

First Lutheran Church

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512-392-2064

www.flcsm.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

March 8, 2026: Lent 3

Stay

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

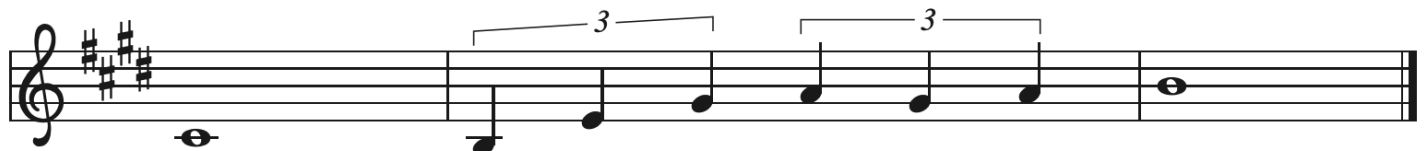
Come to the Water of Life (ACS 955)



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever

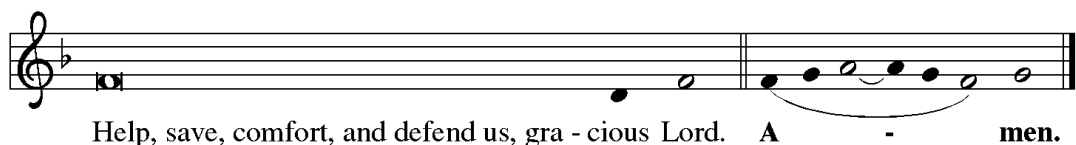
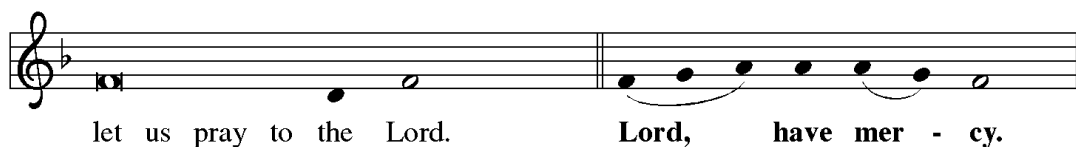
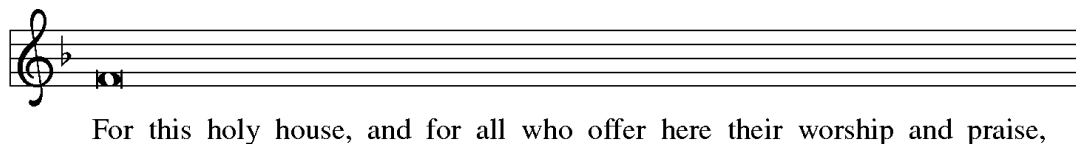
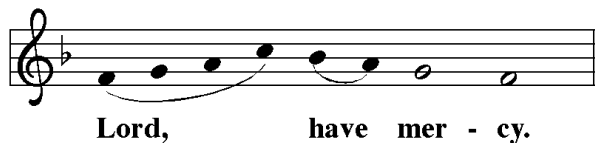
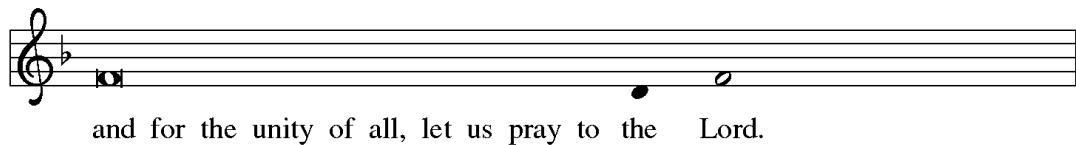
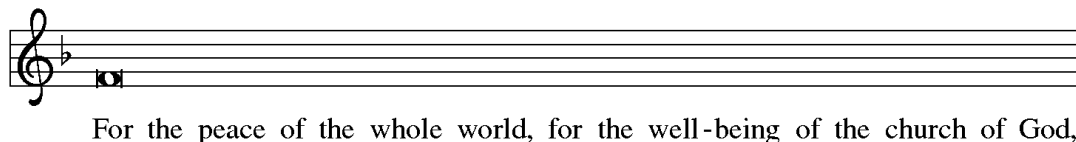
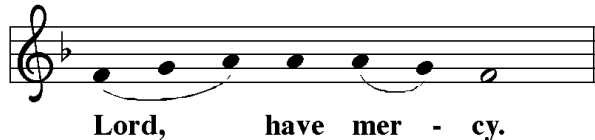
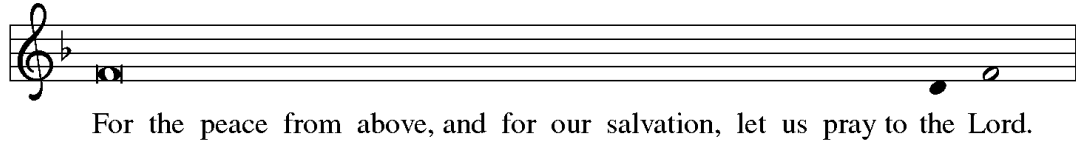
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Kyrie

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.



Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

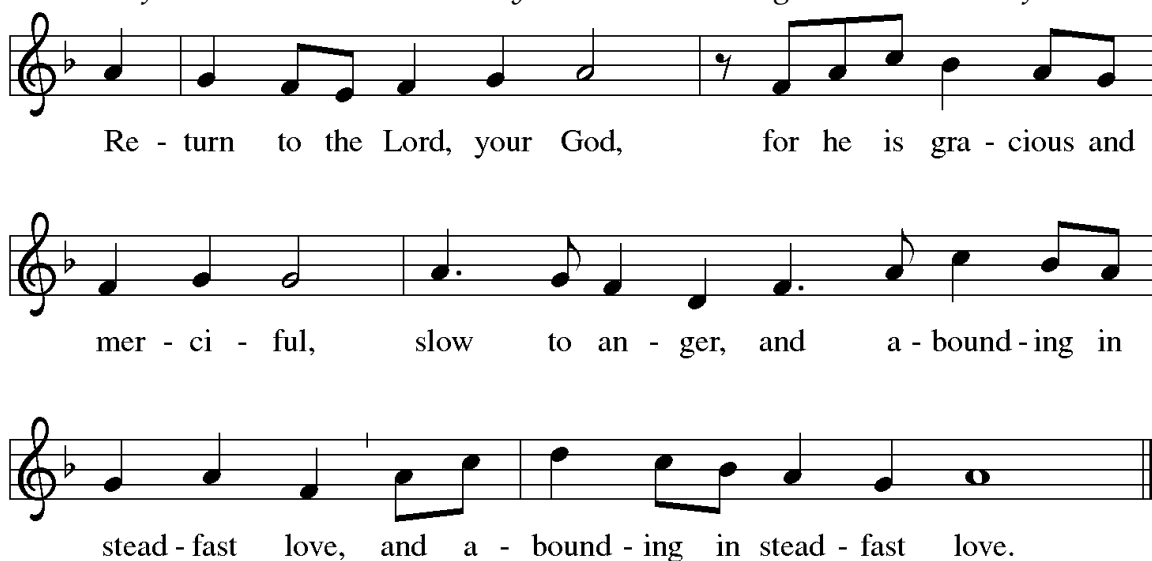
⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The

woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (ELW 611)



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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

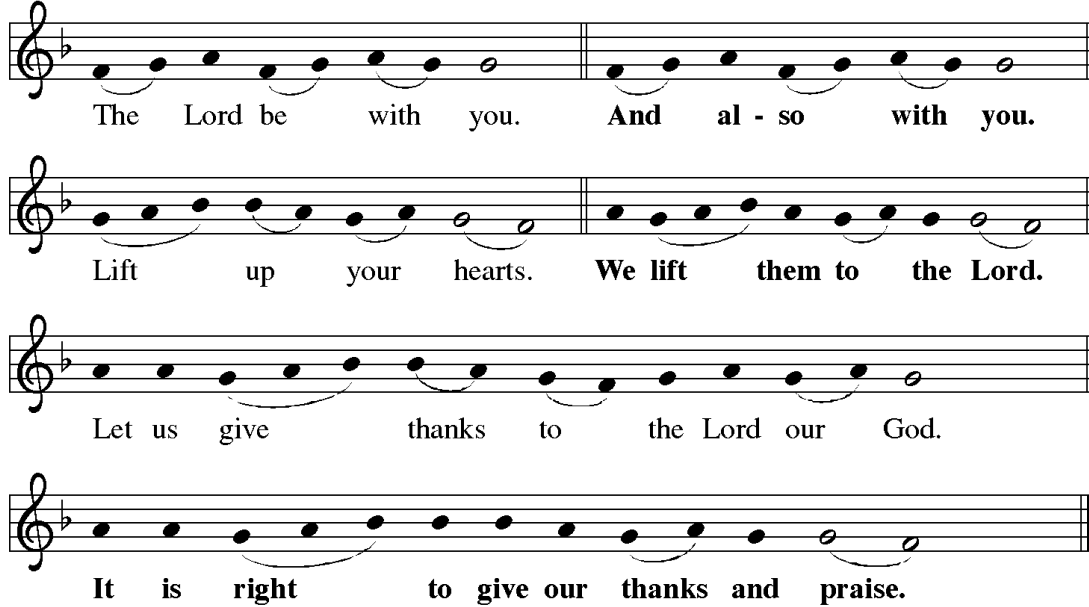
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Anthem: Untitled Hymn

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.

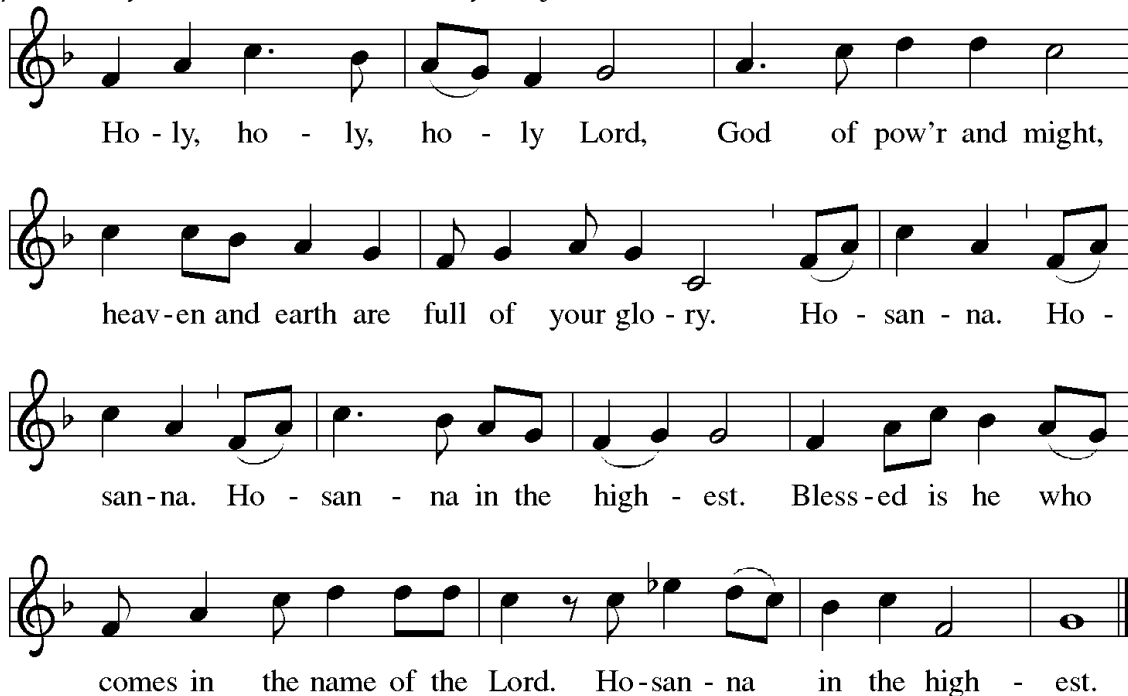
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

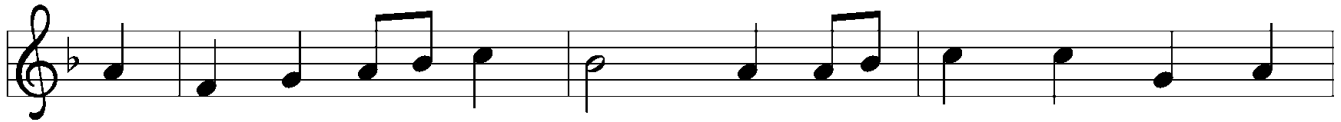
Lamb Of God

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.

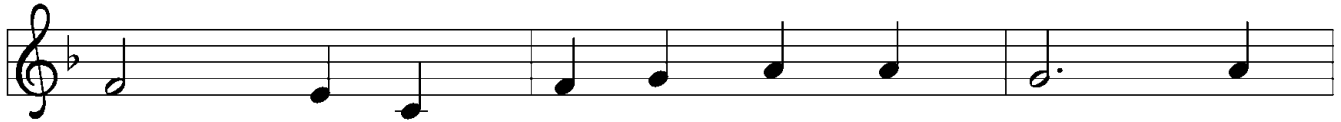
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Song

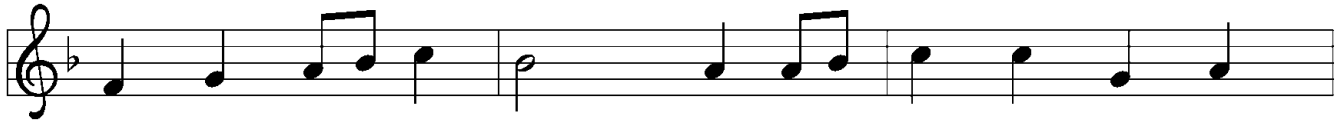
O Bread of Life from Heaven (ELW 480)



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2
Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517

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

As Rivers Flow from a Distant Spring (ACS 1046)



1 As riv - ers flow from a dis - tant spring
2 As trees rise up from the for - est floor
3 As woods make shel - ter with - in its shade
4 So let us praise you, Cre - a - tor God,



to quench our thirst and feed the earth,
by roots that feed each limb a - bove,
for beasts to feed and birds to nest,
for worlds that wit - ness to your care,



so let our lives flow from you, our Source,
so let our lives rise in praise to you
so let our lives be a shel - tered space,
that show your pres - ence in ev - 'ry place,



to coun - ter death and nur - ture birth.
from hearts we root in your deep love.
a ref - uge for the worn to rest.
your glo - ry shin - ing ev - 'ry - where.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: HÖKELUND, William Beckstrand, b. 1962

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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

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:

Hardin - profrahe@yahoo.com Glenda -gsjrahe@gmail.com

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.
To be added to our contact list,
scan the QR code and fill out our connection card:

