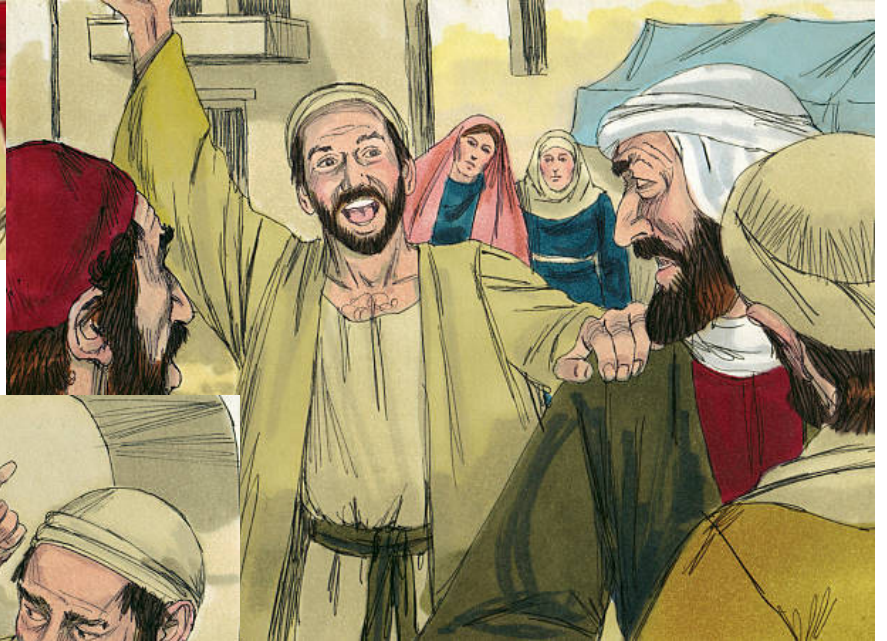


FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



March 19, 2023

10:00am

GATHERING

Prelude

Piano
Pacibells

Praeludium, from Partita I
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

J. S. Bach
Anna Laura Page

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

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.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

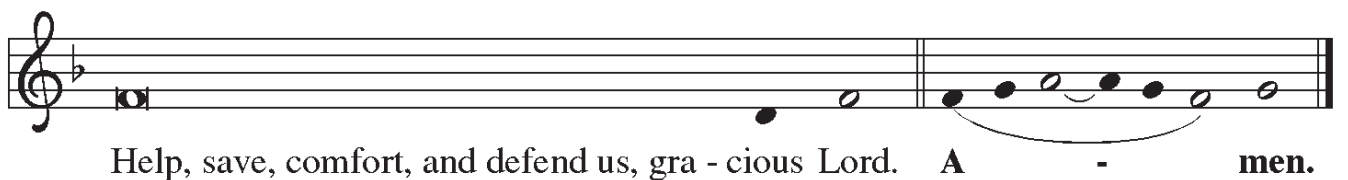
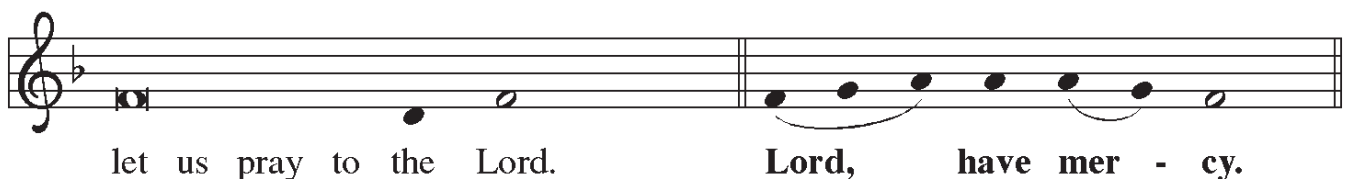
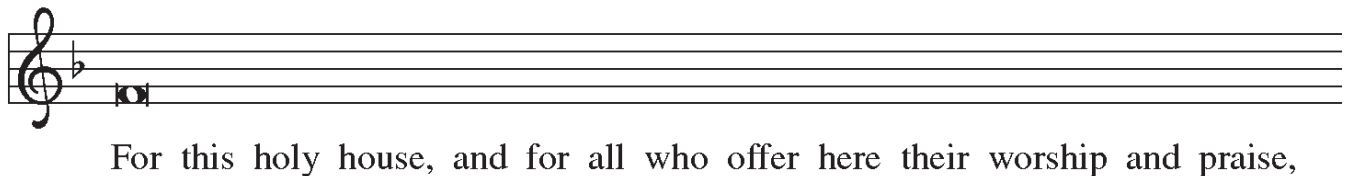
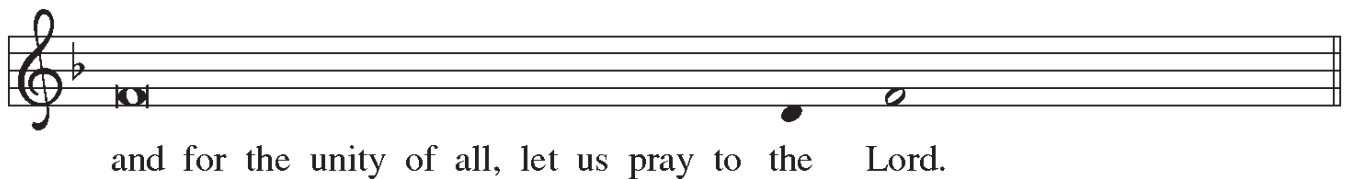
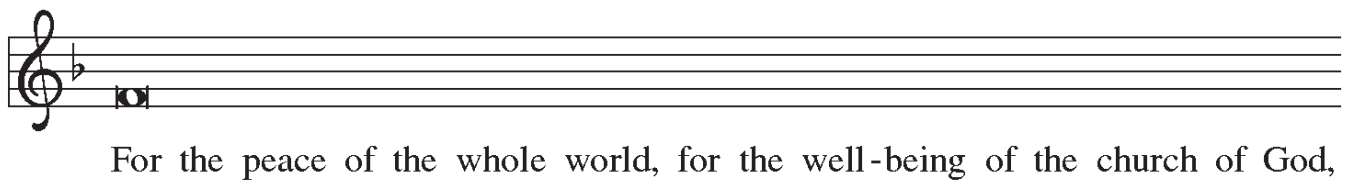
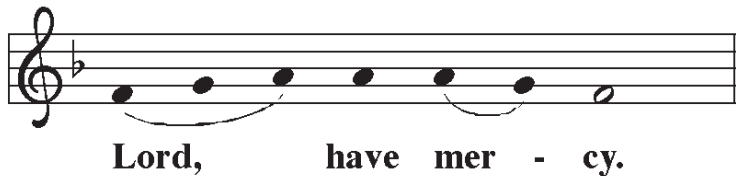
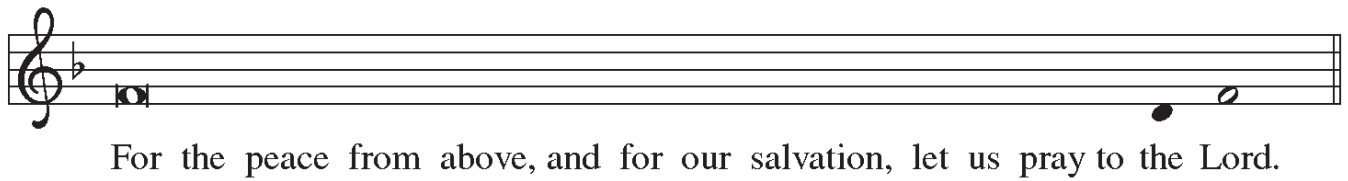
Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

#815

Apostolic Greeting

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Children's Message

Reading: Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Taste and See

James E Moore Jr.

Taste and See.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.

O, Taste and See.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord, of the
Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times.

His praise shall always be on my lips;

My soul shall glory in the Lord;

For He has been so good to me.

Taste and see.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.

O, Taste and See.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord, of the
Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise

His name.

I called the Lord and He answered me;

From all my troubles he set me free.

Taste and see.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord.

O, Taste and See.

Taste and See the goodness of the Lord, of the
Lord.

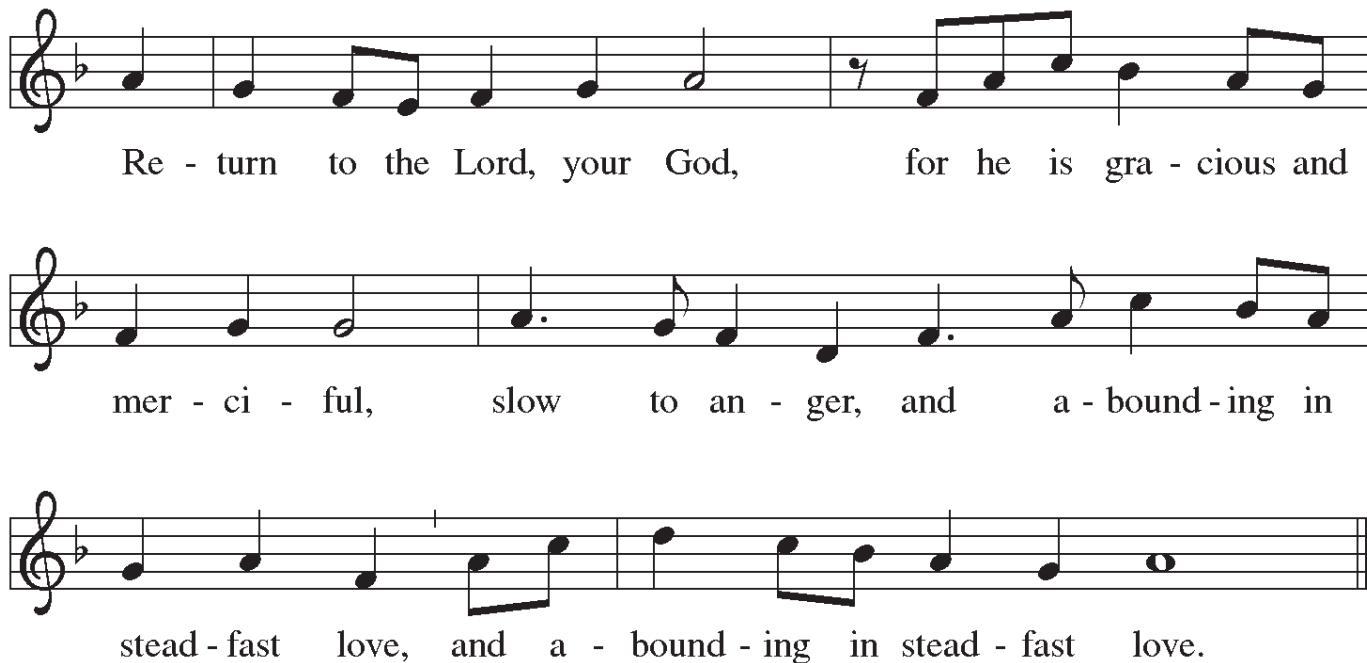
Worship the Lord all your people

You'll want for mothering if you ask.

Taste and see that God is good;

In Him we need put all our trust.

Gospel Acclamation



**The Gospel for today is from John the 9th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing

I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Jim Page

Hymn

Amazing Grace

#779

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 the Church

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

A brief silence.

... Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

Offering

Pacibells

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Anna Laura Page

Offertory Prayer

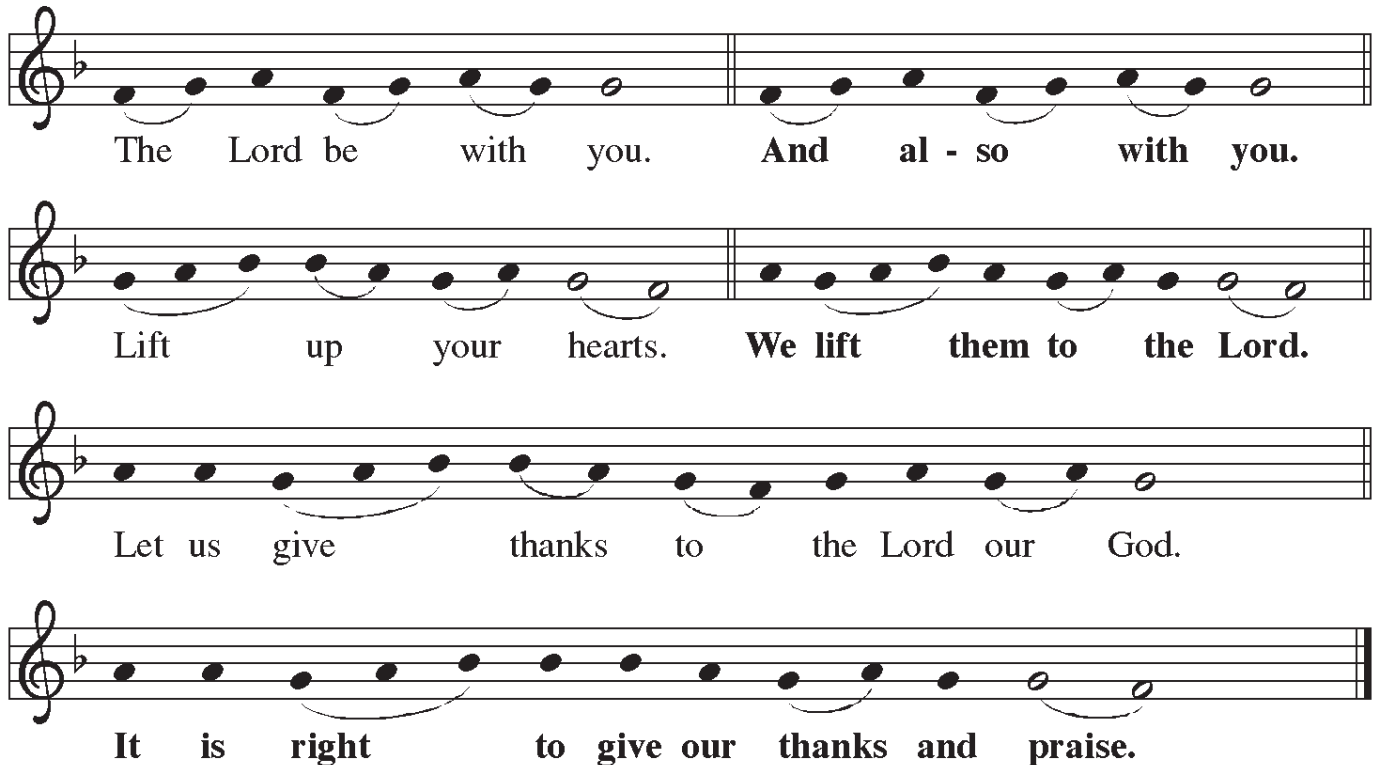
God of good gifts,

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.

Great Thanksgiving



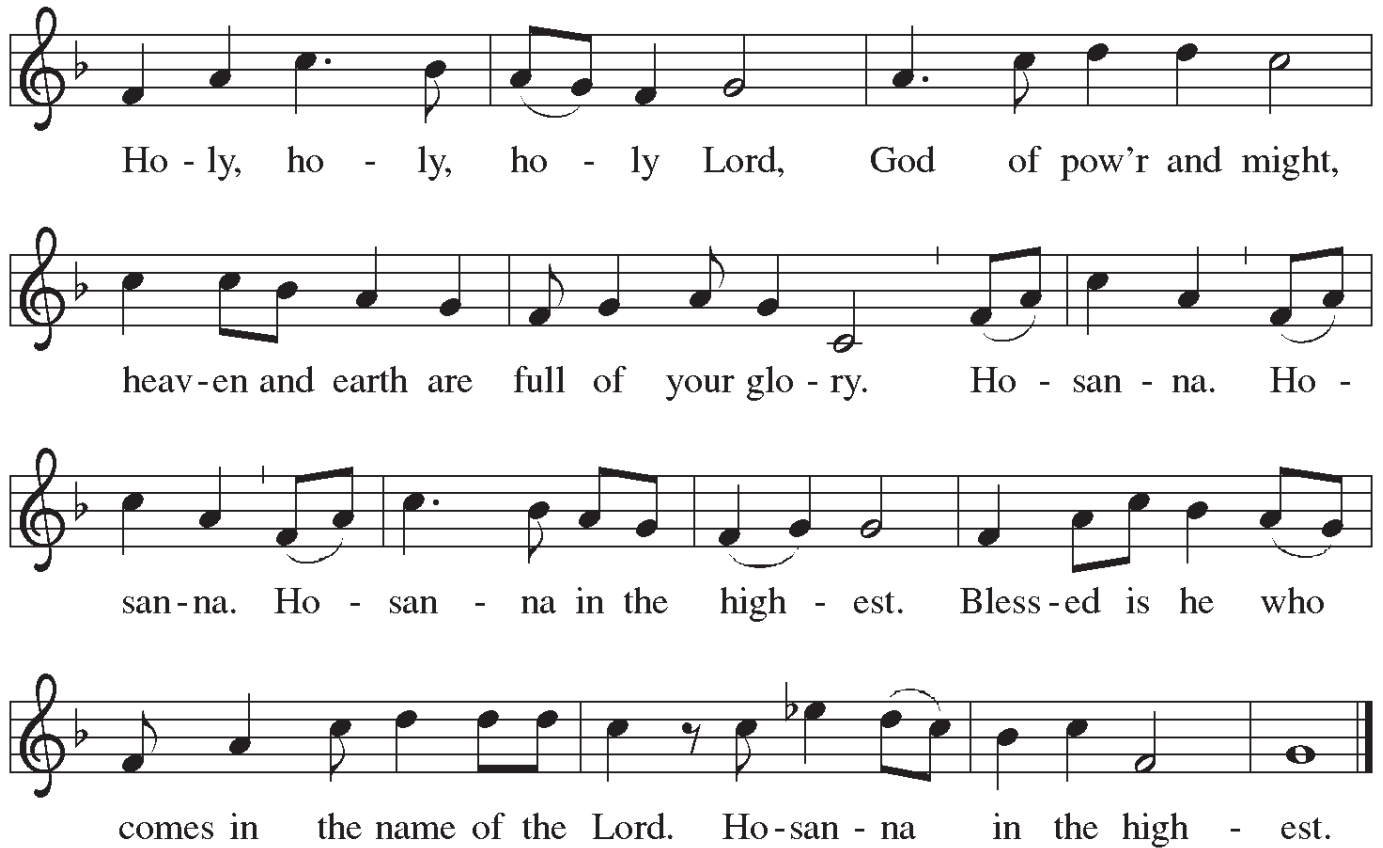
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



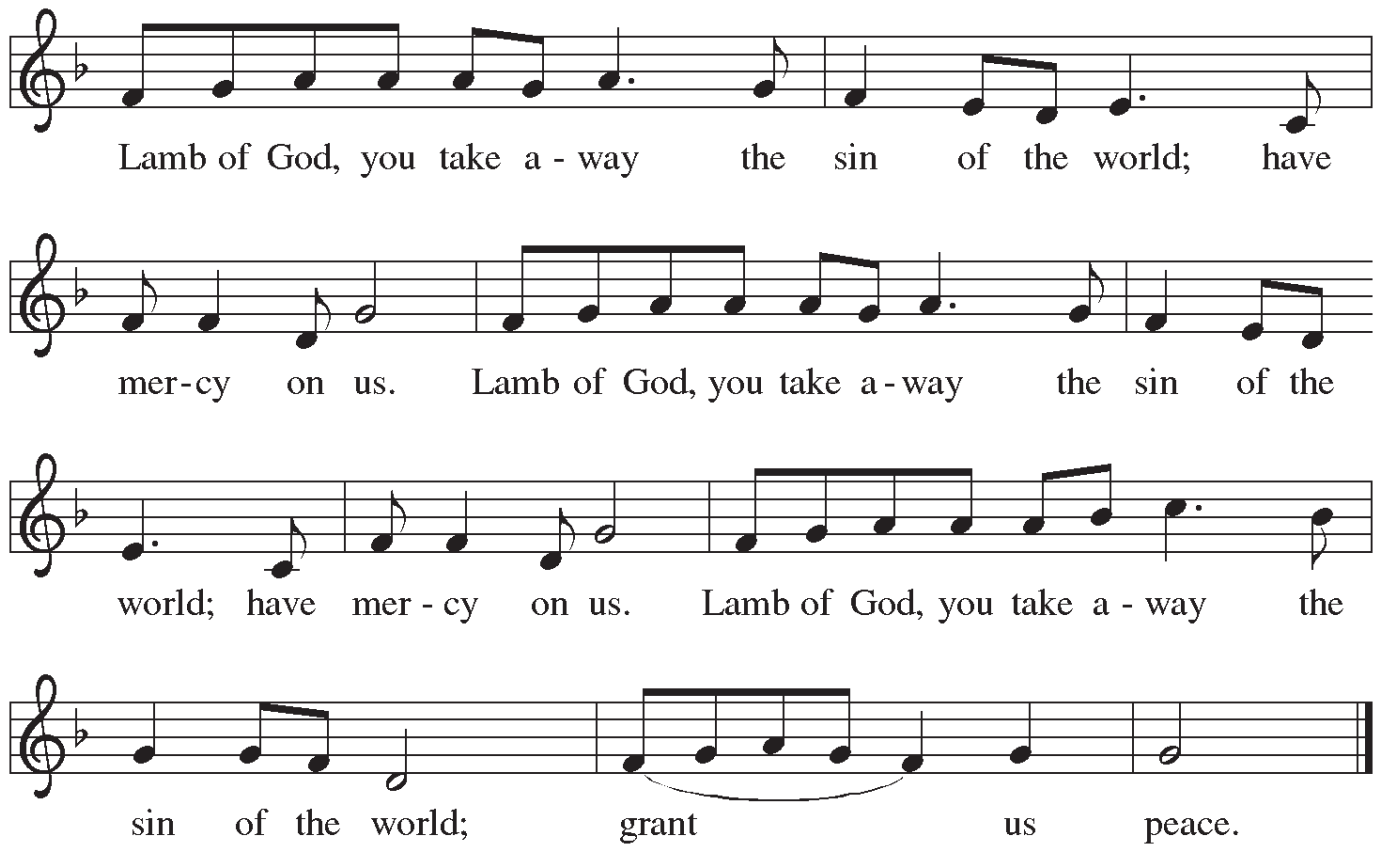
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Communion



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.

Prayer After Communion

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.

SENDING

Blessing

God, the giver of love,

† Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (verses 1, 2, 3, & Lent 4)

#334

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Old 113th

Gerald Near



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Minister: Rev. Jim Page
Assisting Minister: Mitch Piper
Reader: Lynn Ziehr

Organist: Elaine Mann
Choir Director: Diana Cataldi
Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (19th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

TUESDAY

Prayer Group – 11am
Church Council – 7pm

WEDNESDAY

Crafters – 10am
Text Study – 12pm
Lenten Service – 6pm
Choir Rehearsal – 6:45pm

THURSDAY

Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SUNDAY (26th)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Quakers, Northwest Synod, Scouts, Equid Dance

Message from Rev. Jim Page

Do you remember what you did yesterday? How about last Monday? How about three years ago? In March 2020, the world changed when the Covid-19 pandemic began. The nature of the virus, wearing masks, social distancing and many unknowns affected the lives of millions.

Today's gospel reading is a reflection of what we experienced amid the pandemic: division.

When Jesus restored the sight of a man who was born blind... the joy of the moment was overcome by division among the religious leaders and the people. The good news is that the conviction of one man held to the goodness of God. It is that one man that gives us encouragement to bring Christ's goodness and unity where we see pain and division.

Offering Envelopes Have Arrived!

The long wait is finally over. The offering envelopes have finally arrive! They are currently on a table in the back of the narthex. If you are unable to come in to pick up your envelope box, please call the church office at 715-832-9713, and we will work out the best way to get your envelopes to you.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your patience with this late envelope issue. We hope to have this fixed for next year's order.

Thank You Beacon House Volunteers

Thank You to the Grace Members who made the various Casseroles for the families at the shelter and for the additional side dishes to complete and compliment the meals. There were 5 adults and 11 children from the ages of a boy aged 1 year old and boys and girls up through the ages of 12 years old. They enjoyed the meals and treats which included special Valentine Day candy and cards. Grace Members have supported this local mission need for over 25 years. Thank you to all.

A list of all who helped from Feb. 16,17,18 is on the notice board in the Narthex.

Bach's Birthday Concert

Grace Lutheran Church in Eau Claire presents a musical party to celebrate the birthday of J. S. Bach on Sunday, March 26. (J. S. Bach was born March 21, 1685)

Dr. Gary Don will present a pre-concert talk at 1:30 in the chapel. Gary Don is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Music and Theatre Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The music of J.S. Bach is the foundation for his teaching of harmony, counterpoint, and compositional techniques.

The concert begins at 2:00 in the sanctuary with an all-Bach program. Grace Lutheran soprano Diana Cataldi, will sing an aria from the St. Matthew Passion, "Blute nur, du liebes Herz." Joining the party will be pianist Donald Patterson, playing Fantasie in a minor. Resident organist Elaine Mann will play Fantasia and Fugue in g minor. Area organists Crystal Biccum, Lynn Emmons, Patrick Hogan, Alana Laufman, and Gary Steffenhagen will play a wide variety of pieces.

A reception will be held following the concert.

Spring Craft Sale

Check it out!

March 19 & 26 in the Chapel

Featuring

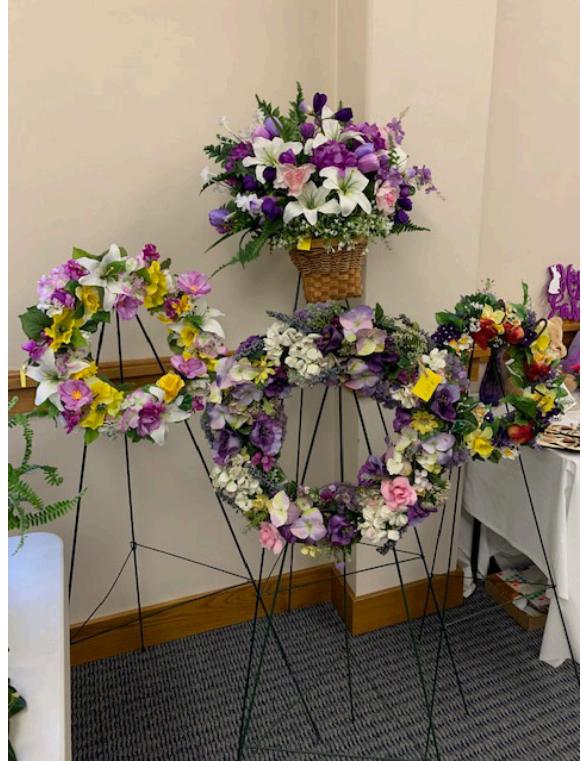
Spring Wreaths, Floral Arrangements

Other Temptations

Sunday School

Sunday school will take place during the service right after the Children's Message on the following days.

- March 19
- April 2
- April 16



Nine-to-Dine

Life and Growth Ministry will start the sign-up for Nine-to-Dine after Easter, with get-togethers in late Spring or early Summer, when the weather will be nicer. We need host/hostesses to offer their home for a meal. The guests will share in bringing the food.

If you are willing to host, please let Barb Piper know (in person or 715-529-6900 or bpiper2007@yahoo.com).

Thank You, Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who helped serve lunch after the Beverly Knutson funeral on March 9th. Your hard work is deeply appreciated.

If you would like to volunteer to help serve at future funerals, please contact Deb Heath or Barb Eidahl.

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flowers this week were brought by Greg Sather in honor of his mother, Joan Larson's 95th birthday. Thank you and Happy Birthday.

If you would like to donate altar flowers you can fill out one of the forms in the coat room entrance and put it in the offering plate, or you can visit our website, go to the "Give" page, click on the link and follow the instructions for altar flowers.

Lenten Services

The theme for this Lenten season is "From Dust and Ashes to the New Heaven and New Earth: Journeying Toward God's Revelation." Our Lent begins by marking our foreheads with ashes as a reminder that we are mortal, but we journey toward the future that God promises to gift us when all things will be made new. Join us as our lay preachers help us to reflect on the book of Revelation and its promise of a healing end for our broken creation.

Lenten service will be held each Wednesday night in the Parable Chapel from 6–6:30pm using the Holden Evening Prayer.



Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: info@grace-church.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: pastorphil@grace-church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to "Our Ministry."

Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the "Our Ministry."

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)
- Radio Service Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace-church.org or by calling the office at 715-832-9713