

Introduction

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Quiet Meditation: Prayerful Preparation

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" - arr by Ray

Gathering

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

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.

Amen.

Gathering Song # 834 ELW

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

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 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

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 27

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."**

Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

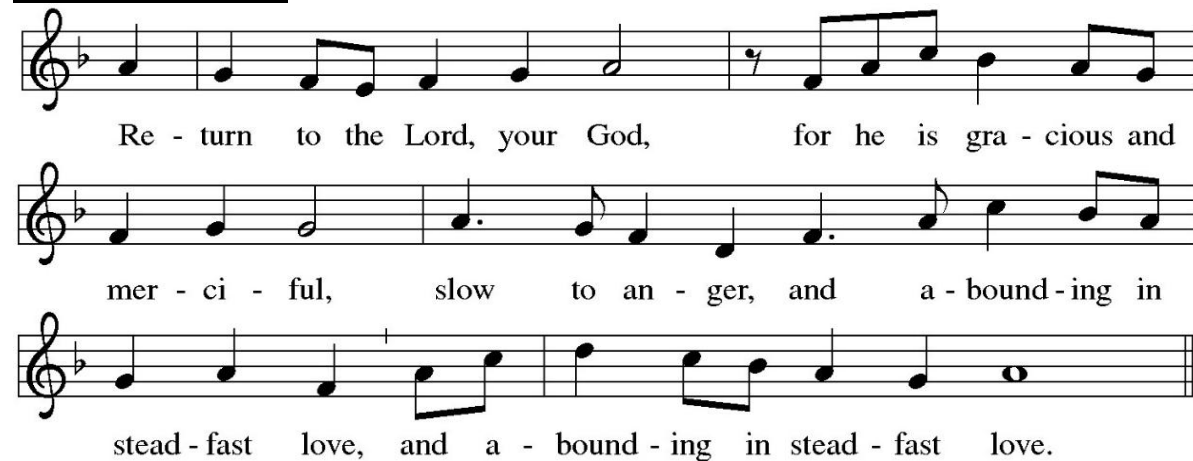
Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The word of the Lord.

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.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

Luke 13:31-35

Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

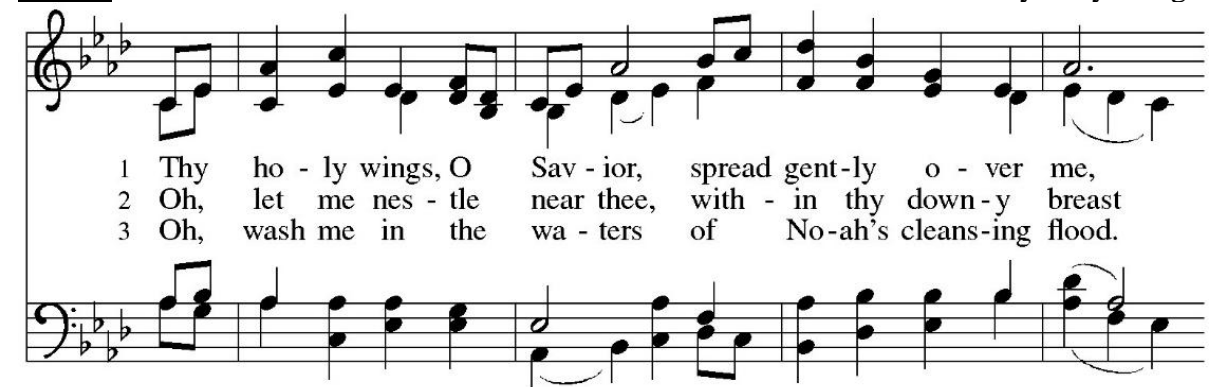
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn # 613 ELW

“Thy Holy Wings”



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
 Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
 Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent. www.selahpub.com.
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers

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

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. We give thanks for healing that has already happened. We seek your tender care for people who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all people know they are not alone. We pray for all members of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, especially Mary Muckler, Marc Dovenmuehle, Bob Baer, Carol Shrider, Pauly Zody, Sarah Driver, Jordan Seubert, Patrick Hellman, Mary Bausano, Kim, Sue, and Liam.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. We pray for genuine peace within faith bodies and between nations.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Please greet people near you with a sign of peace.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to tithe.ly where we can receive gifts. Please note: a tithe.ly account is required to give in this way but is quick to create!



Choir Anthem

“Ubi Caritas”

by Audrey Snyder

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider, you do not feed 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.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving prayer is presented with four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff contains the opening phrase, the second and third staves continue the prayer, and the fourth staff concludes with a final phrase.

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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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.

Words of Institution

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

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

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.

We welcome all to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Holy Spirit guides and directs.

People in worship will be invited to come forward to the altar by pew rows.

The pastor will distribute a wafer or gluten-free wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."

Each person will then move toward a volunteer holding a tray of disposable, plastic cups: the inner ring will be filled with grape juice, the other cups will be filled with wine.

As each person selects their cup, they will hear: "The blood of Christ, given for you." Empty cups will be placed in a tray held by another volunteer after each person has communed.

Pre-sealed cups are on the table in the hallway for anyone who chooses to communion in this form.

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.

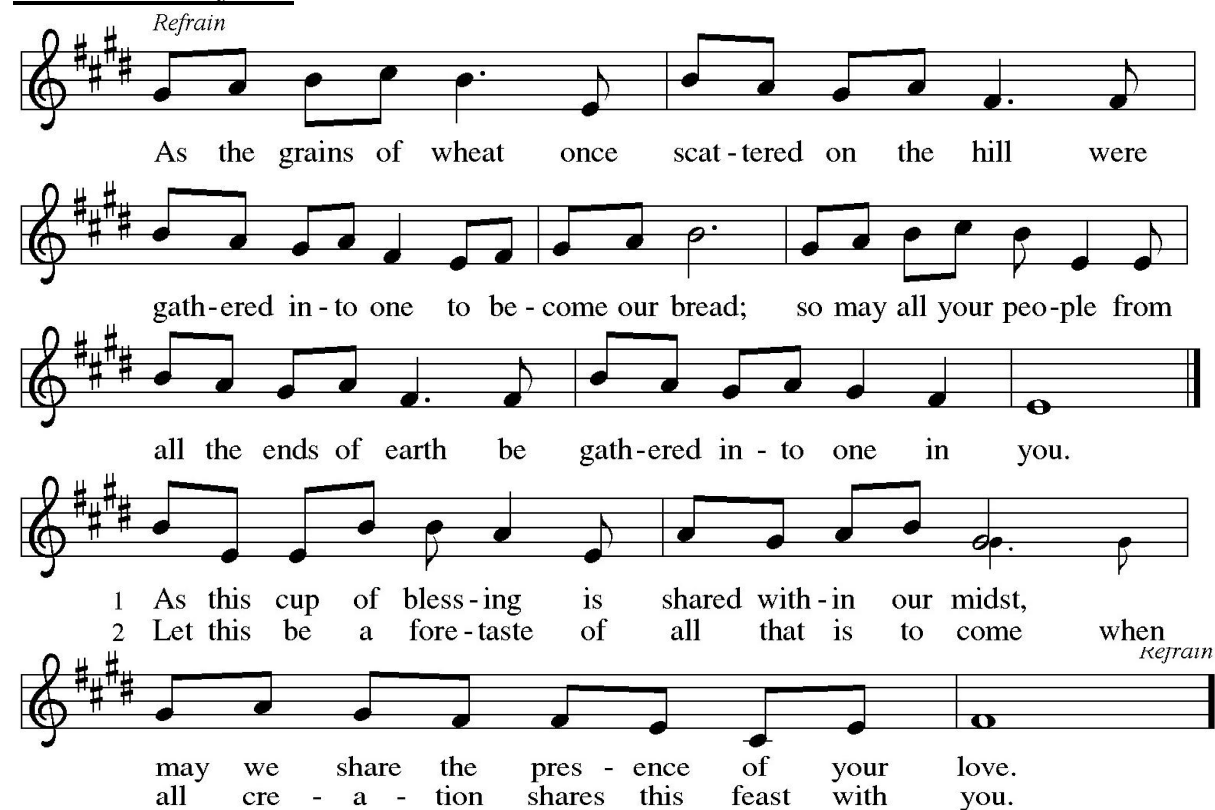
Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

Communion Hymn # ELW 465

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when *Refrain*
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Song # ELW 705

“God of Grace and God of Glory”



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

By Hughes/Keveren

Announcements

Welcome! We welcome all visitors and guests. The sacrament of Holy Communion is an essential aspect of our worship, so we invite all who are present to share in this sacrament as the Holy Spirit guides and directs you.

Wednesdays of Lent Each Wednesday, an email devotion will be sent to all our members and friends, containing a message written from Barbara Brown Taylor's wonderful book *Home By Another Way*. Each Wednesday's devotion will carry with it a brief message for you to read and an appropriate Lenten hymn. Watch your email!

Taco Lunch! The Taco Lunch hosted by our youth, Christian Education & Life Together teams, and participants from our Campus Ministry raised \$300 in donations to fight food scarcity through Lutheran World Relief. Thanks for doing your part!

Campus Ministry Lindsay Stevenson (stevenl7@miamioh.edu) and Mason Santalucia (santalmd@miamioh.edu) are our student interns who will be leading our Campus Ministry for this semester. Introduce yourselves. Exchange contact info. Plan to be a part of our events.

2025 Church Council Our monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, at 6:00 pm. We meet in the Korte Lounge.

Thank You! If you helped with Faith's Table in any way, we thank you for sharing God's love by serving our neighbors through this ministry. In the future we will begin setting up at 5:00 pm, so please make note both to volunteer and when you bring food.

MIAMI STUDENT RECITAL AT FAITH- On Monday evening April 7th, students from the Miami Woodwind Department will present a recital at 7:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry. Will Fleischhauer, a Masters student who attends Faith, is organizing this program with his Professor Aaron Pergram. Please plan on attending- Woodwinds sound beautiful in our Sanctuary!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Join us at 8:30 am in the Korte Lounge as we continue to compare the life and Passion of Jesus in the gospels.

Zoom Bible Study Please join our next Zoom Bible Study. Our meetings for this study are on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are studying the Minor Prophets. Join us!

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the **Southwest California Synod ELCA** and **Pacifica Synod ELCA** to assess the most urgent needs for the communities that are being devastated by wildfires.

To donate, you may:

1. Click here (<https://tinyurl.com/3hbrerd7>) to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
 2. Send donations to the Southern Ohio Synod, designated for U.S. Wildfires and we will forward them to Lutheran Disaster Response on your behalf.
- 100% of donations designated as "U.S. Wildfires" will go directly to serve these communities. We continue to pray for the communities impacted.

Choir anthem this morning is based on anonymous text from the 10th century:

Where there is charity and love,
God is there.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Likewise, therefore, when we come together

Let us be united as one.

And from a sincere heart let us love one another.

Church Office This week, our church office is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12 noon. Email our office admin at FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com or phone 513.523.3808 for any concerns. Please let our admin Kim know whenever you come into the building.