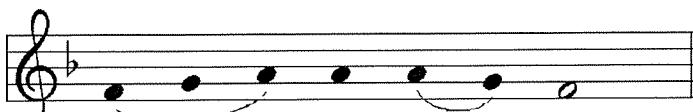
KYRIE



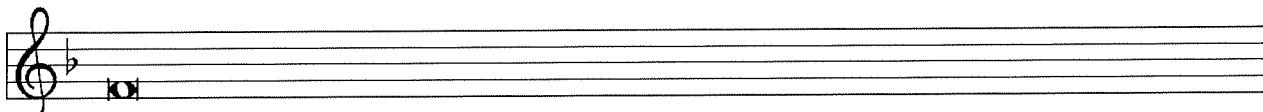
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



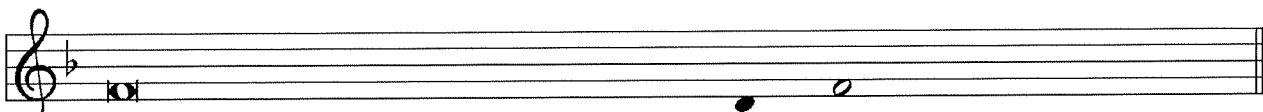
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



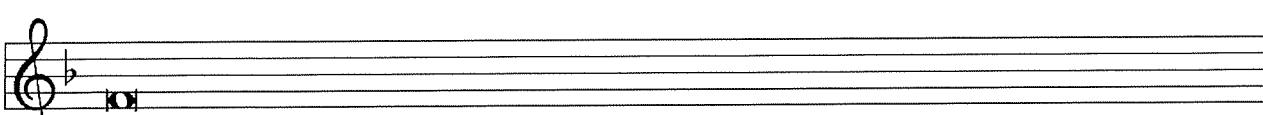
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



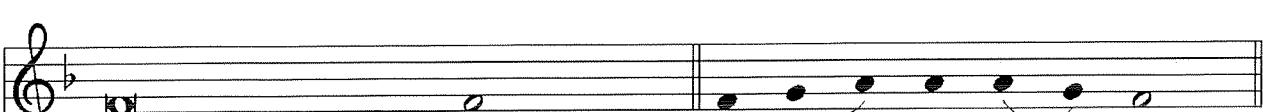
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

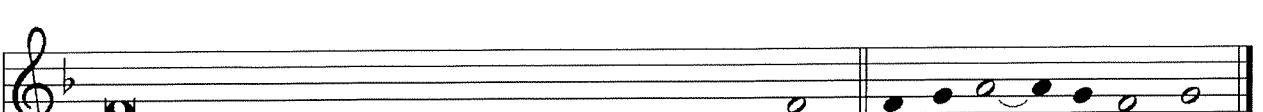


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 43:16-21

L: A reading from Isaiah, the sixteenth chapter.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING**PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14**

L: A reading from Philippians, the third chapter.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

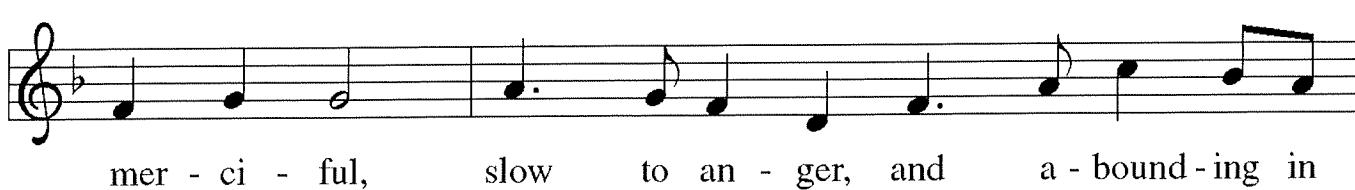
¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

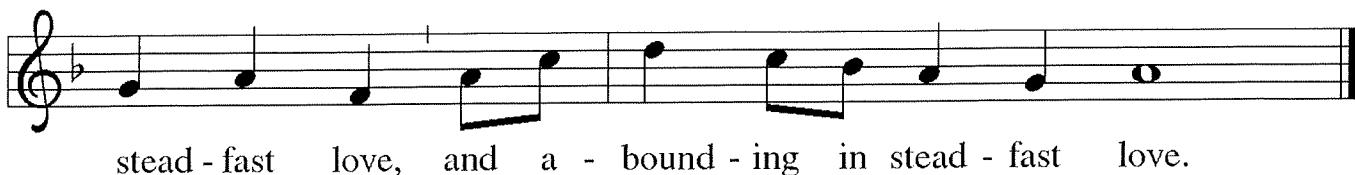
C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

P: The holy gospel according to John.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

P: The gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REVEREND CHRISTIAN DITTMAR

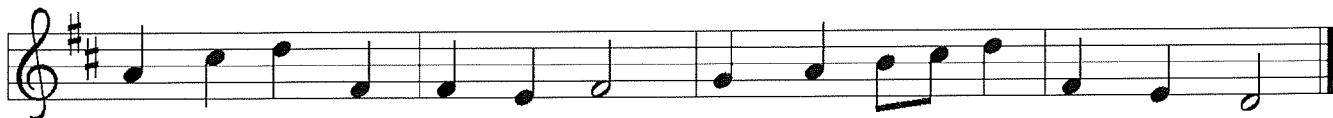
(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be



ALL 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
WOMEN 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
ALL 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
MEN 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

CANTOR 5 Take my will and make it thine; **ALL** 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
it shall be no longer mine. at thy feet its treasure store;
Take my heart, it is thine own; take myself, and I will be
it shall be thy royal throne. ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

CREED

P: Living together in trust and hope, we profess our faith
as expressed in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended 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.**

(Please kneel)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Each petition concludes:

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

(Please stand)

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

HAMBURG

John Innes

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Dr. Renée Clair, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

(Please stand)

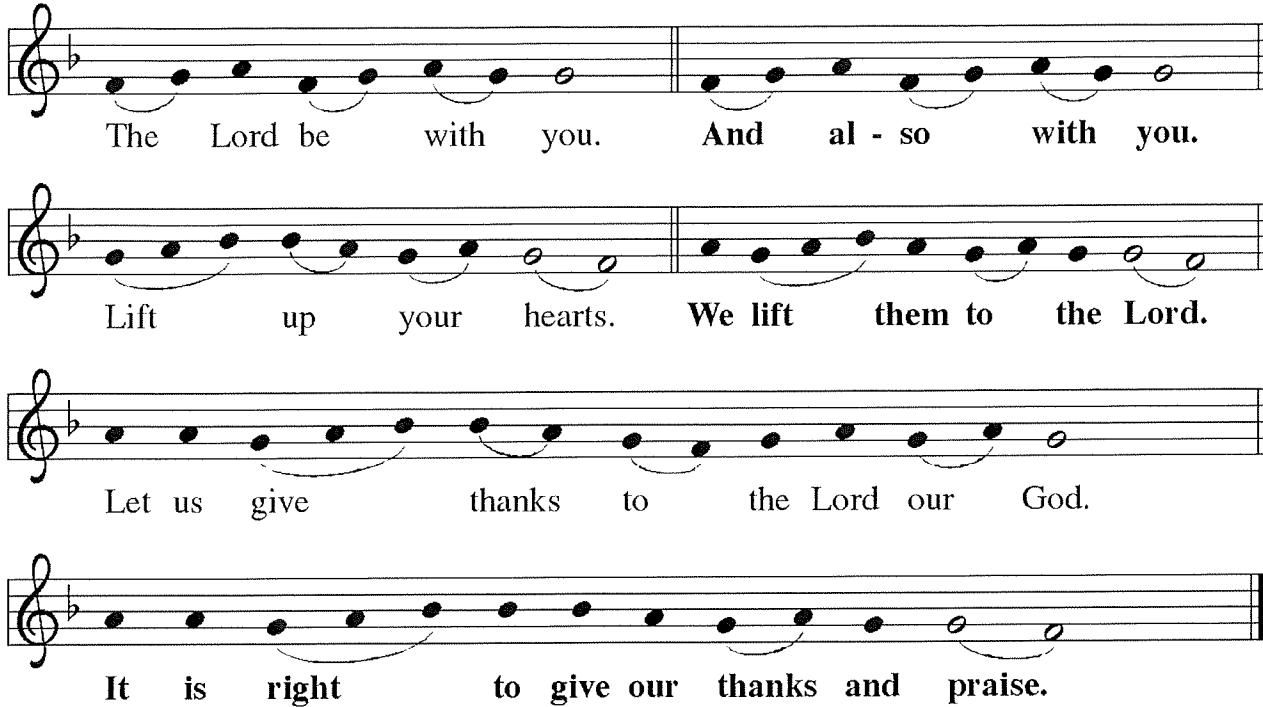
OFFERING PRAYER

L: Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

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

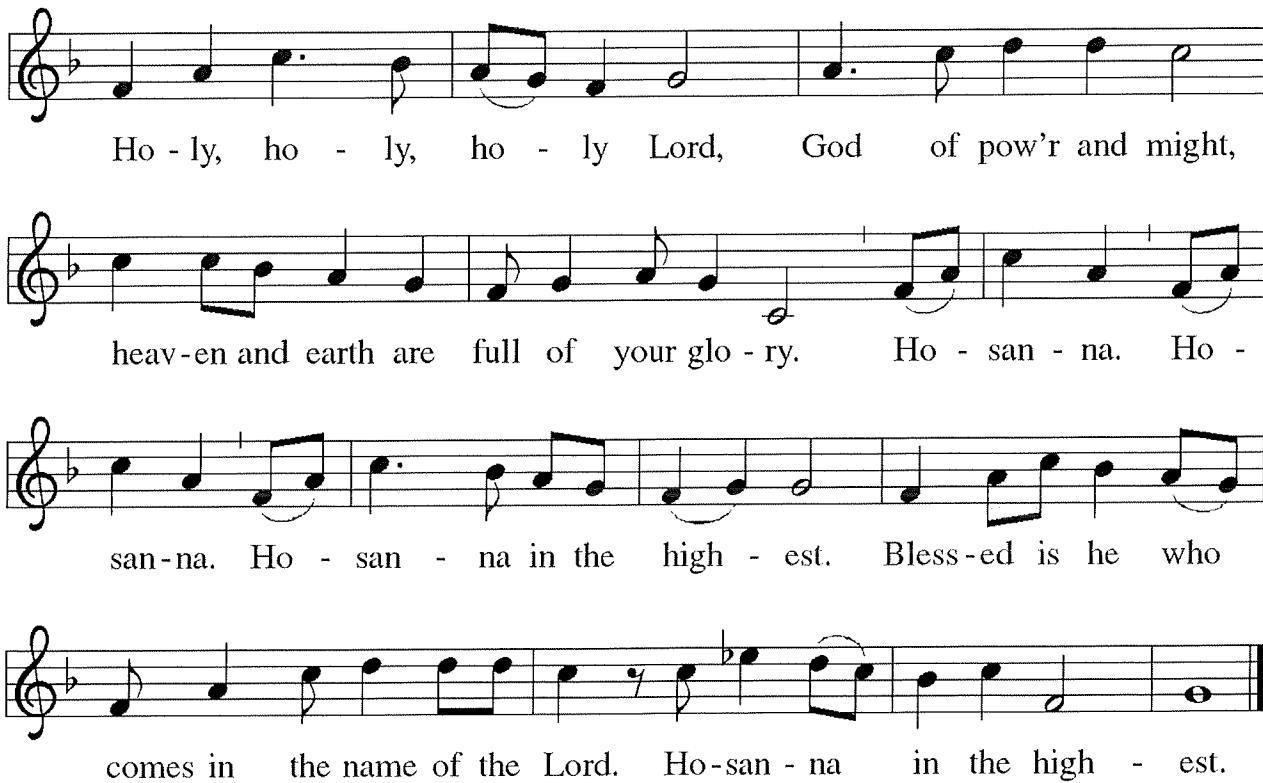
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right . . . and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

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

san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

(Please be seated)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION IN TWO MANNERS

† You may commune in your pews.

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

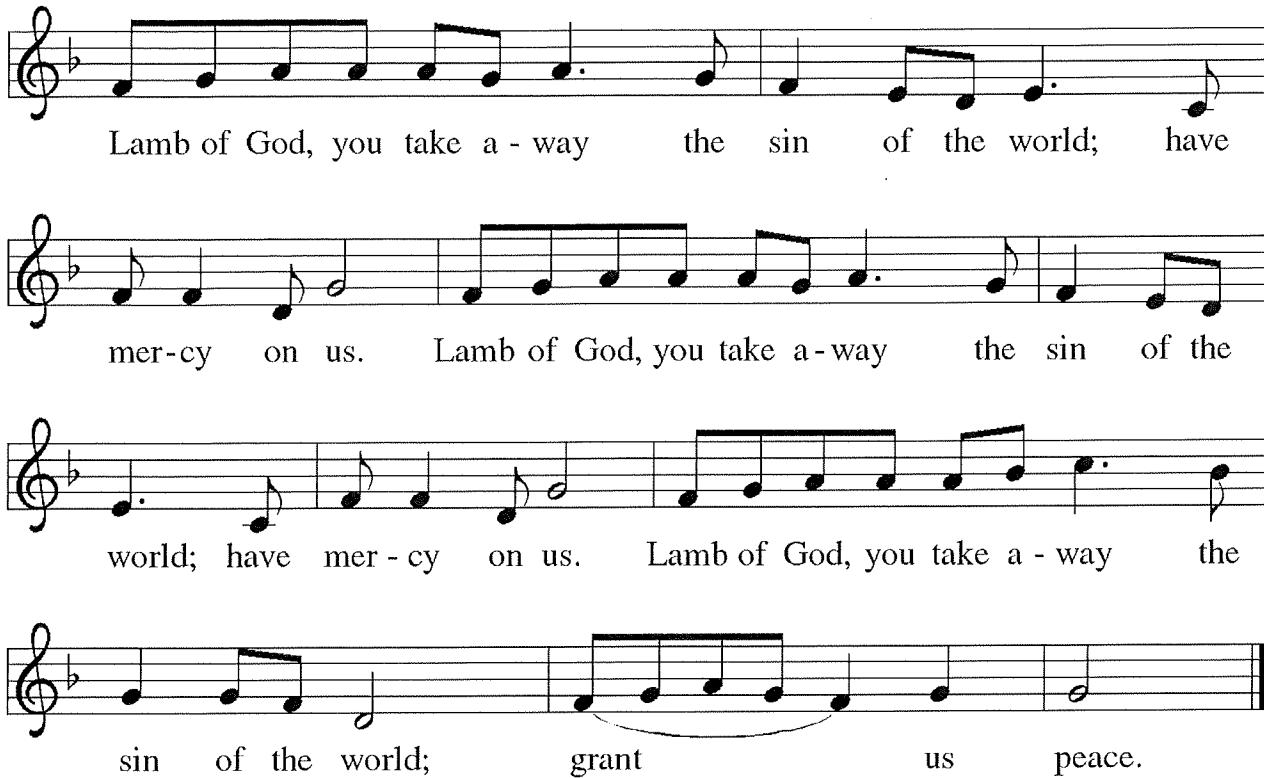
The presiding minister will share a blessing,
all communing in-place will commune together.

† You may come to the Table, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.
A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION SONG



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

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



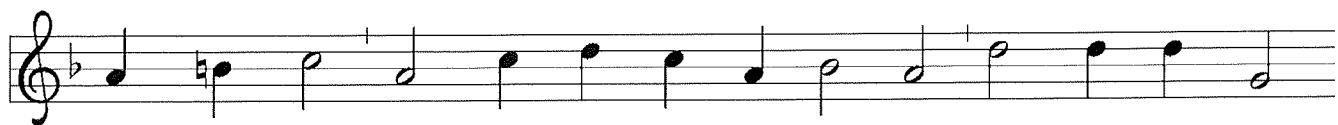
1 A lamb goes un-com-plain-ing forth to save a world of sin-ners.
2 This lamb is Christ, our great-est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav-ior,
3 Our Sav-ior an-swered from his heart that he would take the bur-den:
4 Of death I am no more a-fraid; your dy-ing is my liv-ing.



He bears the bur-den all a-lone, dies shorn of all his hon-ors.
whom God in mer-cy chose to send to win us reb-els o-ver.
"My Fa-ther's will is my com-mand; I'll do as I am bid-den."
You clothe me in your roy-al robes that you are al-ways giv-ing.



He goes to slaug-ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -
"Go down, my child," the Fa-ther said, "and free my chil-dren
Oh, won-drous love! Oh, lov-ing might! To right what mor-tals
Your love is dress e-nough for me to wear through all e -



out com - plaint; his spot - less life he of - fers. He bears the shame,
from their dread of death and con - dem - na - tion. The pain - ful stripes
can - not right the Son was sent from heav - en. What love, O Love,
ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav - en, where we shall stand



the stripes, the wrath; his an - guish, mock - er - y,
are hard to bear, but by your death they all
who came to save by lov - ing e - ven to
close by your side, your church, the well - ap - point -



and death for us he glad - ly suf - fers.
can share the joy of your sal - va - tion."
the grave un - til the stone was riv - en.
ed bride, when all the faith - ful gath - er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553

(Please stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God,

your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure.

We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us

**through the years, and we ask now for confidence
to go forward into the future.**

Bless our community of faith, bless our healing,

bless the changes that are before us,

bless our call process and the pastoral leaders

who will shepherd us through this time of transition.

We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us

as we align with your will, and servant or servants

you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time.

Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry

and our future.

In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ,

our Savior and Lord, Amen.

SENDING

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

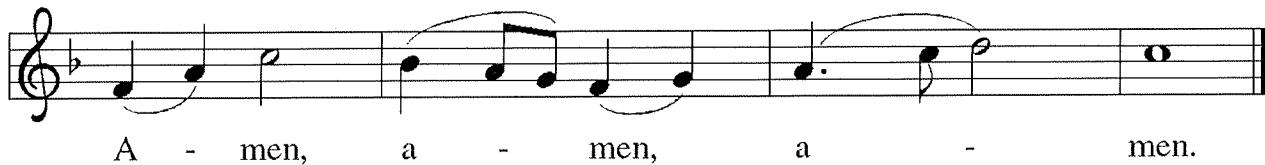
BLESSING

P: God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

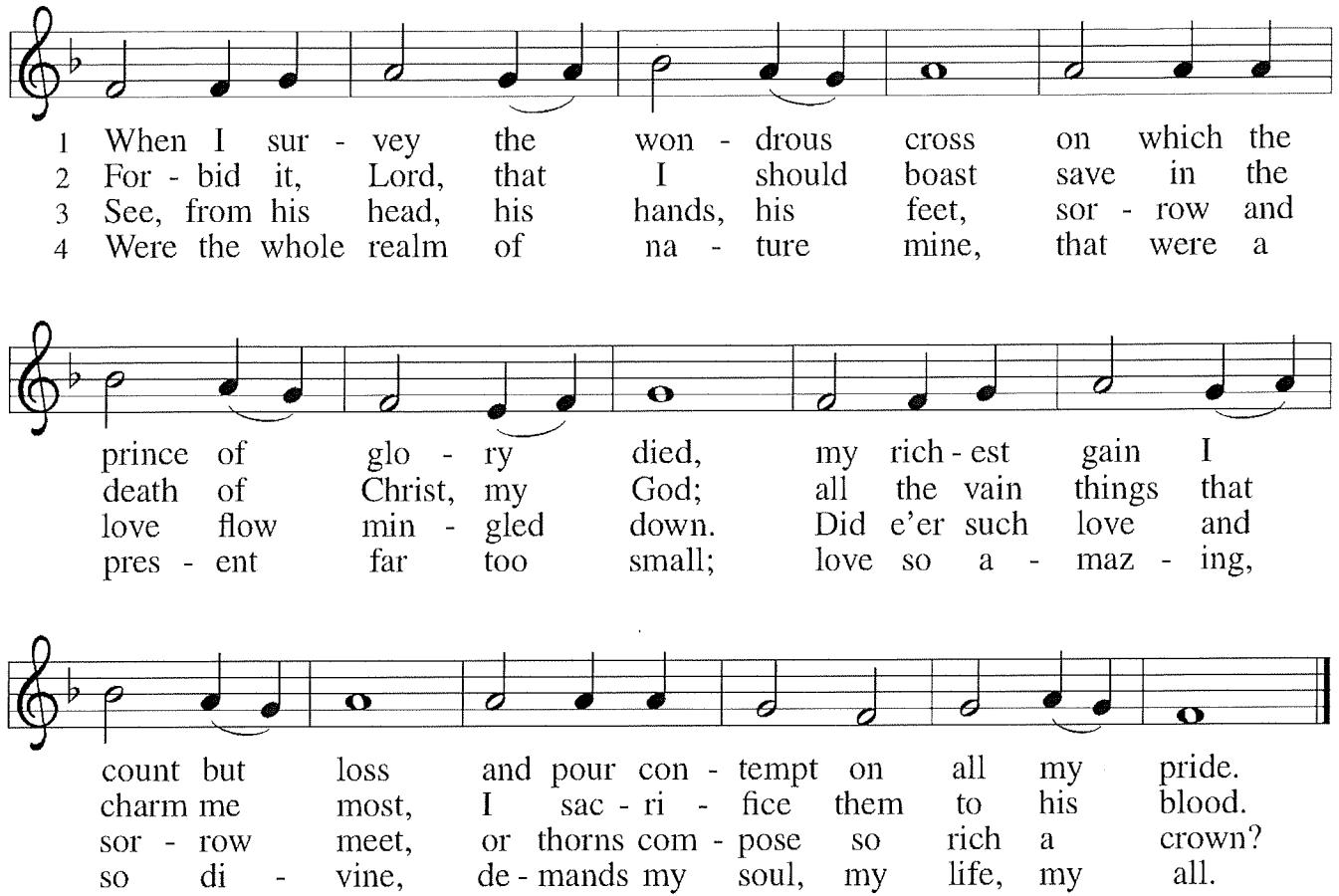
bless you now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

SENDING SONG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

P: Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

RATHBUN

David M. Cherwien

Toccata on In the Cross of Christ / Glory

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

L: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises.

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground.

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities.

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again.

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing.

P: God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior.

P: God, in your mercy,

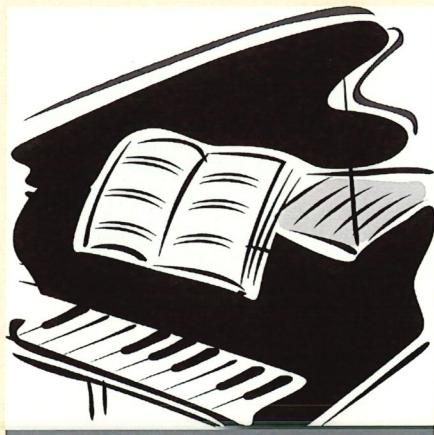
C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

Events in Review

Sunday	April 6
10:00AM	Church Service
Monday	April 7
10:00AM	Bible Study @Willows
5:15PM	Bells of Praise
Wednesday	April 9
9:00AM	Peace Corp
5:45pm-6:30pm	Lenten Supper
7pm	Lent Service
Sunday	April 13
10:00AM	Church Service
	Palm Sunday
	Baptisms



Thank you to Dr. Renee Clair for the beautiful piano music performed during the Offering and Meditation.

Events for Lent Celebration

Mid-Week Lenten Service

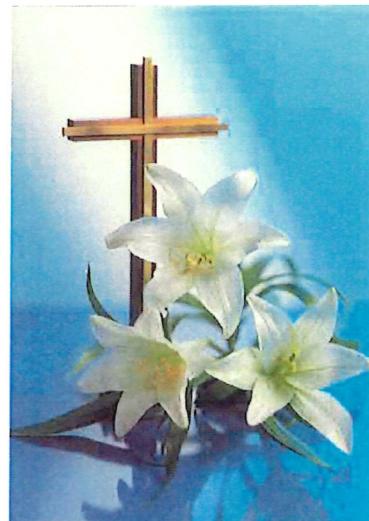
Need volunteers to provide the Lenten soup, bread and dessert.

Sign up sheets on the Dietz Windows.

Easter Lily/Daffodil order forms are

Also located on the table in the hallway

Must be in by April 13, 2025



Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the Dietz Room wall. Fellowship time is before and after Church Service. Approximately 4 dozen cookies are needed each week.



Contact Us



First Lutheran Church

300 Melmore Street

Tiffin, Ohio 44883

419-447-1323

www.firstlutherantiffin.com

firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com

Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring (740) 360-2306

theskipster55@gmail.com

Emergency Pastor

Pastor Doug DeVos (419) 271-6770

ddevos@buckeye-express.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Mike & Bonnie Oberlander

Cantor: Elijah Shiley

Facebook Camera: Tim Ross

Host: Judy Kimmel

Reader: Melissa Chester

Worship Assistant: Melissa Chester

Director of Music: Curtis L. King

Pastor: Pastor Christian Dittmar

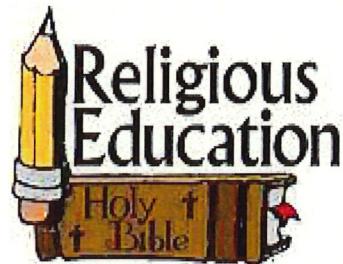
Catechism Classes

Rick Greene and Mike Porter will be hosting Catechism Classes. If anyone is interested

Please contact either one at

Rick Greene: canacab@sbcglobal.net or 419 937-7378

Mike Porter: Michael.r.porter12@gmail.com



Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”