

# First Lutheran Church

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Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

**March 29, 2026: Palm Sunday**

## GATHERING

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

### Acclamation

*The presiding minister begins (repeated one or more times):*

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### Processional Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

<sup>5</sup> "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you,  
humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

<sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; <sup>7</sup> they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

<sup>10</sup> When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup> The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Blessing of Palms

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in peace,

**in the name of Christ. Amen.**

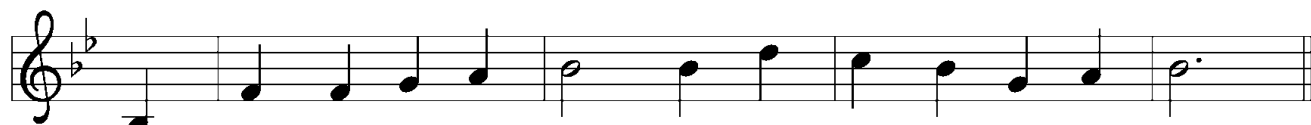
## Procession Song

### All Glory, Laud, and Honor (ELW 344)

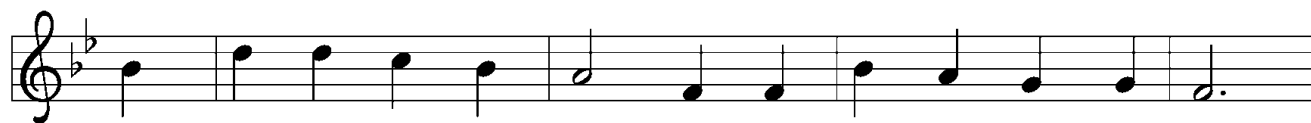
*Refrain*



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

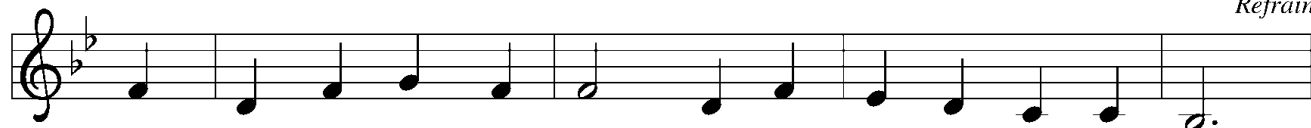


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

*Refrain*



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.  
cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.  
our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.  
To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.  
great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

## Prayer of the Day

As we now enter into the contemplation of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ and meditate on the salvation of the world through his sufferings, death, burial, and resurrection, let us pray. Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, 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 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord God has given me a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward.  
<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.  
<sup>7</sup>The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.  
<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 31:9-16



<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I <sup>|</sup> am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat <sup>|</sup> and my belly.  
<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my <sup>|</sup> years with sighing;**  
**my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones <sup>|</sup> are consumed.**  
<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to <sup>|</sup> my acquaintances;  
when they see me in the street <sup>|</sup> they avoid me.  
<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, <sup>|</sup> out of mind;**  
**I am as useless as a <sup>|</sup> broken pot. R**  
<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is <sup>|</sup> all around;  
they put their heads together against me; they plot to <sup>|</sup> take my life.  
<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in <sup>|</sup> you, O Lord.**  
**I have said, "You <sup>|</sup> are my God.**  
<sup>15</sup>My times are <sup>|</sup> in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who <sup>|</sup> persecute me.  
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- <sup>|</sup> on your servant;**  
**save me in your <sup>|</sup> steadfast love." R**

## Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

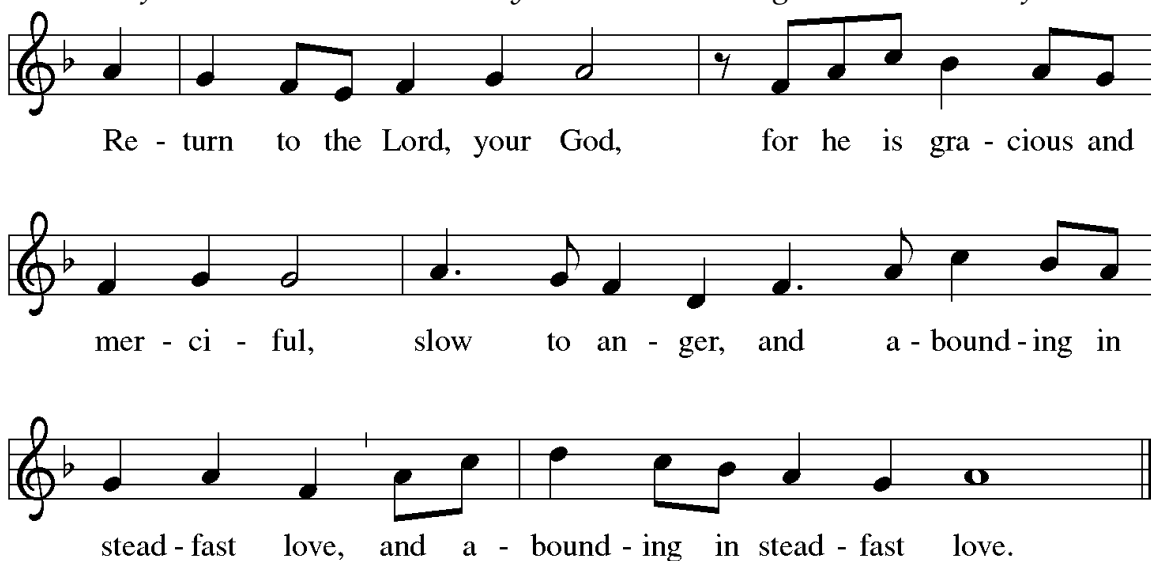
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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: Matthew 21:12-27, Matthew 26:1-16

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "It is written,

'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers."

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did and heard the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry <sup>16</sup> and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?"

<sup>17</sup> He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

<sup>18</sup> In the morning, when he returned to the city, he was hungry. <sup>19</sup> And seeing a fig tree by the side of the road, he went to it and found nothing at all on it but leaves. Then he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once. <sup>20</sup> When the disciples saw it, they were amazed, saying, "How did the fig tree wither at once?" <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered them, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. <sup>22</sup> Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup> But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the courtyard of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and they conspired to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. <sup>5</sup> But they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

<sup>6</sup> Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. <sup>8</sup> But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." <sup>10</sup> But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. <sup>11</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

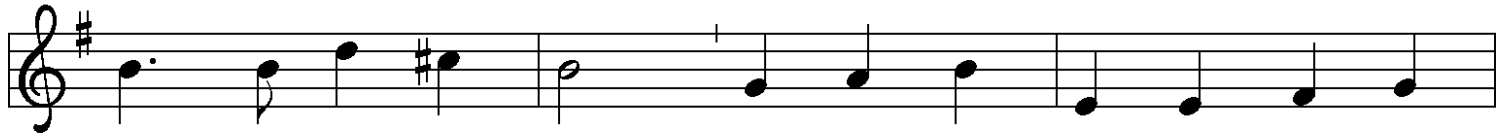
**Sermon**

# Hymn of the Day

## Ride On, Ride On in Majesty! (ELW 346)



1 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! Hear all the  
2 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly  
3 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! The hosts of  
4 Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly



tribes ho - san - na cry; O Sav - ior meek, your road pur -  
pomp ride on to die. O Christ, your tri - umphs now be -  
an - gels in the sky look down with sad and won - d'ring  
pomp ride on to die, bow your meek head to mor - tal



sue, with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.  
gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.  
eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.  
pain, then take, O Christ, your pow'r and reign!

Text: Henry H. Milman, 1791–1868, alt.  
Music: THE KING'S MAJESTY, Graham George, 1912–1993  
Music © 1941 by The H.W. Gray Co. Inc. Copyright renewed. All rights reserved.

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

## Peace

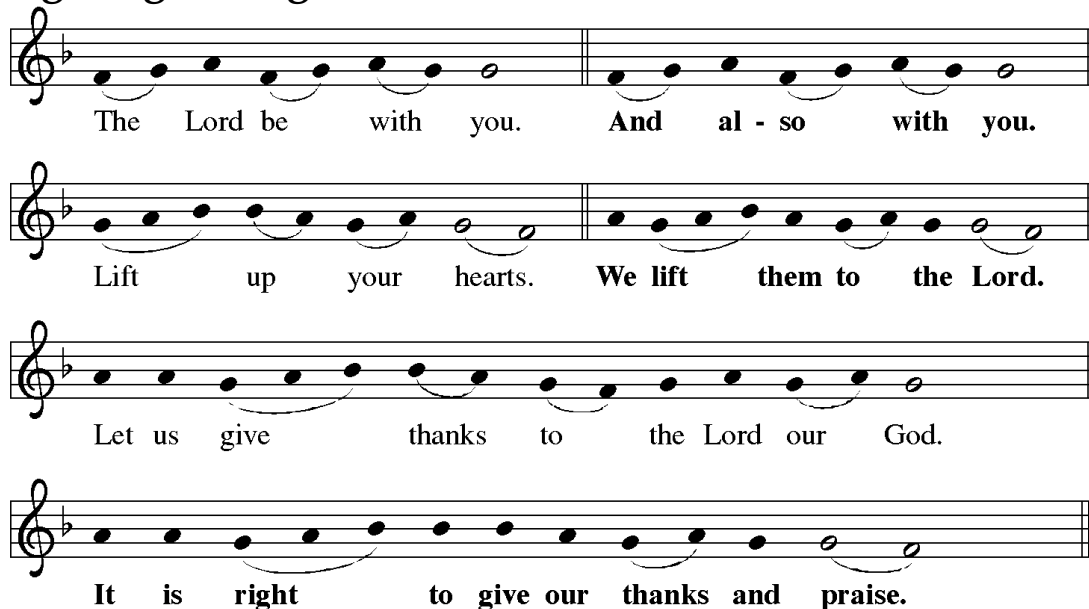
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
And also with you.

## 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.

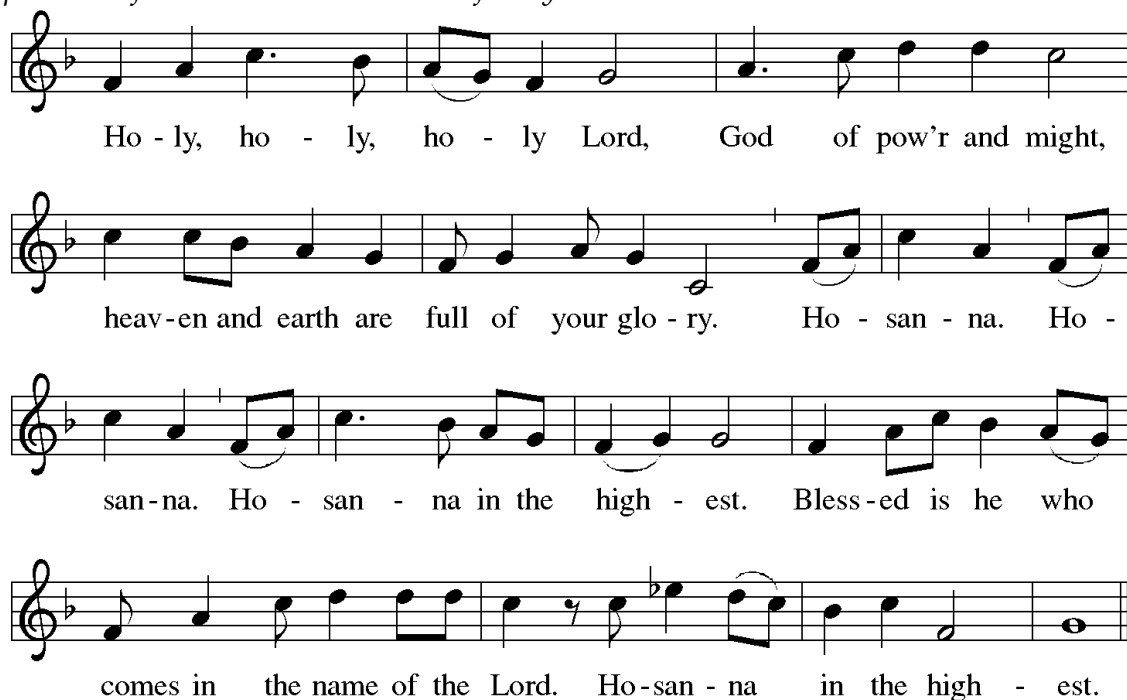
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### Beneath the Cross of Jesus (ELW 338)



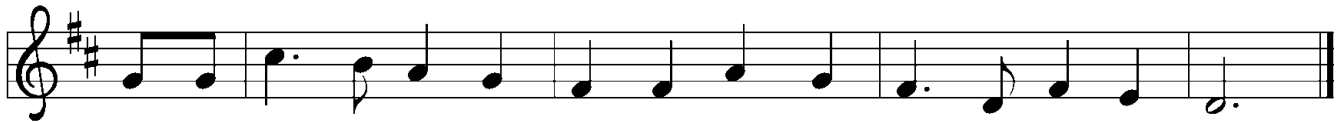
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;  
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.  
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869

Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

## 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

## 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.

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.

## 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.**