

First Lutheran Church

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www.flcsm.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

March 1, 2026: Lent 2

Trust

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Centering Prayer and Prelude

For the season of Lent, we will practice a spiritual discipline of centering prayer where we center ourselves on worship. Each week we will have a sacred word that connects to the texts for that day. At the call of the bell, we invite all present to a time of silent meditation on that word. If you find yourself distracted, it is not a failure. Simply return your thoughts gently to our word. The prelude will follow a time of silence.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 1, Jesus' Temptation)

For failing to recognize your coming reign and the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 2, Jesus and Nicodemus)

For drawing on the well of ambition, rather than living water you offer: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 3, Jesus at the Well of Living Water)

For disregarding voices from the margin, missing signs of your hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 4, Healing the Man Born Blind)

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 5, Jesus Raises Lazarus)

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Gathering Song

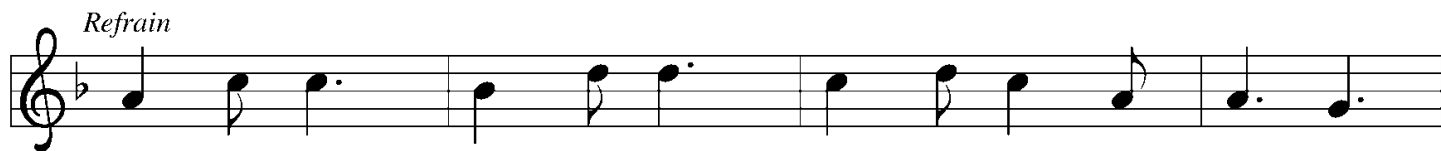
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (ELW 335)



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

The wind blows where it chooses,
and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know
where it comes from or where it goes.
So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

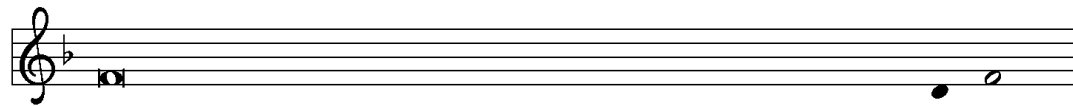


Kyrie


The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy". For the season of Lent the gathering rite is shortened. We do not include a canticle of praise, making for a more penitential nature to worship. These songs (Glory to God in the Highest or This Is The Feast) return with joyful fullness at Easter.



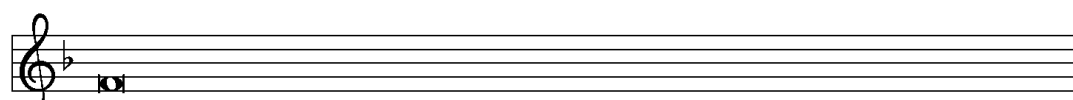
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



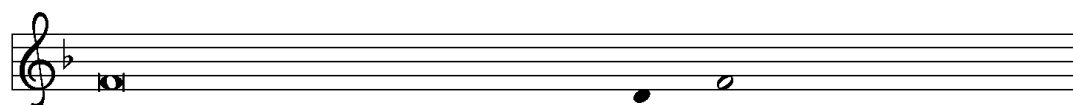
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



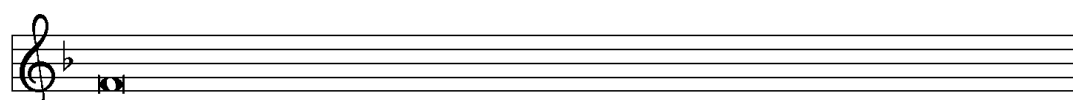
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



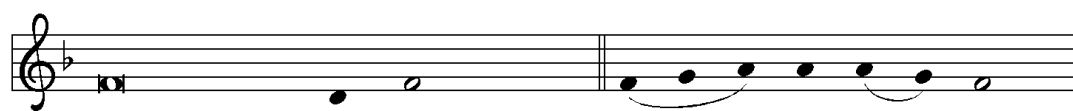
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



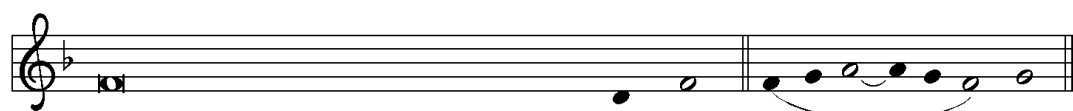
Lord, have mer - cy.



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, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

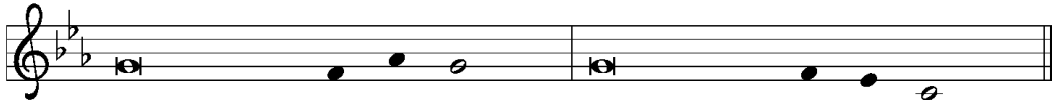
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Psalm 121



¹ I lift up my eyes ¹ to the hills;

from where is my ¹ help to come?

² **My help comes ¹ from the Lord,**

the maker of heav- ¹ en and earth.

³ The Lord will not let your ¹ foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you ¹ fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keep- ¹ er of Israel**

will neither slum- ¹ ber nor sleep; R

⁵ the Lord watches ¹ over you;

the Lord is your shade at ¹ your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike ¹ you by day,**

nor the ¹ moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will preserve you ¹ from all evil

and will ¹ keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your ¹ coming in,**

from this time forth for- ¹ evermore. R

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

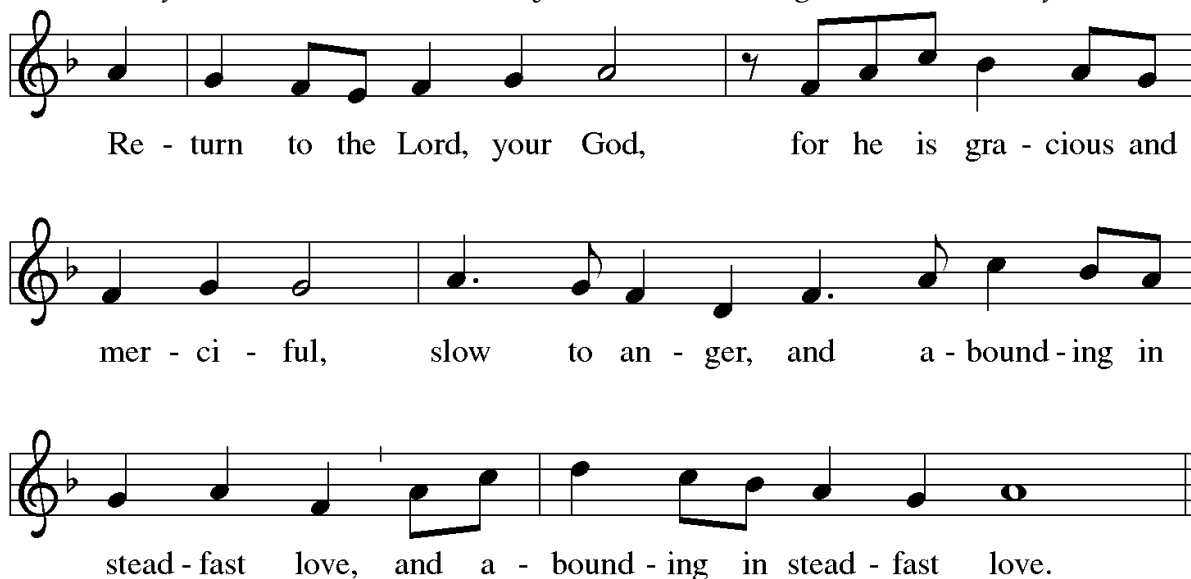
¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. For Lent, we do not sing the Alleluia, but instead these words describing God's nature from Exodus 34:6, heard by Moses as he was given the tablets of the law.



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.

Gospel: John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

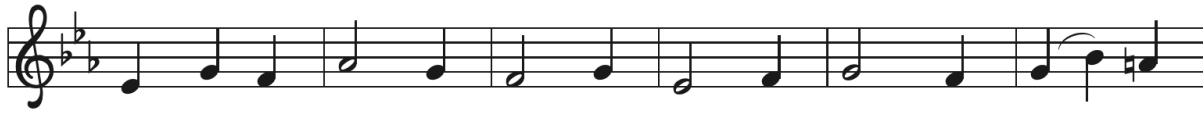
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Christ Is the Life (ACS 927)



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Creed

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991
Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

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 "Hear us, O God" and the assembly responds with "Your mercy is great."

Peace

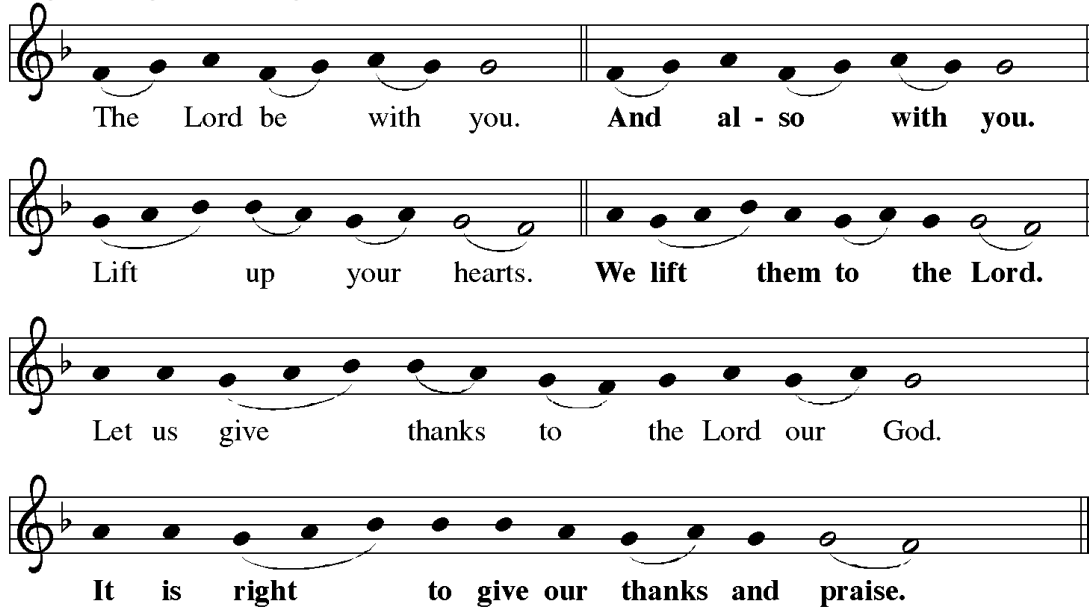
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Anthem

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue



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

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

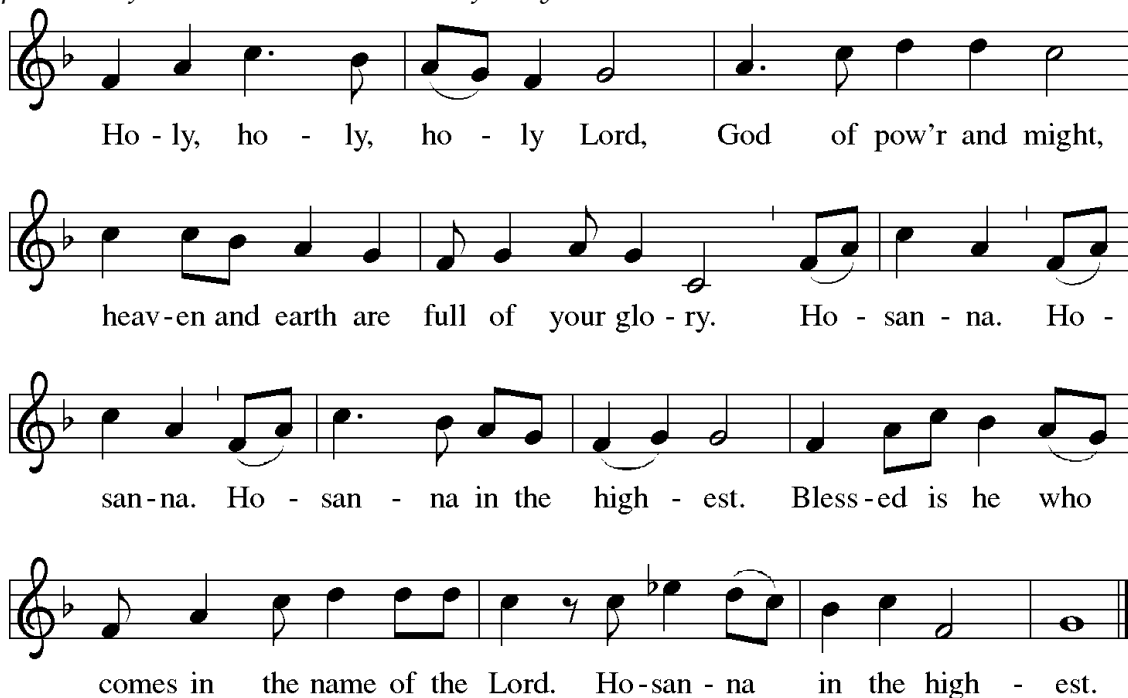
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

This song draws from Isaiah 6:3, the vision of the Heavenly Throne room and from Matthew 21:9, the shouts of the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In the liturgy it recognizes uniting our earthly worship with the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



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.

Thanksgiving At The Table

The prayer of consecration ends with the Lord's Prayer, introduced with the words:

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, which gathers to 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

We believe that God's grace is for all people, and that open sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion is a visible sign of that. At First Lutheran, all are welcome at the table. The wafers are gluten-free. In the trays there is both wine (red) and grape juice (clear). You may kneel or stand. If you wish to receive communion in the pews let the ushers know that and we will come to you after those who come forward are served.

Lamb Of God

This song, sung as the host is elevated and broken and the meal is shared, is an echo of John the Baptist's words when he recognizes Jesus in John 1:29.

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 Song

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (ELW 803)

1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, + bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

What Wondrous Love Is This (ELW 666)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Happenings at First Lutheran

Southside Meal Today

Today is our turn to serve at Southside. We need help in the kitchen shortly after noon, and help serving at Southside at 3:30.

Tuesday Bible Study

Our church group studying the book of Revelation will meet again on Tuesday night at 7 PM via Zoom. If you're interested in joining the Bible study group, please send either Hardin or Glenda your name and email address so they can add you to their list-serve. Then, they will send you the information necessary to obtain the materials needed to participate in the class. Their email addresses are:

Lent Soup and Evening Prayer

On each Wednesday in Lent, we will have our soup and evening prayer gathering. Dinner is served at 5:30, and evening prayer is at 6:35.

Save The Dates

Feb. 25-March 25: Soup and Evening Prayer
March 2-6: FLC Meals on Wheels Week
March 28: Bobcat Build Workday

April 2: Maundy Thursday
April 3: Good Friday
April 5: Easter Sunday

Ongoing Events:

Monday Spiritual Study (Zoom): Contact Agnes Dreibrodt
Southside Dinner: First Sunday of each Month
(We will not be serving in April, contact Pastor Tim to volunteer)
Women's Circle: 3rd Thursday (Contact Agnes Dreibrodt)
Prime Timers: 3rd Tuesday (Contact Sue at the church office)

For FLC Updates:

Most Congregational communication happens in our weekly email.

