

**ST. JOHN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

**7:45AM &
10:30AM**

**MARCH 17,
2024**



**Making the
Love of
Christ
Known**

Deb Monnin
Support Pastor

Doug Meyer
Pastor Emeritus

Prelude

Welcome /Announcements

Sharing of the Peace *

Gathering Hymn*

ELW 321

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
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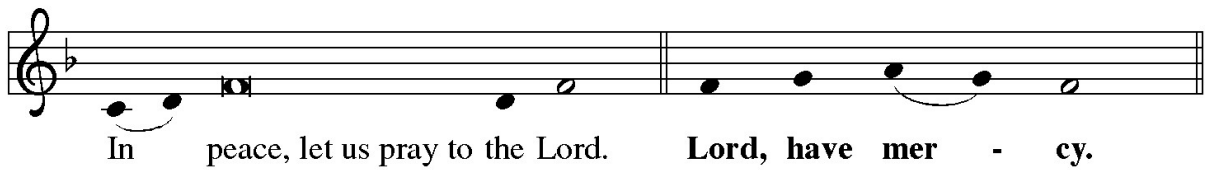
*Please stand as you are able
Bold print=the whole congregation replies.

Kyrie*

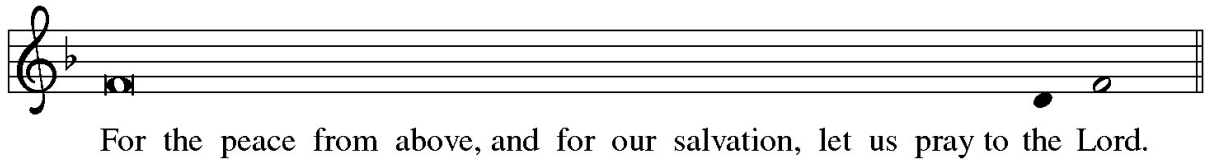
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God.

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

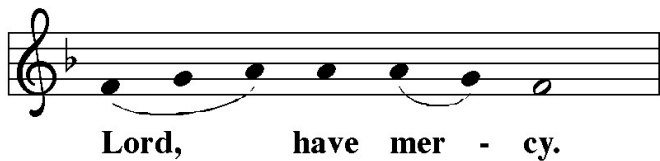
And also with you.



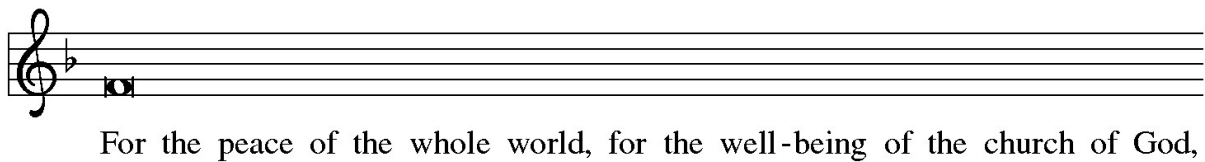
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



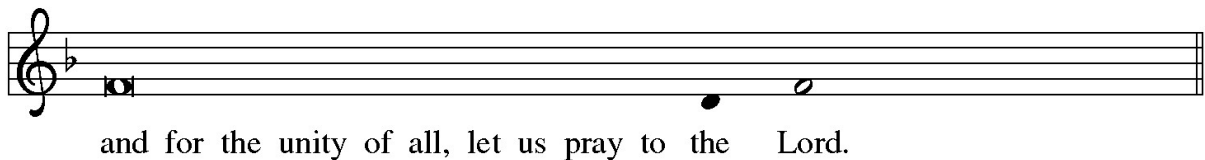
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



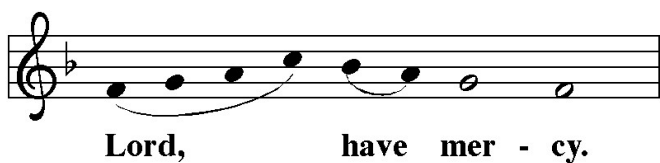
Lord, have mer - cy.



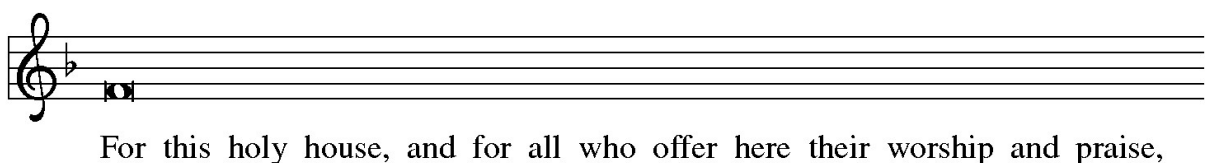
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



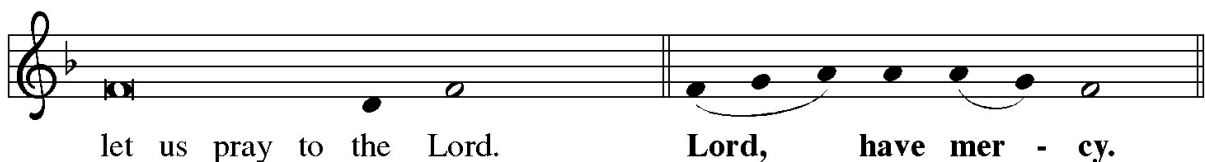
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



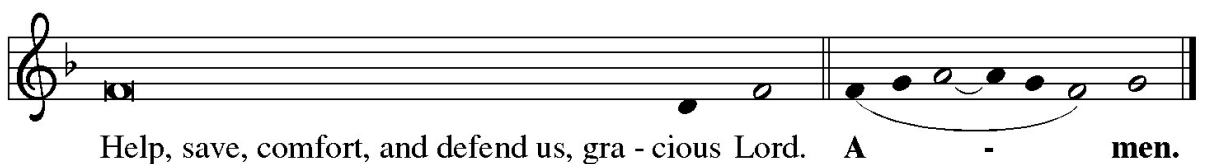
Lord, have mer - cy.



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*

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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.

Children's Sermon

Kids' Praise (10:30) *At this time children age 3 - grade 4 are now dismissed, at the parent's discretion, to the Octagon.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they

shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment. **R**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.



¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The reading is concluded:
Word of God, word of life.
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 John the 12th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies,



it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

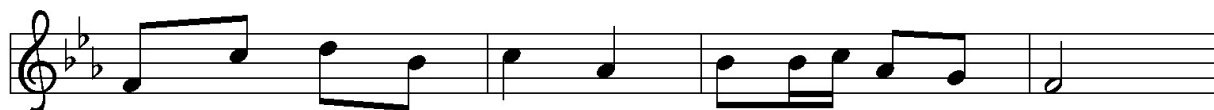
²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
 Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
 Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

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Confession and Forgiveness*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 who writes the law on our hearts,
 who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.



Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:

Out of love for the whole world,

God draws near to us,

breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,

and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for
the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence. Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the
prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.



Offering

Offertory*

ELW 814

Please stand and sing as the offering is brought forward:

Kids' Praise children return to families.

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are simple, using quarter and eighth notes, with a final whole note at the end of each line.

Offering Prayer*

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer*

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.

Holy One, in this dry and weary land
we give you thanks and praise.

You provide for us in our need;



you set a table for us in the wilderness.
Even when we despair and complain against you,
you feed us with bread from heaven.
Even when we quarrel and question your grace,
you give us water from a stone. How can we keep silent?
Even dry bones in the valley of death stand to sing your praise:

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,
our way in the wilderness, our companion in the desert.
He knows our hunger and thirst;
he gives us the bread of life to eat and living water to drink.
He leads us beside still water and prepares this table for us,
even in the presence of our enemies.

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 remem-
brance 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.

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 risen! Christ will come again!

Lord's Prayer*

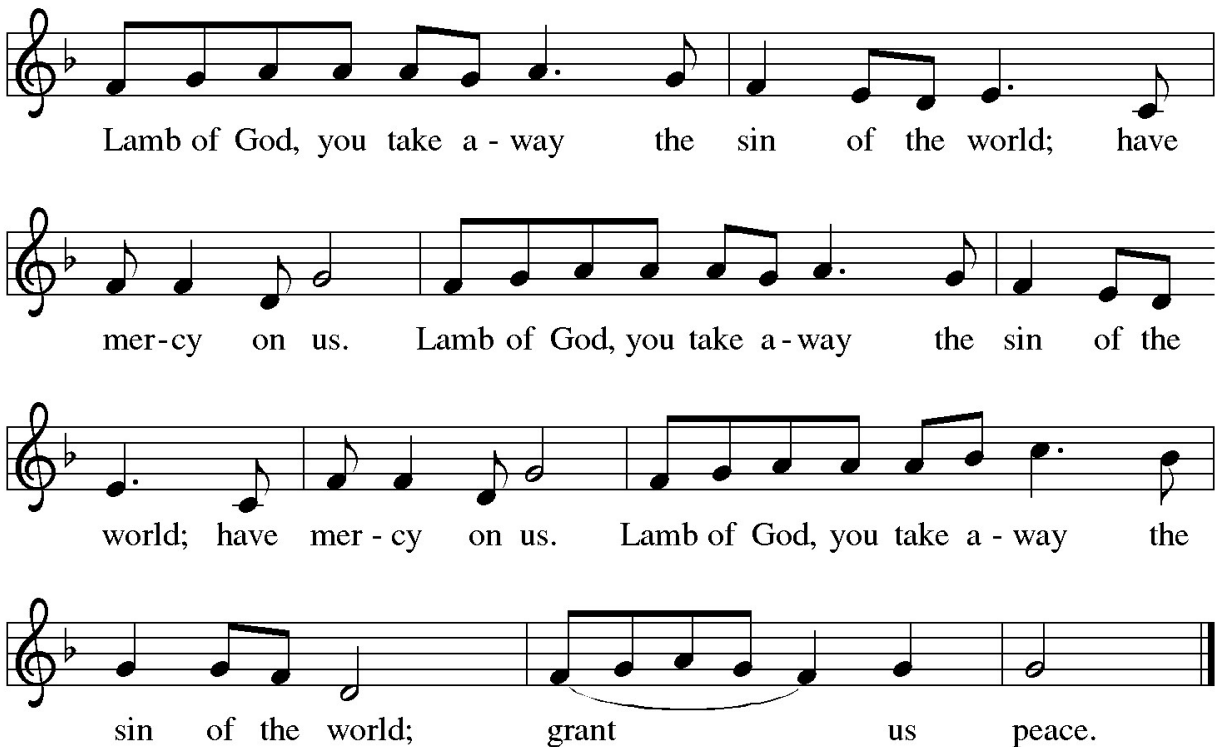


Distribution of Communion

Approach from the center aisle. Glasses with white grape juice are available for those who cannot receive wine. Deposit the glass in a basket and return by way of the side aisle.

Choir Anthem (10:30)

Lord I Give My Heart To You



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 Hymn

ELW494

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Prayer After Communion*

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.



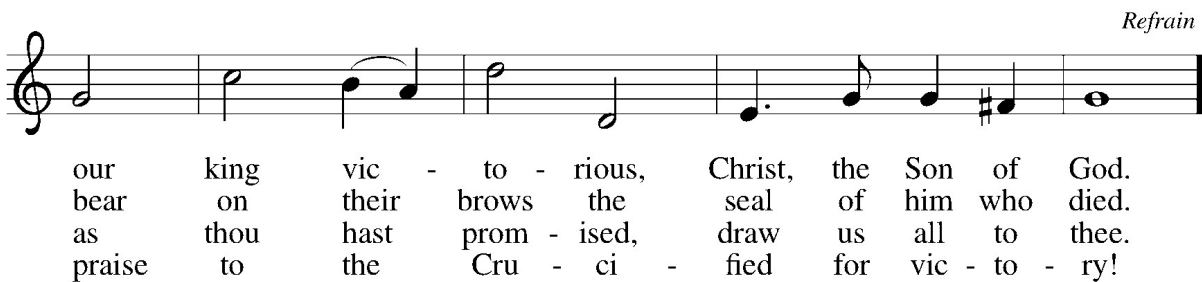
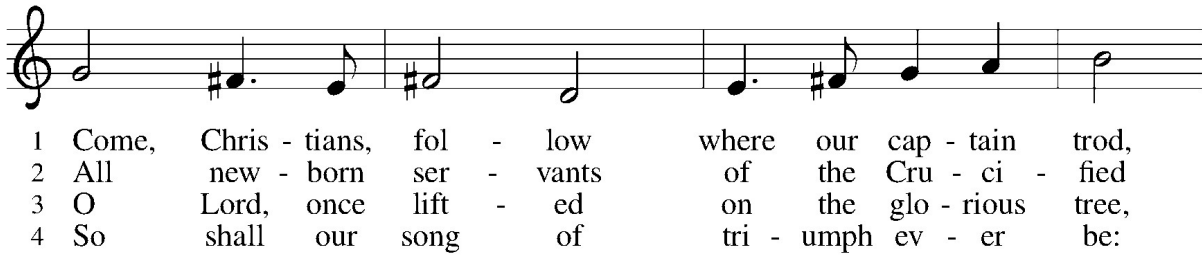
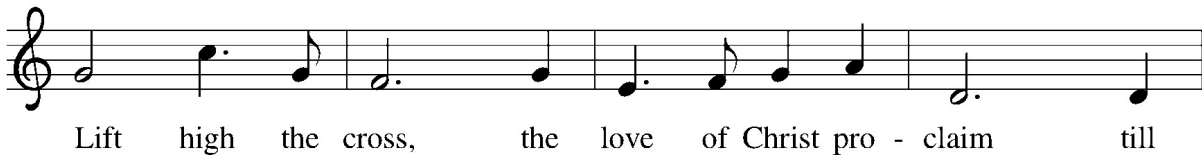
Benediction*

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn*

ELW660

Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



