

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025– 9:30 a.m.

Prelude “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” -Michael Burkhardt

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

LSB 609



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text and tune: Public domain

C Amen.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

C Amen.

Introit

*(The congregation will chant the verses in **bold**.)*



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*

according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

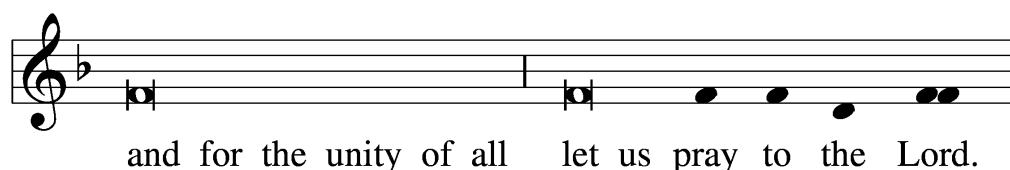
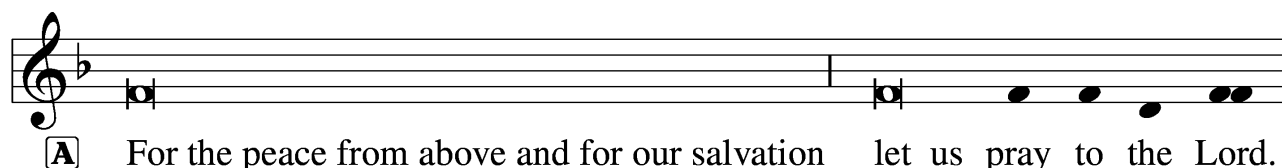
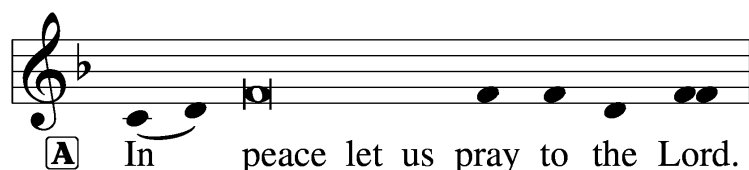
Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*

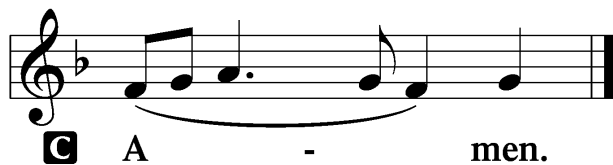
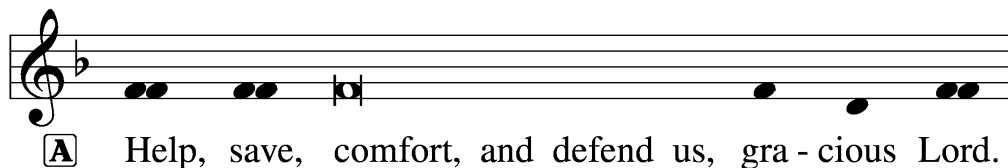
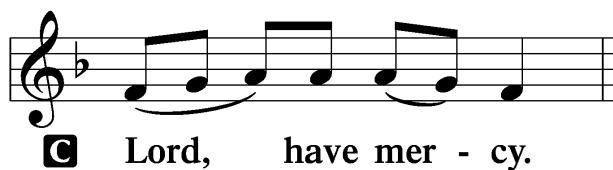
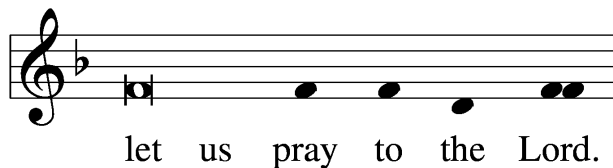
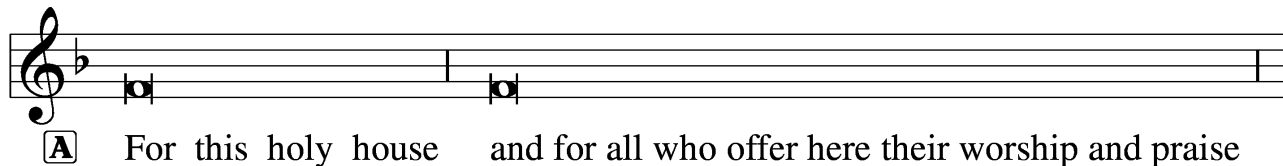
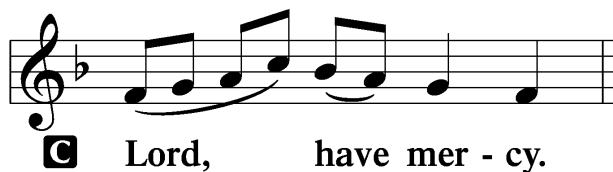
and cleanse me | from my sin!

For I know my trans- | gressions,*
 and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.
 Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
 and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
 according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Kyrie

LSB 152





Salutation and Collect of the Day

Lent 4

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1–6

You will say in that day: “I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.” With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: “Give thanks to the LORD, call

upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Choir and Bells*)

Hebrews 12:2

O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse “Return to the Lord” (*Choir*)

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: ... “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
 3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
 This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
 Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;
 That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
 And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
 To You, O blessèd Trinity,
 Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Luke 15:11-32 “A Good Title?”

I. A Good Title...

- What is the origin of the title?
- Who/what is the text *really* about?

II. The Father’s compassion toward the younger son (v.11-24)

- How is his family affected? How much does he receive?
- How do the father’s actions speak louder than words?
 - “While he was still a long way off, his father saw him”
 - “felt compassion”
 - “bring quickly the best robe....”
 - “Put a ring on his hand...”
 - “and shoes on his feet.”
- How does this give us a window into God’s compassion for us?

III. The Father’s compassion toward the older son (v.25-32)

- Why is the older brother confused?
- How does the father show compassion with his words?
 - “Son, you are always with me”
 - “all that is mine is yours”
 - “It was fitting to celebrate....”
- How does this give us a window into God’s compassion toward us?

IV. What is the better title? What is the text really about?

Apostles' Creed

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✚ everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Offering “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” -Joseph Bognar

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.

Offertory

LSB 159

What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to

me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will

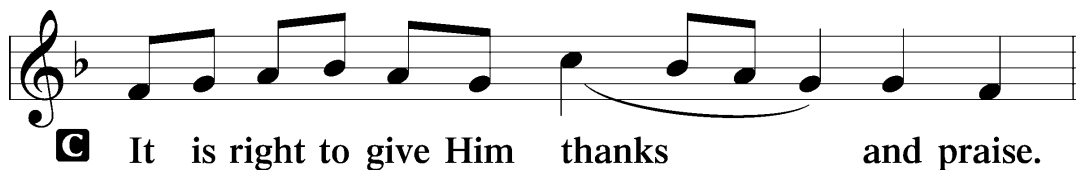
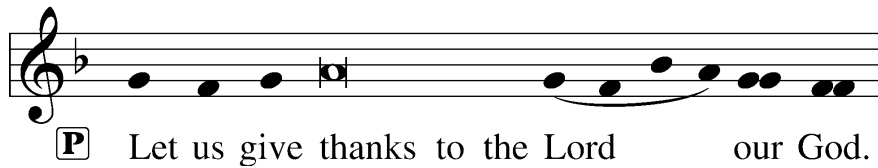
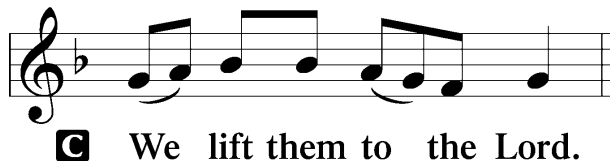
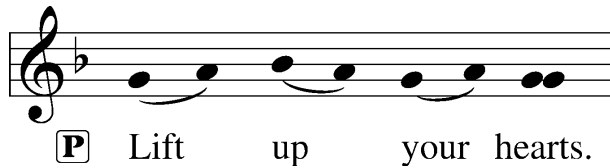
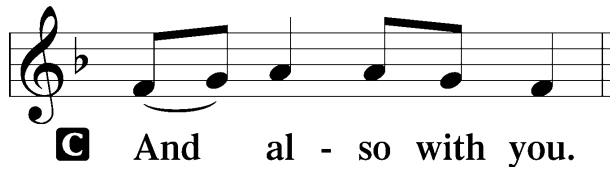
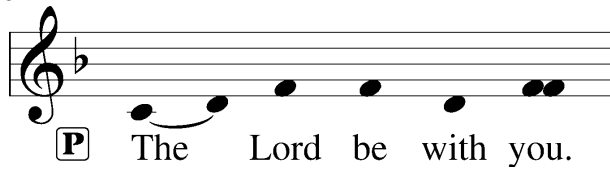
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-

va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my

vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the

courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

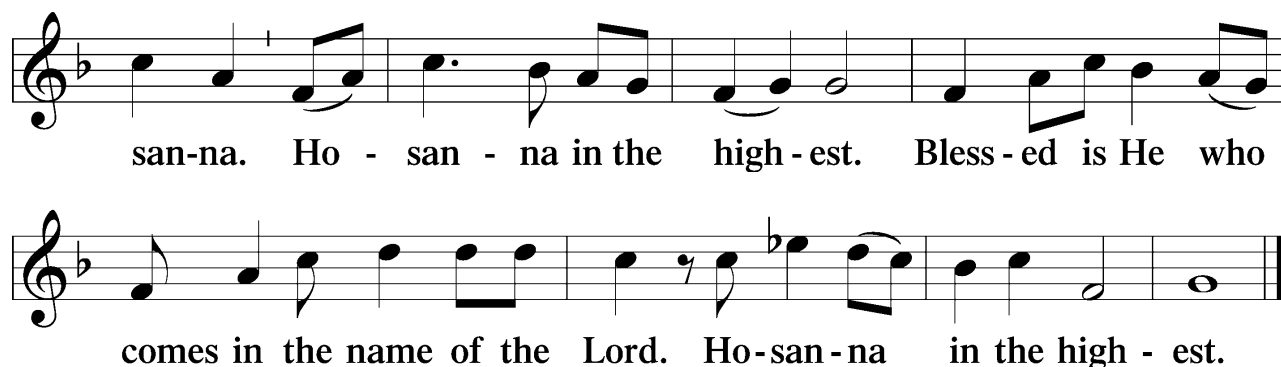
Service of the Sacrament



P It is truly good, right, and salutary... Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus





Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

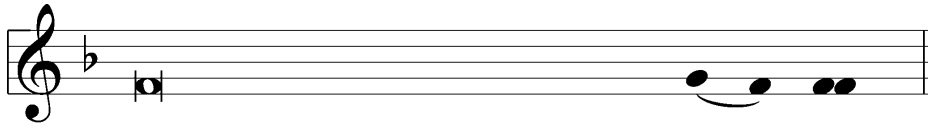
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the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

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

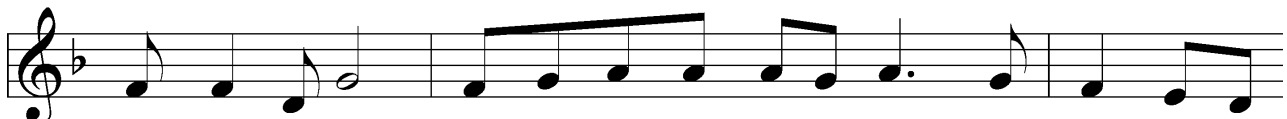


C A - men.

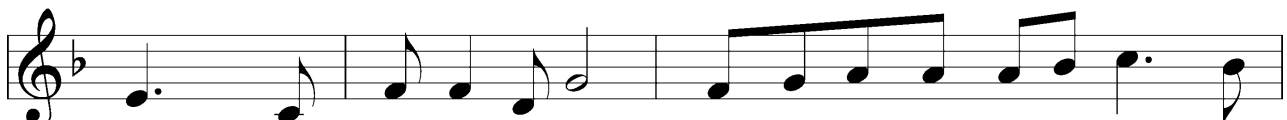
Agnus Dei



C 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.

Distribution

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.

Special Music “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” (choir)

Distribution Hymn: “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”

LSB 627



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, Turned a - way God's
2 As His pledge of love un - dy - ing, He, this pre - cious
3 Je - sus here Him - self is shar - ing; Heed then how you
4 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en To His own this



wrath for - ev - er; By His bit - ter grief and woe
food sup - ply - ing, Gives His bod - y with the bread,
are pre - par - ing, For if you do not be - lieve,
food has giv - en, Who, to mend what we have done,



He saved us from the e - vil foe.
And with the wine the blood He shed.
His judg - ment then you shall re - ceive.
Gave in - to death His on - ly Son.

5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken
That this food is to be taken
By the sick who are distressed,
By hearts that long for peace and rest.

6 Agony and bitter labor
Were the cost of God's high favor;
Do not come if you suppose
You need not Him who died and rose.

7 Christ says: “Come, all you that labor,
And receive My grace and favor:
Those who feel no pain or ill
Need no physician's help or skill.

8 “For what purpose was My dying
If not for your justifying?
And what use this precious food
If you yourself were pure and good?”

9 If your heart this truth professes
And your mouth your sin confesses,
You will be your Savior's guest,
Be at His banquet truly blest.

10 Let this food your faith so nourish
That its fruit of love may flourish
And your neighbor learn from you
How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.

Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1533, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug, alt.

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

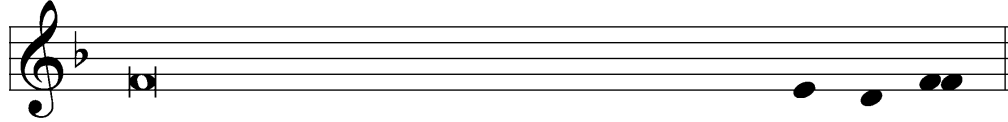
Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.



Benediction

LSB 166



- P** 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 ✠ give you peace.

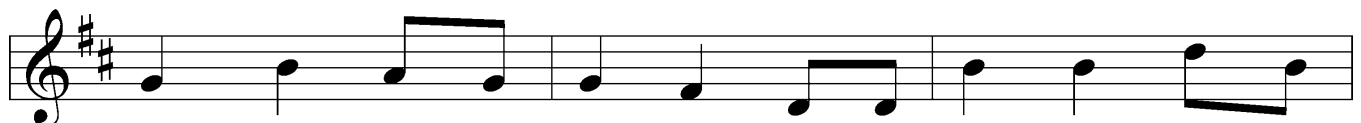


Hymn: "Children of the Heavenly Father"

LSB 725



- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



- in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



- heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

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

Tune: Lofsånger och andeliga visor, 1873, Sweden. Text: Public domain. Tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

You are encouraged to take a walk this week with the Lord by reading Galatians. May the Lord make your heart burn with joy at the Good News and your place in His Kingdom!

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Luke 15:12 – “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.”* This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. “Give me my inheritance now!” he says, which is really to say, “You are better off dead in my eyes.” This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES: Wednesdays in Lent, Emmaus will host the 11:30 service and the 6:30 service will be at Jehovah (1566 Thomas in St. Paul).

HOLY WEEK: Maundy Thursday (April 17) and Good Friday (April 18) Emmaus will have services at 11:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

LWML SPRING GATHERING AT EMMAUS: All are welcome to join us for a morning of fellowship, refreshments, singing, speaker, Bible Study and LWML news at the Spring Gathering hosted by the St. Paul Metro Zone LWML Lutheran Women in Mission on Saturday April 5, 2025. The morning begins at 9:00 a.m. with registration and refreshments, and ends at 11:00 a.m. Emmaus Lutheran Church will be hosting, and Pastor Vue Lee will be the speaker. We are looking for some volunteers to help with registration and refreshments for the event, so please talk with Pastor Kooi. Please also note we will be collecting “Gifts from the Heart,” food shelf items: kid-friendly snacks – granola bars, Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks etc.; baking supplies – flour, sugar, oil, dessert mix; condiments – mayonnaise, salsa, peanut butter, etc.; meals – mac and cheese cups, chili, stew, soups etc.

THE EASTER MEMORIAL GARDEN donation insert in the narthex provides an opportunity to remember departed loved ones and contribute toward the cost of Easter decorations. Complete the slip, enclose it in the envelope provided along with your donation and drop it in the collection plate or hand to an usher. Donations must be turned in by Monday, April 14 for names to be included in the Memorial Garden list. Those who wish to pick up their Easter lilies may do so after the 9:30 a.m. Easter service. Thank you!

EGG HUNT HELP NEEDED! We’d like to thank anyone that grabbed a bag of empty Easter eggs. Please make sure they are back to church by Sunday, April 6th. If you have any questions about filling the eggs please reach out to Pastor or Dawn Kooi. Want to help in more ways than filling eggs or maybe egg filling isn’t your thing? We will need help the day of the Easter egg hunt with setting out the eggs, setting up and running the refreshments, setting up and assisting with the craft, working the registration table, and supervising. If you are

interested, please talk with Pastor or Dawn Kooi. Thank you in advance for helping make this Easter egg hunt a success and spreading the true meaning of Easter!

EASTER BREAKFAST: We will be having a potluck continental breakfast this year on Easter Sunday, April 20 after the 9:30 service. Stop by for a quick bite or stay longer to visit with friends and family. Can you help? Sign up in the narthex.

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY: On the first Monday of each month a few of us get together to study a book of the Bible using the Concordia Publishing House LifeLight series. On April 7th we are starting a new 9-part series on the books of Jeremiah and Lamentations. If you are interested in joining us for this in-depth study of these books, please contact Nancy W. for more information and to get a study guide ordered for this study.

EMMAUS FLOWER SALE: LAST CHANCE! Flower orders need to be in by April 3rd. Order today if you are interested. Proceeds from this Gertens flower sale will help close the gap to pay for the new carpeting in the Sunday School area. Order by going to www.gertensfundraising.com and enter the Store ID code 805, then click "Enter ID to continue." Ordering will close at 10 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Plants will be available to pick up on Saturday, May 17 in the afternoon or after church on May 18. Jean Galligan is also selling Colocasia esculenta (Taro), commonly known as elephant ear plants. Available while supplies last. These are easy to grow when given lots of water, full to part sun, and fertilizer. See article attached to flower sale poster in the narthex for more information on this plant. See plant samples in narthex. Contact Jean G to order elephant ear plants.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Better Than I Deserve!" Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstoch. Jesus didn't deserve to die on a cross, but He died and rose again in order to give us better than we deserve. (John 12:1-11)

THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS:

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

Wed: Bulletin Deadline

11:30 a.m. Worship followed by lunch

Thurs: 4 p.m. Quilting Queens (SH)

6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri: Office closed – call Pastor in emergencies

Sat: 9-11 a.m. LWML at Emmaus

12-5 p.m. Organist Rehearsal

Next Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

SERVING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY:

PASTOR: Rev. Nick Kooi

ALTAR GUILD: Marilyn P

ORGANIST: Rebecca F

SOUND TECH: Randy W

VIDEO TECH: Matt G

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Jon K

USHERS: Alan M, Christine S

COUNTERS: Nancy W, Gary B

LECTOR: Jordon S

GREETERS: Paul and Betsy H

ACOLYTE: Hannah K



tell your



JESUS HAS RISEN!

HOP ON OVER FOR OUR

EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 12 10:30 A.M.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

1074 Idaho Ave. W.
St. Paul, MN 55117

Don't forget to bring your baskets!

FOOD - MUSIC - CRAFTS - ACTIVITIES - FACE PAINTING

