

## March 23, 2025: Third Sunday in Lent

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

**Amen.**

### Gathering Song *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



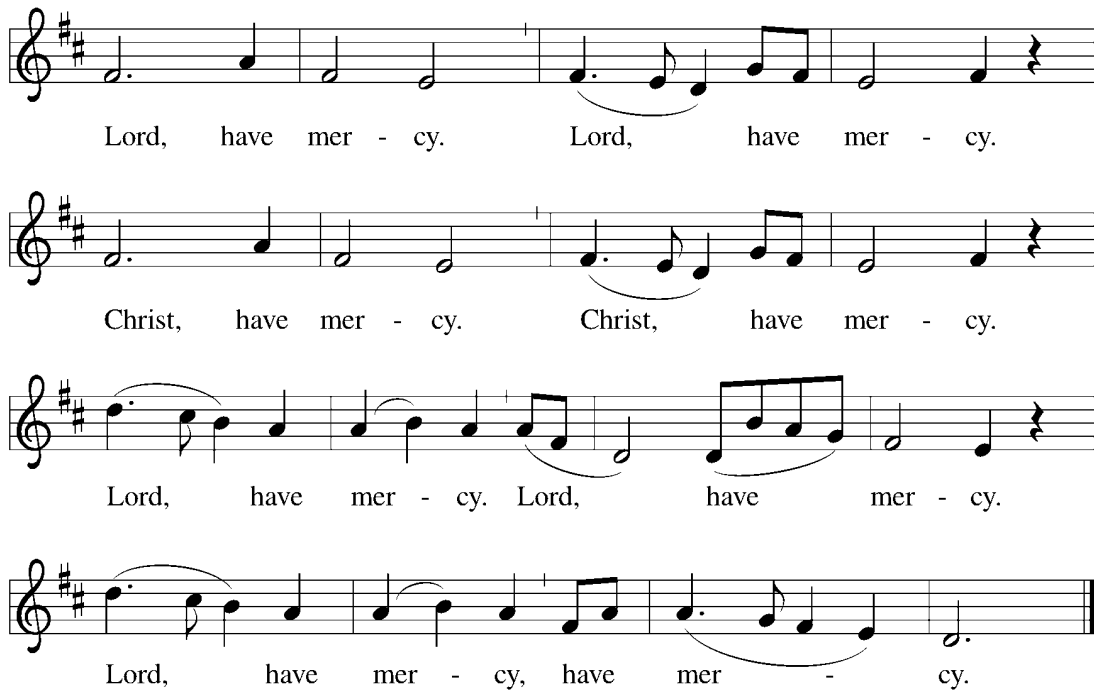
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## Kyrie (Schubert)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy" The term "Kyrie/Lord" usually referred to a worldly ruler such as an emperor and asking the Kyrie for mercy was a legal plea. It was a subversive thing for the early church to proclaim that Jesus is Lord and not the imperial power.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

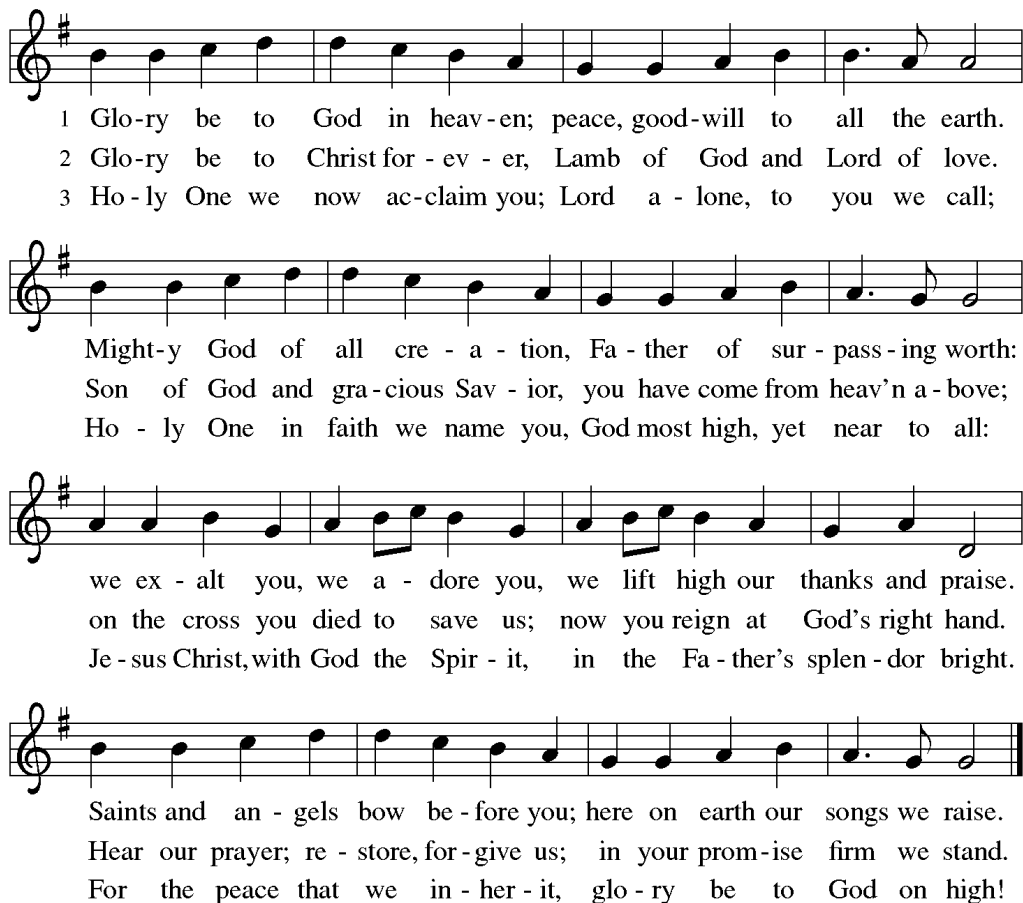
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## Canticle of Praise (ELW Setting 10)



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## Prayer of the Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

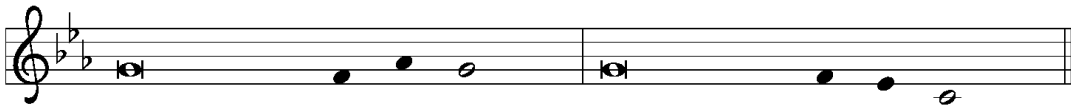
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8



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<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;

my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there | is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,**  
**that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long | as I live**  
**and lift up my hands | in your name. R**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you up- | on my bed,**  
**and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

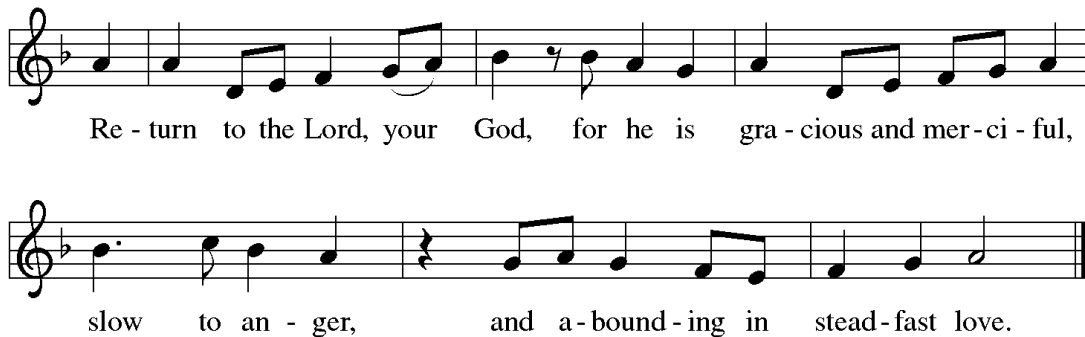
<sup>8</sup> **My whole being | clings to you;**  
**your right hand | holds me fast. R**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

## Gospel Acclamation (*ELW Setting 4 Lenten 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.

## Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day *As Rain from the Clouds* (ELW 508)  
(*Music is printed in hymnal but does not fit this page*)**

1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,  
as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.  
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.  
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

2 As grain that is scattered your word has been sown  
on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.  
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.  
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

2 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,  
awaking and warming and healing our land.  
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow  
and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.  
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;  
we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.  
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield,  
for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

**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**

Each petition ends with the words "God, in your mercy," and the response of the assembly is "**receive our prayer.**"

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

## Holy Communion

*Those worshipping elsewhere are invited to prepare your table with the food and drink that will be the Body and Blood of Christ for us,*

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**And also with you.**

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

### Preface

#### Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Acclamation and Amen are sung at the appropriate time, the organ will cue the assembly.*

*Acclamation:*



Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a - gain.

*Amen:*



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

### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

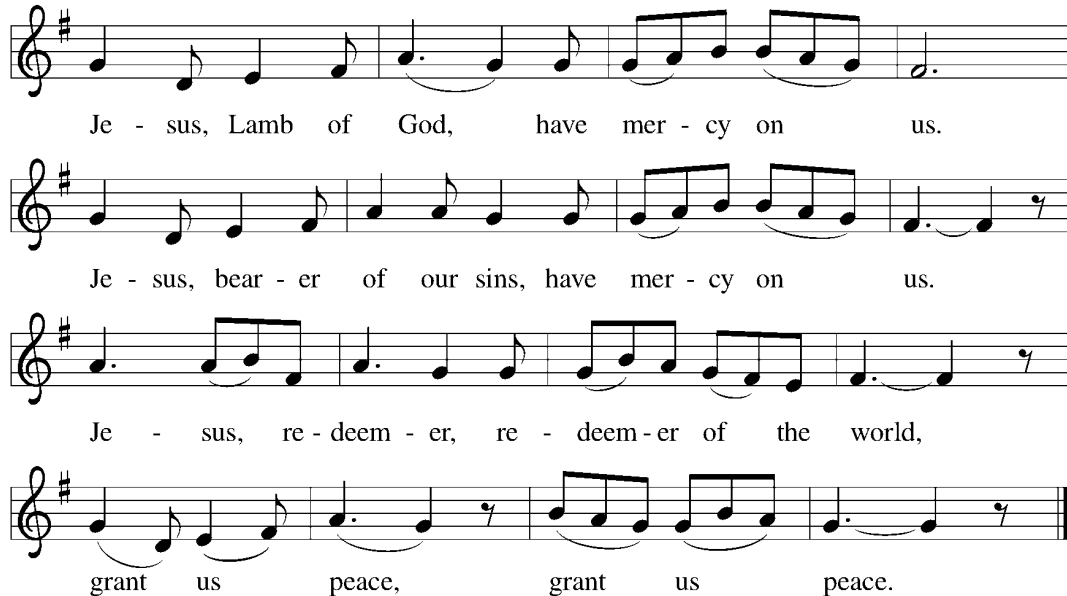
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

This meal, in all times and places, is God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all as we share the Body and Blood of Christ, given and shed for you.

## Agnus Dei (Schubert)



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

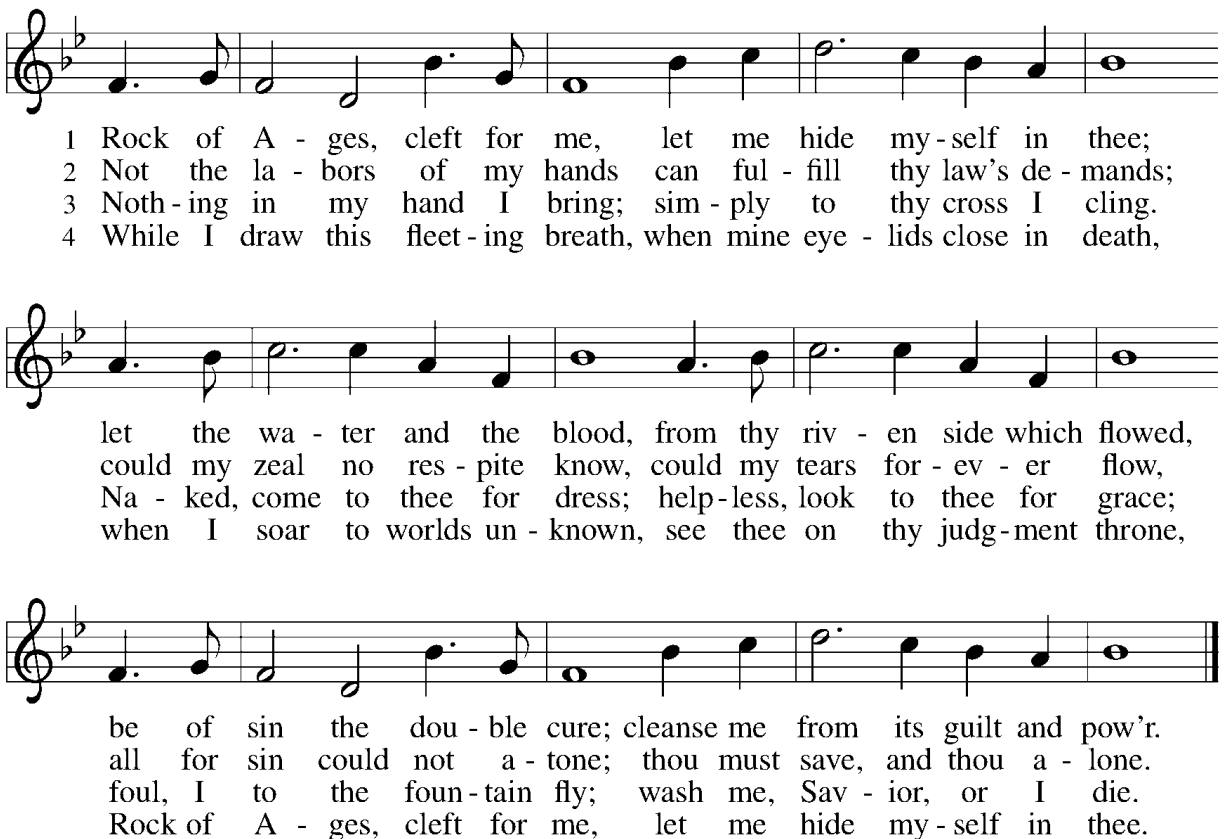
Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937  
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## Communion Hymn: *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (ELW 623)



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## Prayer after Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Song *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)



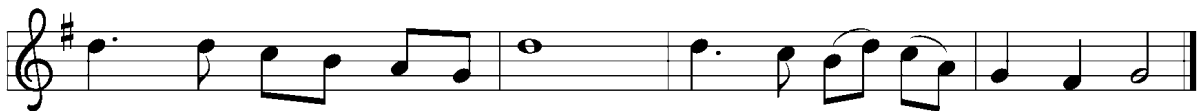
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

## Thanks be to God!

Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei are from the Deutsche Messe (German Mass) by Franz Schubert (1797-1828)  
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