



**St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA**

*"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"*

502 East Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78205  
www.StJohnsSA.org ♦ info@StJohnsSA.org  
Phone 210-223-2611

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 12, 2023**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Bells**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*Love Unknown* by Karl Osterland

*Please stand.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**C: we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✚ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C: Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts (ELW 658)*

**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.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



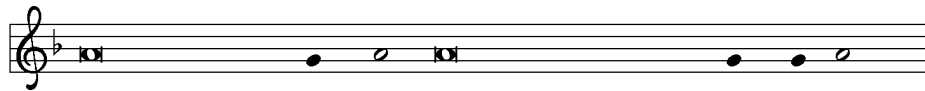
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



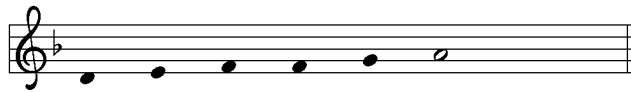
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



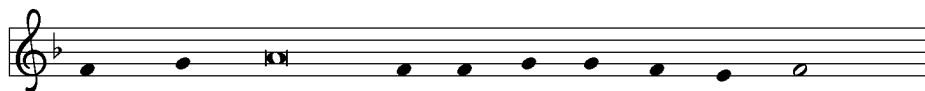
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

*Brief silence.*

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

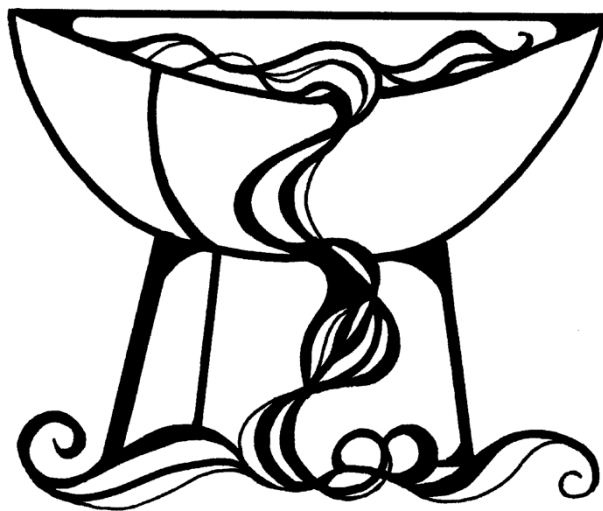
**C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

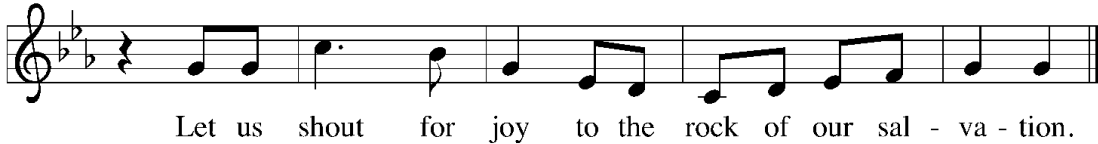
<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



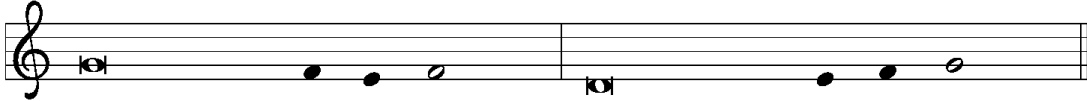
## PSALM: 95



Psalm 95:1

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Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. R**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup>**"Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
'They shall never come | to my rest.' " **R**

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

<sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's

love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** (*sung by the choir*)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

**GOSPEL: John 4:5-42**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

**Pastor Kris Crawford**

**Holy Baptism**

**Presentation**

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font. The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.*

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word, God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God’s mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors for each candidate, in turn, present the candidates:*

*Sponsors: **I present Sophie Vera for baptism.***

*The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:*

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

*Response: **I do.***

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:  
to live with her among God’s faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that your child may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response:* **I do.**

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Sophie Vera in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Response:* **I do.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly:*

P: People of God, do you promise to support Sophie Vera and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

**C: We do.**

## **Profession of Faith**

*The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism, the parents and sponsors of young children who are to be baptized and those making public affirmation of baptism. The assembly may join in the responses.*

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

*Response:* **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

*Response:* **I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response:* **I renounce them.**

*The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.*

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Thanksgiving at the Font**

*Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving. At the font, the presiding minister begins the thanksgiving:*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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

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

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Baptism**

*The presiding minister baptizes each candidate. The candidate is immersed into the water, or water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:*

P: Sophie Vera, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:*

P: and of the Son,

*The candidate is immersed or water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:*

P: and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*Clothed with Christ in baptism, the newly baptized may receive a baptismal garment.*

*The presiding minister continues:*

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God,  
that through water and the Holy Spirit  
you give your daughters and sons new birth,  
cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:  
Sustain Sophie Vera with the gift of your Holy Spirit:*



the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of each of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:*

P: Sophie Vera, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Welcome**

*A lighted candle may be given to each of the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as these or similar words are spoken:*

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

*The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.*

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ**

**and into the mission we share:**

**join us in giving thanks and praise to God**

**and bearing God's creative and redeeming word**

**to all the world.**

*Those who have gathered at the font may return to their places. An acclamation, psalm, or hymn may be sung. The service continues with the prayers of intercession, or, if baptism has taken place in the gathering rite, with the greeting.*

## **Hymn of the Day**

*Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (ELW 777)*

*Please be seated.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

A: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We pray for this congregation, those preparing for baptism, and those newly baptized. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace, with special care in our hearts for Rosemary Petry, Dottie Bowles, Dawn Sulaica, Karen Iredale, Chris Gates, Louis (Buddy) Blank, Mike Boehme, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Gary Reiminschneider, family and friends of Kenneth Taggart. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please stand.*

## **Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.** *(Please greet those nearest you with these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

*Please be seated.*

## **Offering**

### **Offertory**

*Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks* by **Herbert Howells**  
**St. John's Choir**

*Please stand.*

## Offertory Response

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (ELW 884)

Musical score for the offertory response, featuring a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## Offering Prayer

**A:** Let us pray.

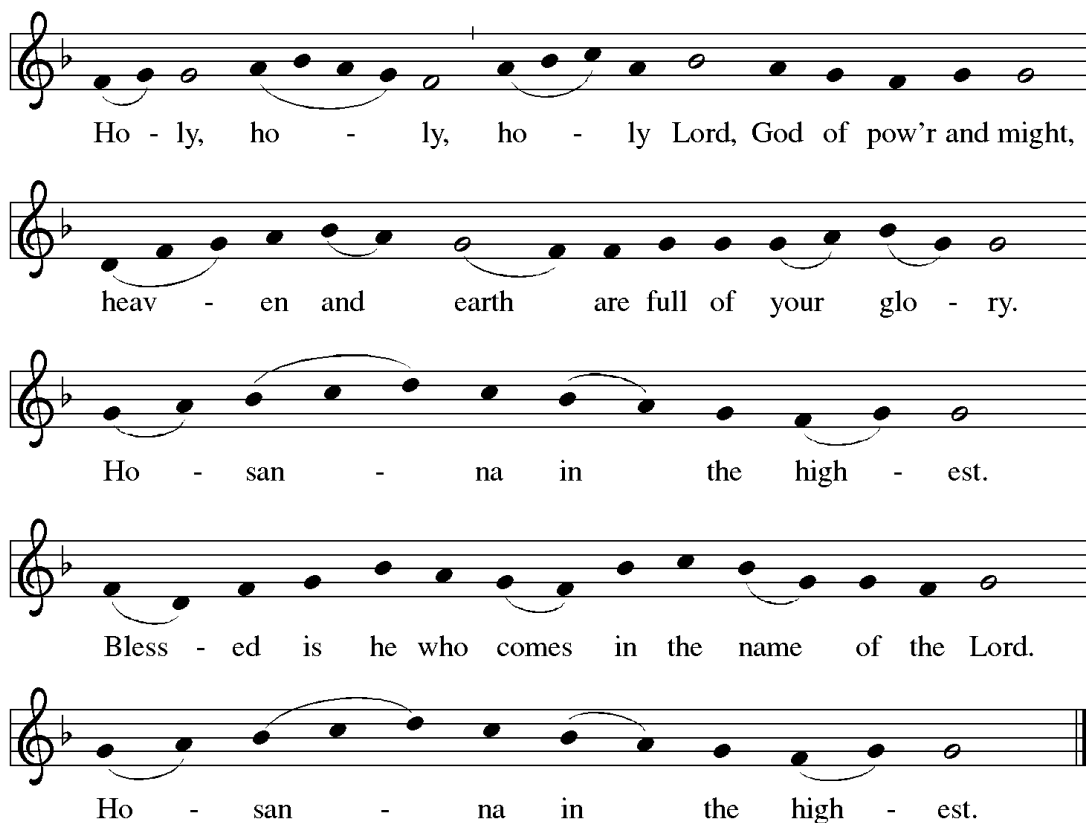
God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**C:** Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving

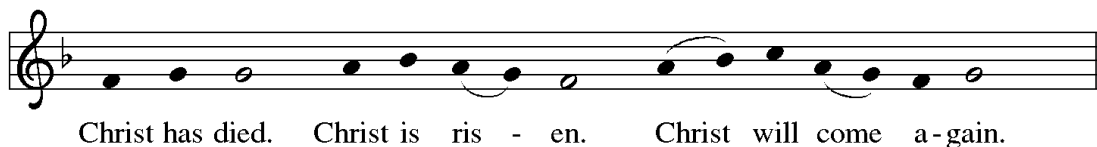
Musical score for the Great Thanksgiving, featuring a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise."

P: It is . . .  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



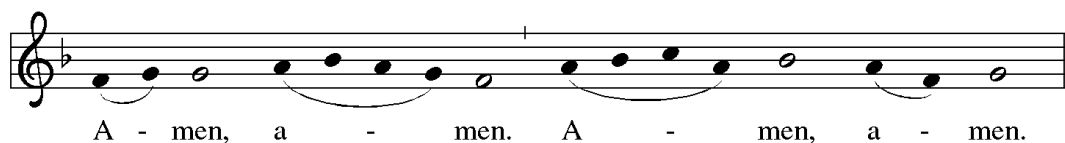
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy . . .  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: Remembering . . .  
To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



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

## 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.**

P: When we eat this bread we share in the body of Christ. When we drink this cup we share in the blood of Christ. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord.

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

*Please be seated.*

### Hymns During Holy Communion

*What Feast of Love (ELW 487)*

*Praise, Praise! You are My Rock (ELW 862)*

## Holy Communion

*Please stand.*

### Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)*

### Benediction

P: Wherever you go, may God go with you: May he go before you to show you the way ... behind you to encourage you ... beside you to befriend you ... above you to watch over ... and within you to give you peace. In the name of our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

**C: Amen.**

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

*Toccata by Girolamo Frescobaldi*

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