

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 26th, 2023

## First Sunday in Lent



### WELCOME/GATHERING

**PRELUDE:** *God The Savior*

*Wold*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

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.*

P Holy God,

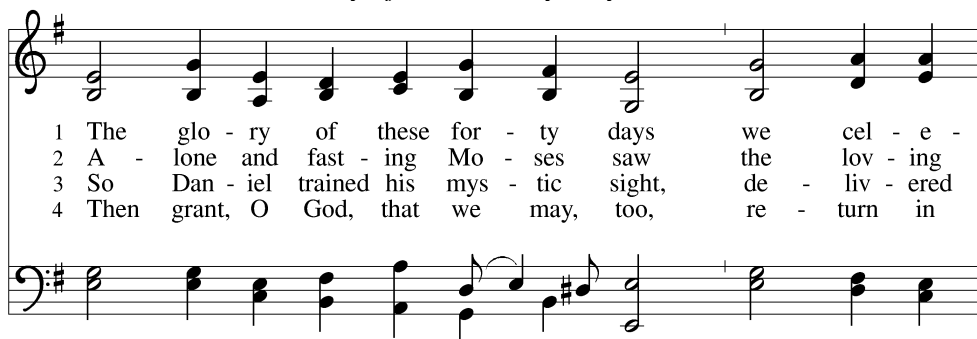
**C we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust  
your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather  
than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear  
over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and 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.

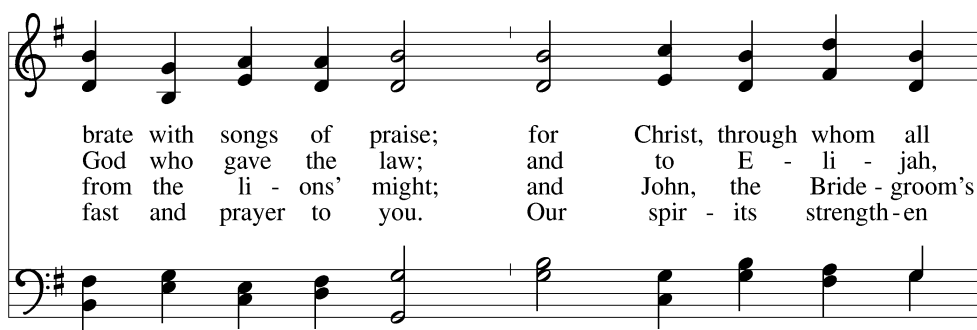
**C Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG: *The Glory of These Forty Days*

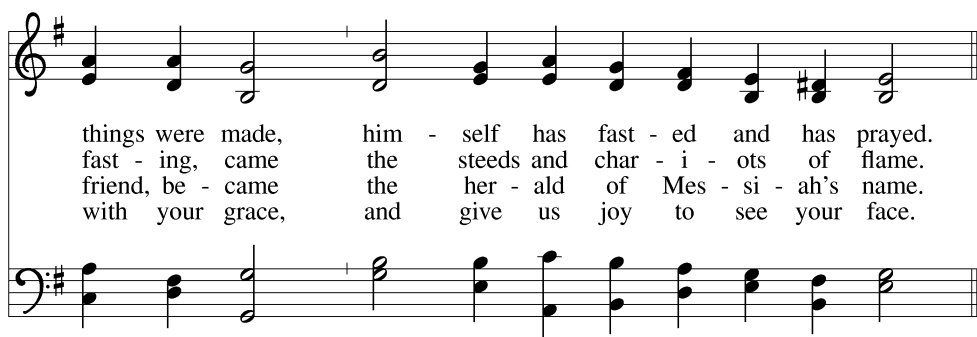
*All Stand & Sing*



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: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

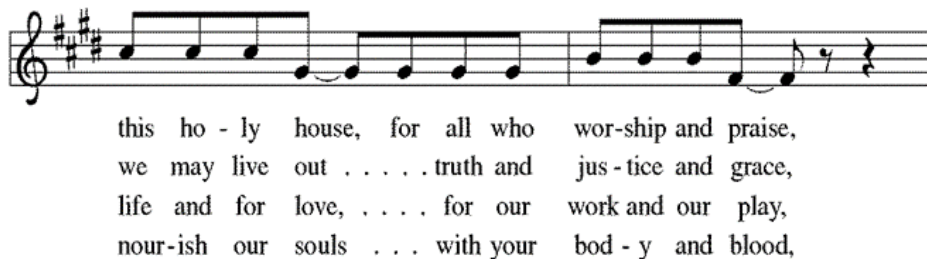
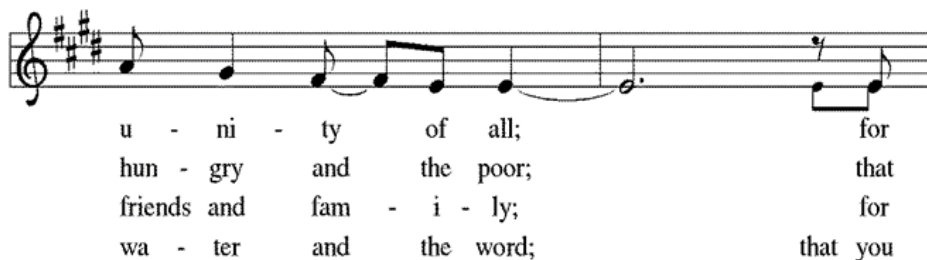
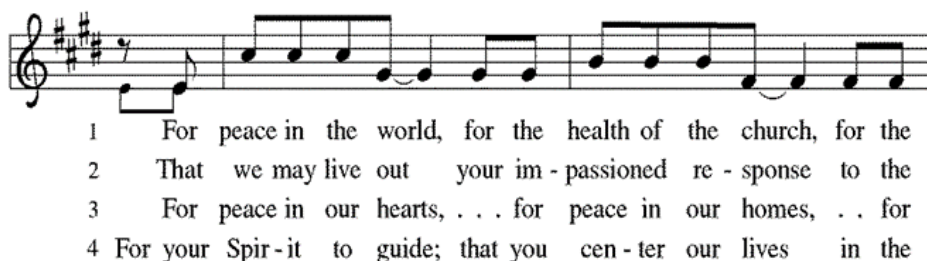
## GREETING

**P** Siblings in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

# KYRIE

*All Sing Refrain,  
Leader Sings Verse*



## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

*We invite children to come forward for a children's message before moving to children's church.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A reading from Genesis, the second and third chapters.

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>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 middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not 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 loincloths for themselves.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 5:12-19**

A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

<sup>12</sup>Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

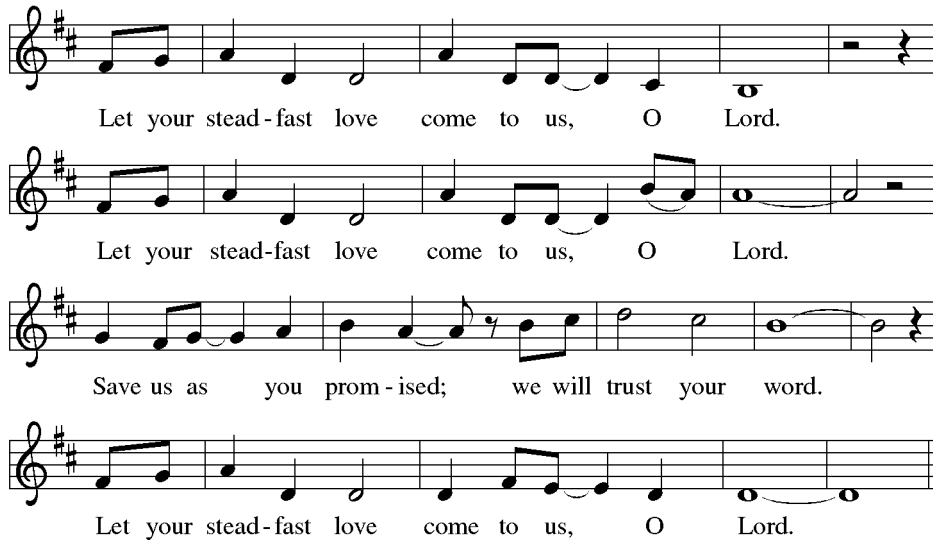
<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*All Stand & Sing*



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

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

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>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,

‘One does 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 placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying 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,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do 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 splendor; <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>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”  
<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

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

*Congregation is seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Micah

*Silence is Kept for Reflection.*

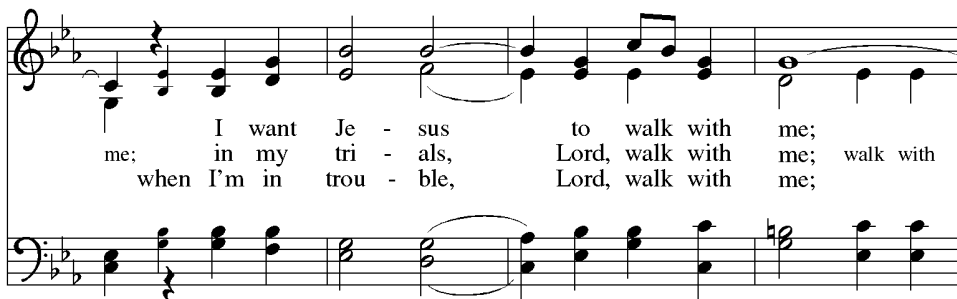


# HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

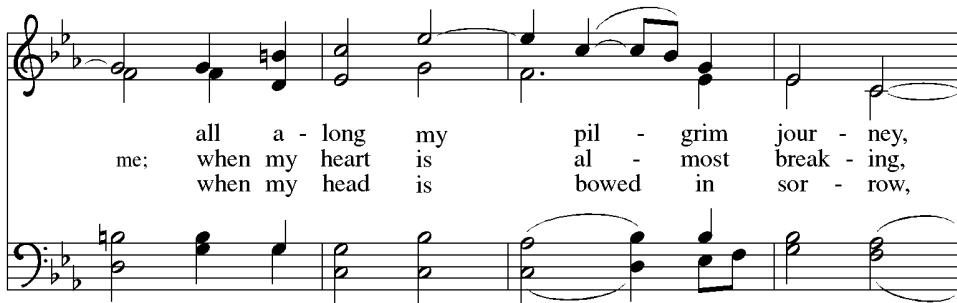
*All Stand & Sing*



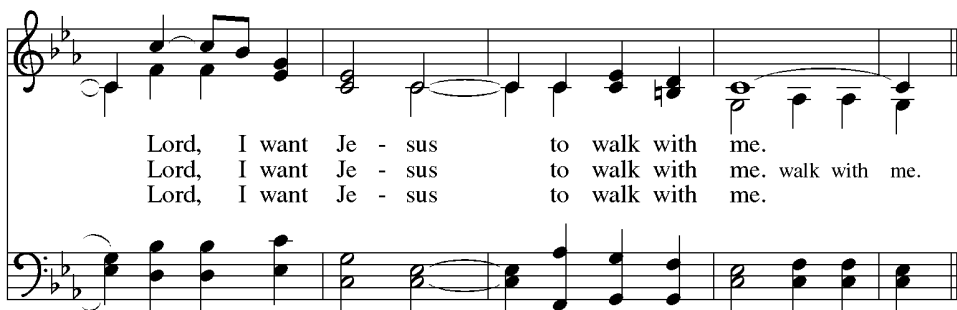
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 when in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



## APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees

and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially altar guild, ushers, and nursery attendants. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** *Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs*

*Church Choir*

Surely he hath borne our griefs and hath carried our sorrows away. He was wounded for our transgressions,  
and with his stripes we all are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, each has turned to his own way.  
And the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of all.

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Take My Life That I May Be*

*All Stand & Sing*

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

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

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

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray,

**C** 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. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

## PREFACE

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

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*All Stand & Sing*

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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

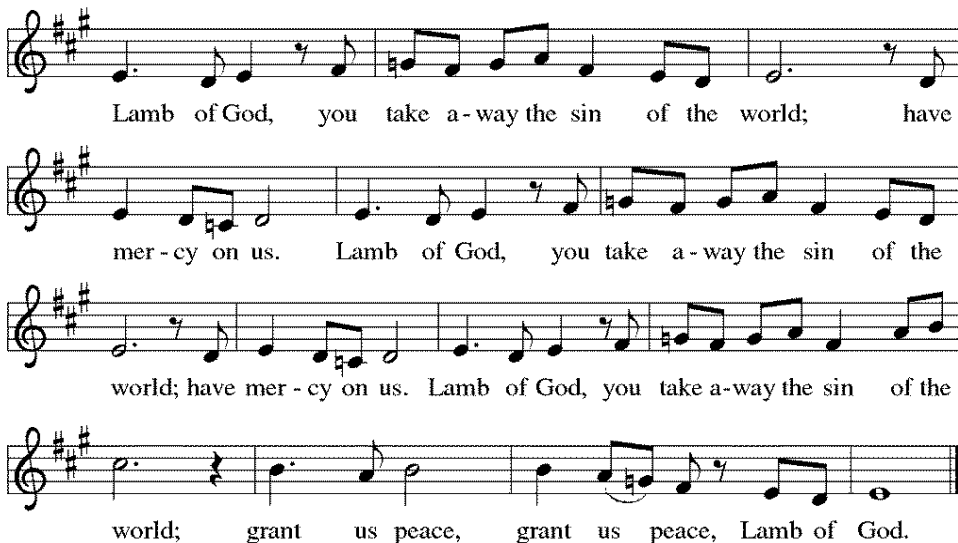
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.  
C Thanks be to God.



### LAMB OF GOD

*All Sing*




## COMMUNION

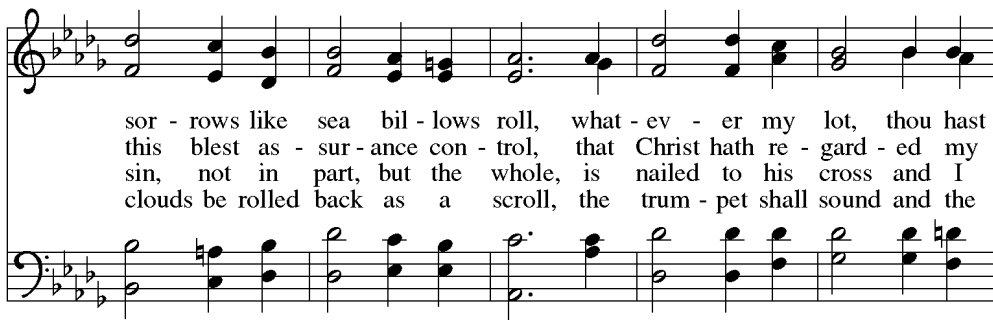
*During communion the congregation is invited forward by rows, beginning in the back, and will receive the bread and wine at the front of the aisle. You may either eat and drink then, or return to your seat to do so, and place the cups in the bin in your pew.*

### MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: *When Peace Like A River*

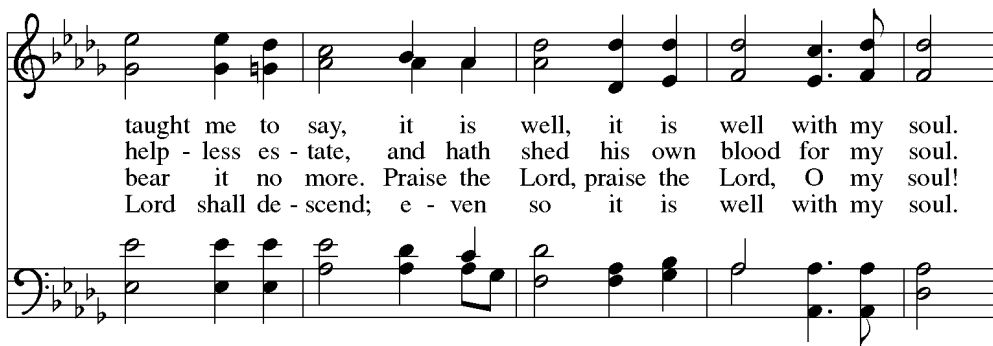
*All Sing*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
 Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

- P** The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

## BLESSING

- P** God, the giver of love, ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.
- C** **Amen.**

# SENDING HYMN: *Jesus, Still Lead On*


*All Stand & Sing*



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701



## **SENDING**

**P** Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *My Hope Is Built*

*Solid Rock*

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\*Special thanks to our Lector, Brian Achor.

\*The altar flowers were given by Carole Jolley in honor of her daddy, PG Jolley.

### **This Week's Schedule:**

#### **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am – Sunday School

10:10 am – Church Choir

10:30 am – Worship w/ Holy Communion

5:00 pm – Confirmation

6:00 pm – Church Choir Practice

6:00 pm – Youth Handbells

#### **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm – Nar-Anon Meeting

#### **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

5:30 pm – Youth Handbells

6:00 pm – Congregation Fellowship Supper

6:45 pm – Holden Evening Prayer

7:15 pm – Chamber Choir



**"Journeying through faith in a joyful, safe community, welcoming and serving Belmont and beyond."**

Our core values are: **Embrace, Grow, Connect, and Give.**

**Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter**

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**Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Micah Kearney, Pastor - email: [mkearney@holyc.org](mailto:mkearney@holyc.org)

Beka Forst, Deacon of Discipleship - email: [rforst@holyc.org](mailto:rforst@holyc.org)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Chelsea Spicer, Office Manager