

**Blessed is the one  
whose transgression  
is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.**

**Psalm 32:1**

**First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026**

**Faith Lutheran Church  
311 2B Judges Rd. Wilmington, NC 28405  
[www.flcwnc.org](http://www.flcwnc.org)**

## Welcome to our Visitors!

Welcome in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are glad you are here. It is our sincere prayer that God would refresh you by His Holy Word and Sacrament and that you would take with you His peace and joy. If you would care to give us your contact information, we would like to get to know you better and keep in touch. If you have questions or are interested in membership, please speak to anyone here.

## Holy Communion

We come to the table at the invitation of the Lord, receiving the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. Christians who share this faith and wish to join us at the table are welcome. Young children may be brought forward for a blessing.

## Mission Statement

“...that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:9

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Ministers: Members of Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Paul Ebert

Director of Parish Music: Debra Ebert

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# First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

LBW Setting II

\*Congregation please stand

**Bold**-Congregation responses

**PRELUDE ERHALT UNS, HERR**

*Arr. Gregory Hamilton*

## **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup> Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen**

God our Father does care about us. In His mercy, He has given His Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the <sup>†</sup> Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

**Amen**

\*ENTRANCE HYMN **The Glory of These Forty Days**

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

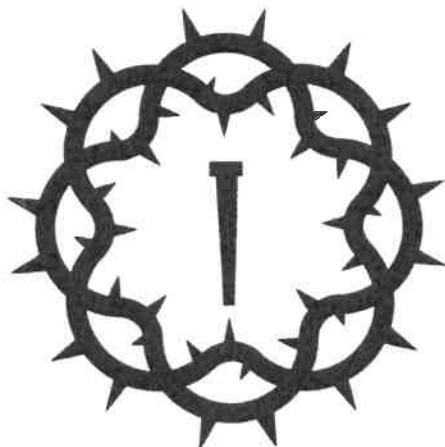
things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.

Music: attr. Martin Luther, 1483-1546; *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Tr. © 1906 Oxford University Press, London

ERHALT UNS, HERR  
LM



### **\*GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **\*KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray....

Holy One, we are surrounded by temptation and all that would draw us away from you. Save us from the power of sin and death, and bring us to the life that comes through the death and resurrection of Christ; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**



## FIRST READING

The First Reading is from Genesis, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. <sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” <sup>14</sup>The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” <sup>16</sup>To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” <sup>20</sup>The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. <sup>21</sup>And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 32



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **Refrain:**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and did not conceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup>I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **Refrain:**

## SECOND READING

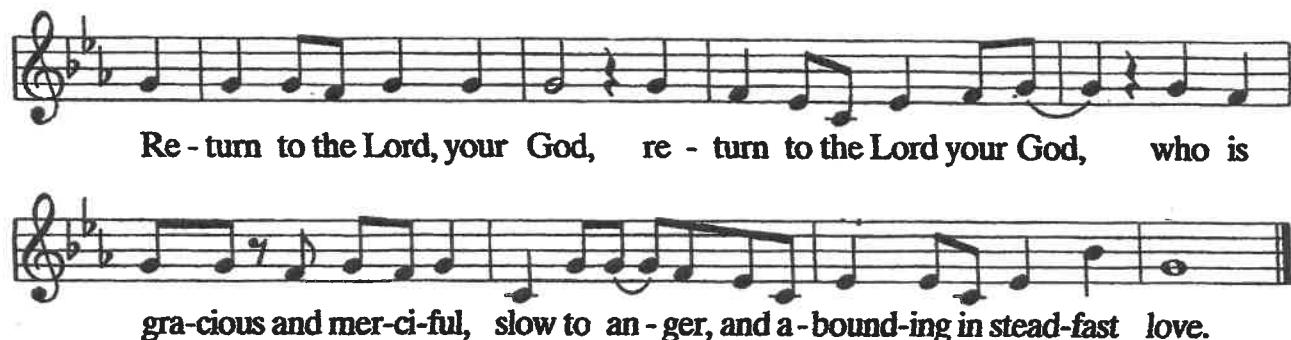
The Second Reading is from Romans, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. <sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

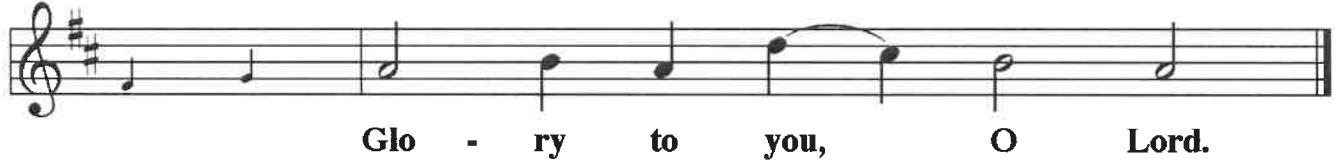
### \*RETURN TO THE LORD



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord your God, who is  
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel is taken from Matthew, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

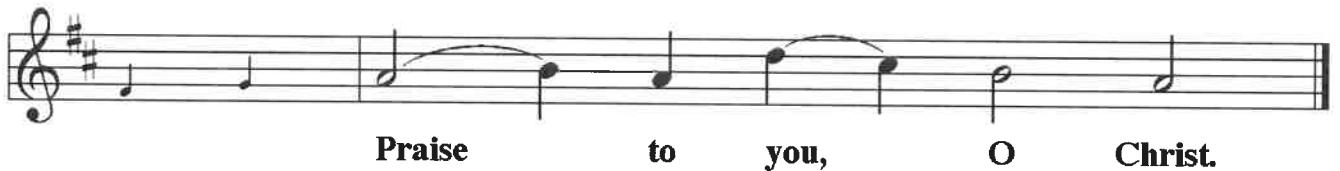


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>2</sup>And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup>and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup>And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’” <sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

The Word of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** Pr. Paul “Casserole for Christ”

## HYMN OF THE DAY O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And

prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal

for our sin, And free us from our past.  
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930  
Tune: *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1635; setting: *The English Hymnal*, 1906

CAITHNESS  
C M

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: Public domain

*Luke 4:1-13; Lev. 9:23*

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
        and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
        was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
        and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

**Lord, in your mercy,  
    hear our prayer.**

**\*PEACE**

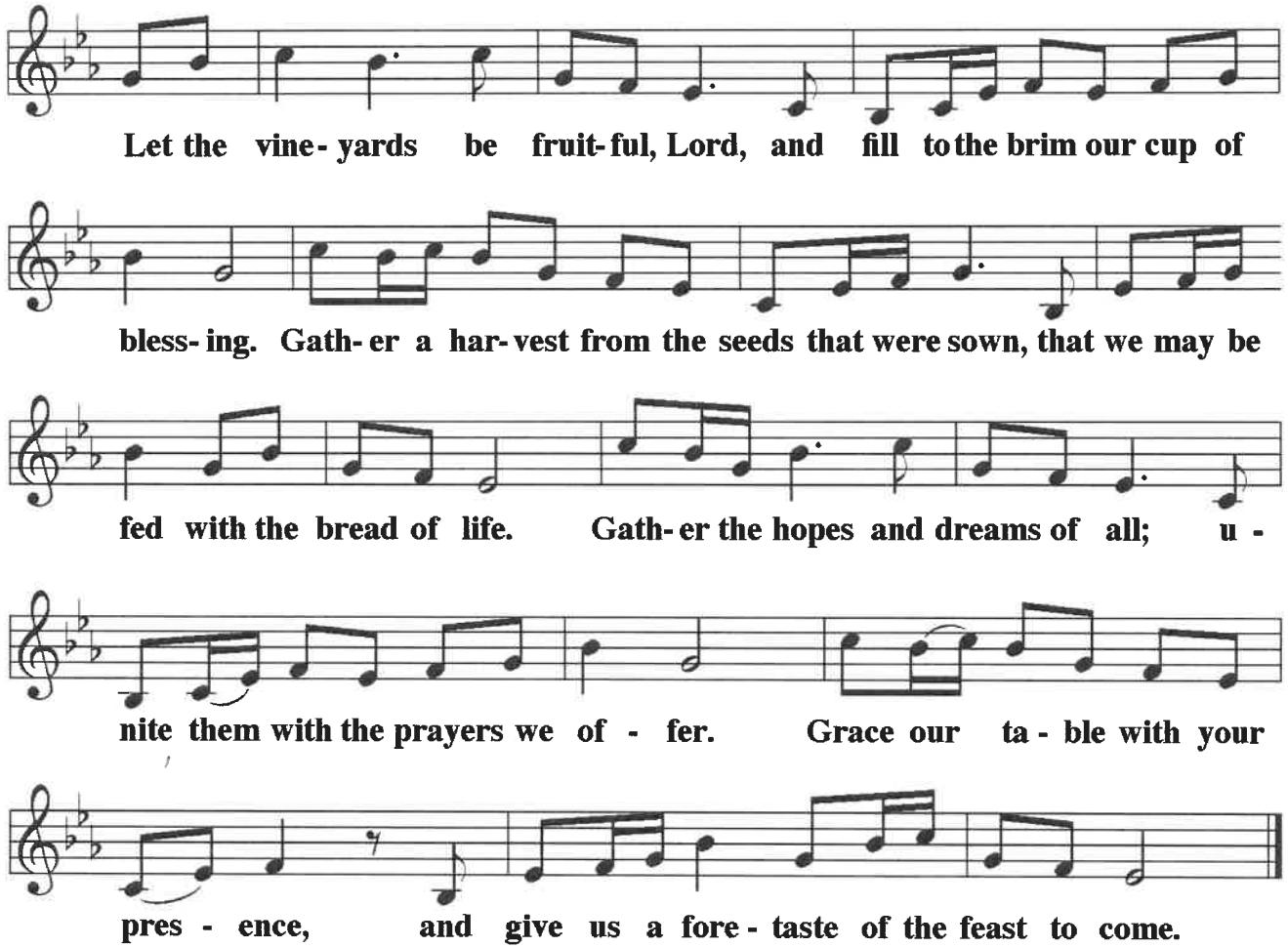
**The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

**And also with you.**

*(At this time we greet one another in the name of the Lord.)*

**OFFERTORY “Out in the Wilderness”   Faith Choir    Music by Jay Beech**

### \*LET THE VINEYARDS



Let the vine- yards be fruit- ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,  
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves,  
our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for  
the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

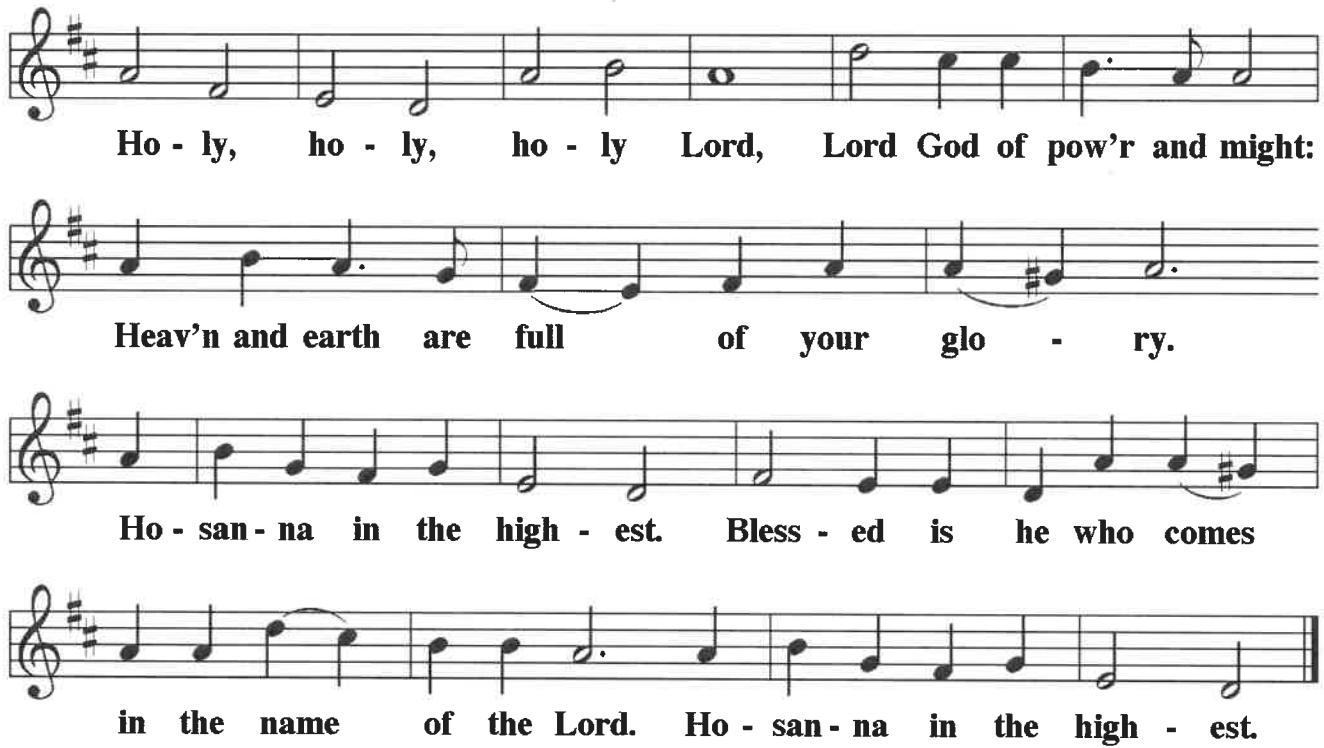
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### \*PREFACE

### \*SANCTUS



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

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

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.

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### \*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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

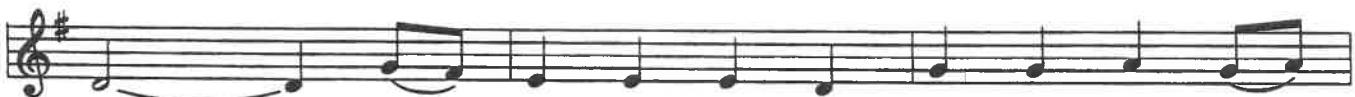
Amen.

## COMMUNION HYMN

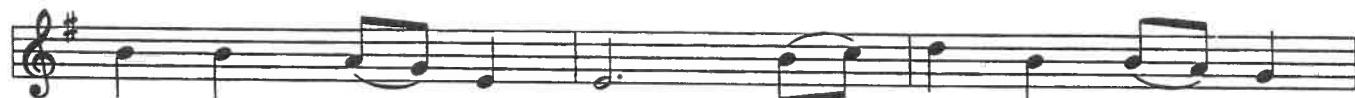
### Led by the Spirit



1. Led \_\_ by the Spir - it of our God, we \_\_ go to fast \_\_ and  
2. Led \_\_ by the Spir - it, we con - front temp - ta - tion face \_\_ to  
3. Led \_\_ by the Spir - it, now draw near the \_\_ wa - ters of \_\_ re -  
4. Led \_\_ by the Spir - it, now sing praise to \_\_ God the Trin - i -



1. pray \_\_\_\_\_ With \_\_ Christ in - to the wil - der - ness; we \_\_  
2. face, \_\_\_\_\_ And \_\_ know full well we must re - ly on \_\_  
3. birth \_\_\_\_\_ With \_\_ hearts that long to wor - ship God in \_\_  
4. ty: \_\_\_\_\_ The \_\_ Source of Life, the liv - ing Word made \_\_



1. join his pas - chal way. "Rend \_\_ not your gar - ments,  
2. God's re - deem - ing grace. On \_\_ bread a - lone \_\_ we  
3. spir - it and \_\_ in truth. "Who - ev - er drinks \_\_ the  
4. flesh to set \_\_ us free, The \_\_ Spir - it blow - ing



1. rend your hearts. Turn \_\_ back your \_\_ lives to me." \_\_\_\_\_ Thus \_\_  
2. can - not live, but \_\_ nour - ished \_\_ by the Word \_\_\_\_\_ We \_\_  
3. drink I give shall \_\_ nev - er \_\_ thirst a - gain." \_\_\_\_\_ Thus \_\_  
4. where it will to \_\_ make us \_\_ friends of God: \_\_\_\_\_ This \_\_



1. says our kind \_\_ and \_\_ gra - cious God, whose \_\_ reign is lib - er - ty.  
2. seek the will \_\_ of \_\_ God to do: this \_\_ is our drink \_\_ and food.  
3. says the Lord \_\_ who \_\_ died for us, our \_\_ Sav - ior, kin \_\_ and friend.  
4. mys - t'ry far \_\_ be - yond our reach, yet \_\_ near in heal - ing love.

## \*NUNC DIMITIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the Son,

For I have seen the glo - ry Of Your re - deem-ing grace:  
All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un - to Your ho - ly hill,  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be,

The glo-ry of Your peo - ple, Your cho-sen Is - ra - el.  
God's tri-une name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## \*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

### \*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\dagger$  give you peace.

**Amen**

### \*SENDING HYMN

### Save Your People



**Refrain**

Save your people, O Lord. Show us the way to come home. We have been wan-der-ing far from your love. Save your people, O Lord.

**Verses**

1. One thing I ask, O \_\_\_\_  
2. For you will hide me in the \_\_\_\_  
3. Lis - ten, O Lord, \_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_  
4. Thus will I bless you all the \_\_\_\_

1. Lord, \_\_\_\_ this I seek: to dwell for - ev - er in your \_\_\_\_  
2. shel - ter of your wings and from the ar - rows of my \_\_\_\_  
3. sound \_\_\_\_ of my call, for I ac - knowl - edge my of - \_\_\_\_  
4. days \_\_\_\_ of my life. Lift - ing my hands, I call your \_\_\_\_

1. house, that I may gaze \_\_\_\_ on your love - li - ness \_\_\_\_  
2. foes. You set me high \_\_\_\_ on a moun-tain-top, \_\_\_\_  
3. fense. Wash me and I \_\_\_\_ shall be pur - i - fied. \_\_\_\_  
4. name: "O Lord, re - mem - ber your in - her - i - tance. \_\_\_\_".

1. all \_\_\_\_ the days of my life. \_\_\_\_  
2. saved \_\_\_\_ me from my dis - tress. \_\_\_\_  
3. I shall be whit - er than snow. \_\_\_\_  
4. Save \_\_\_\_ your peo - ple, O Lord!" \_\_\_\_

to Refrain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### SERVING THE FAMILY OF FAITH

#### This Week: 2/22

Reader: Ralph Kuhn

Communion: Gina Schiess

Fellowship: Jan Zinnecker

Usher: Jerry Bramley

Assisting Minister: Gina Schiess

#### Next Week: 3/1

Reader: Bill Palmer

Communion: Connie Palmer

Fellowship:

Usher: Frank Gray

#### Reminder: March and April sign up sheets are in the Narthex:)

2/25 Lenten Worship at 12 noon with soup luncheon following.

2/26 Women's Bible Study, Thursday at 10 am.

3/1 Brief Congregation meeting.

#### Given to the glory of God: \$4,535.00