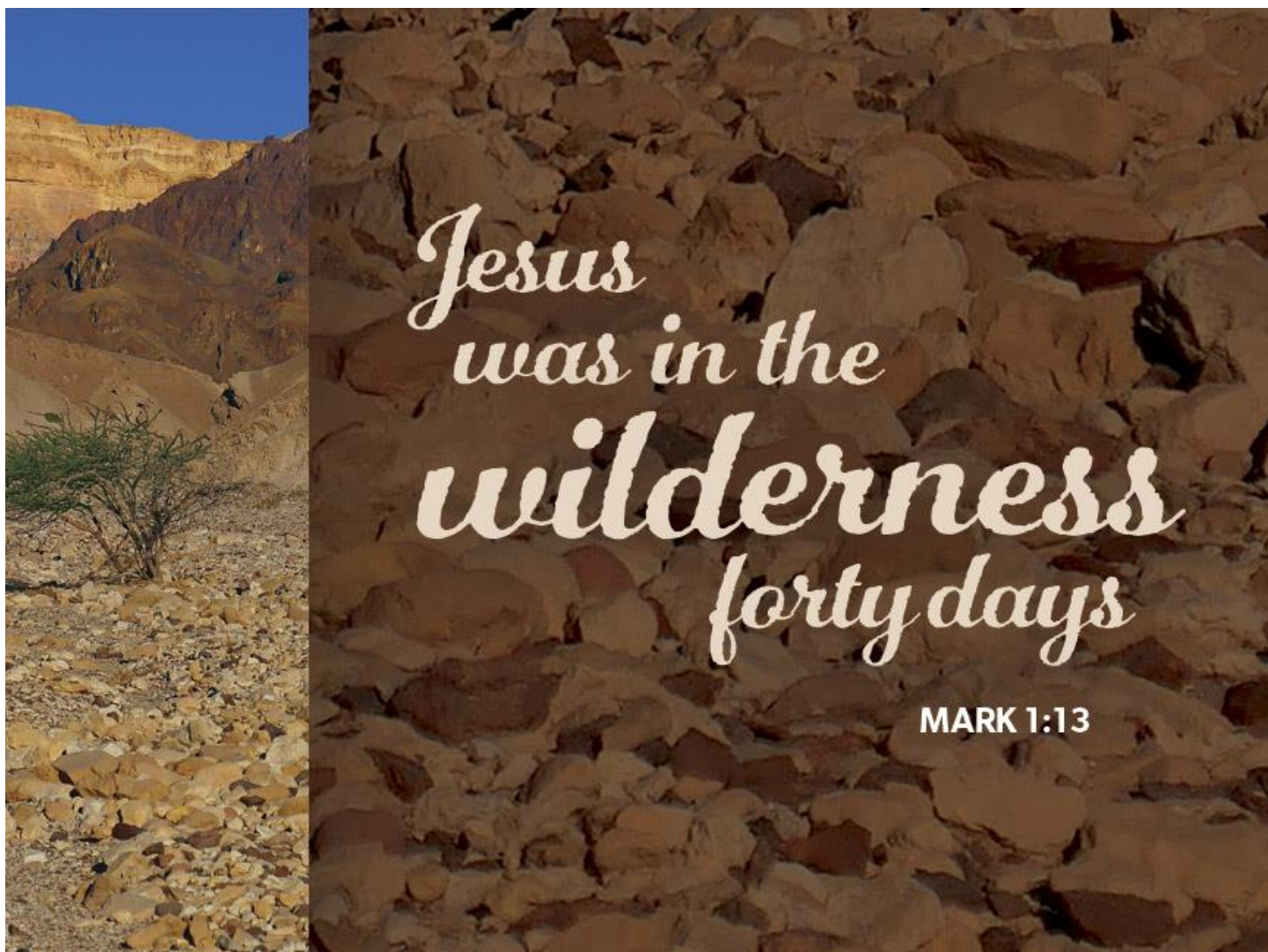


**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**SUNDAY February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



***WELCOME,***  
**to our Church Family.**  
*We're Glad You're Here!*



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

### *You are welcome at the table!*

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

### **Altar Flowers**

The **Altar Flowers** were given today by Gladys Zepp in honor of all February birthdays

### **Today's Worship Theme**

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Genesis 9:8-17**

*The rainbow, sign of God's covenant*

#### **Psalm 25:1-10**

Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness. (*Ps. 25:10*)

#### **1 Peter 3:18-22**

*Saved through water*

#### **Mark 1:9-15**

*The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

**Today's Hymns from The Tower**  
**The Westminster Strike**  
**Welcome and Announcements**

Church Carillon

**PRELUDE**

Give Me Jesus

arr. Marques L.A. Garrett (b. 1984)

**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 writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

O Love, How Deep

ELW 322

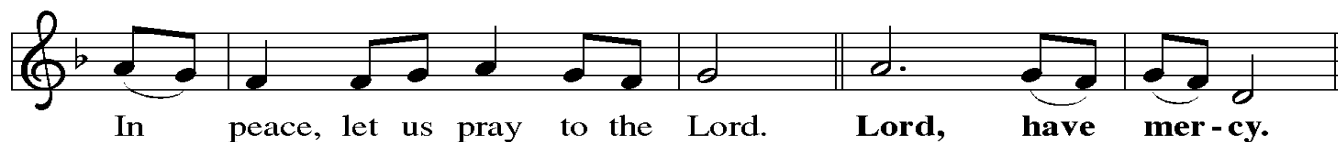
(vs. 1-4)

**GREETING**

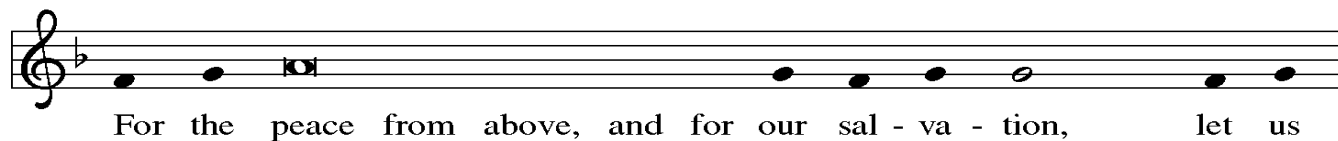
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie



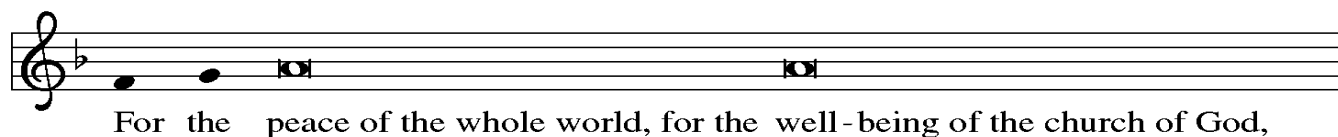
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**




For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



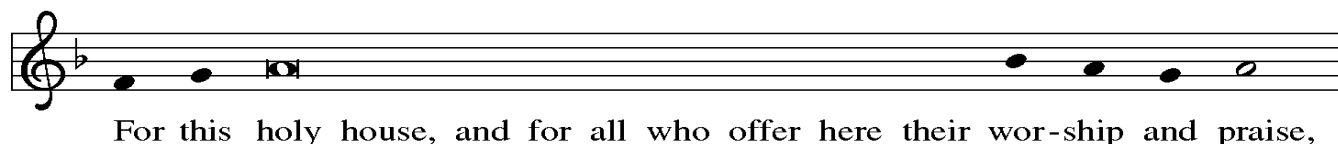
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



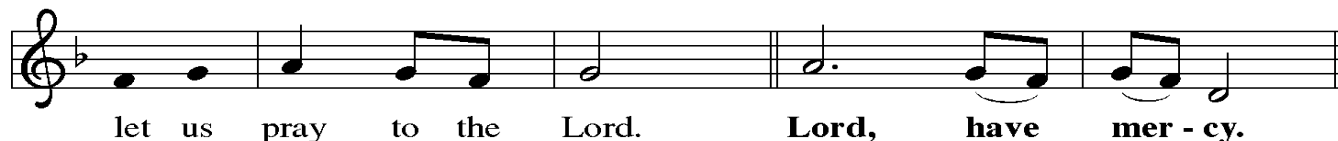
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



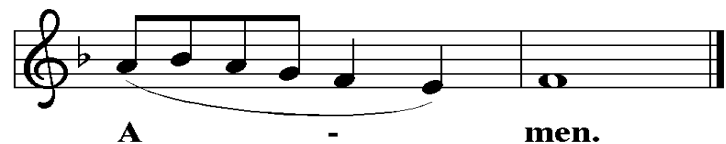
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup>God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10



Your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithful-ness.

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compas-<sup>1</sup> sion and love,  
for they are from<sup>1</sup> everlasting.**

**<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and<sup>1</sup> my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-<sup>1</sup> ness,**

O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and up-<sup>1</sup> right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners<sup>1</sup> in your way. R**

**<sup>9</sup>You lead the low-<sup>1</sup> ly in justice  
and teach the low-<sup>1</sup> ly your way.**

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast<sup>1</sup> love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your<sup>1</sup> testimonies. R**

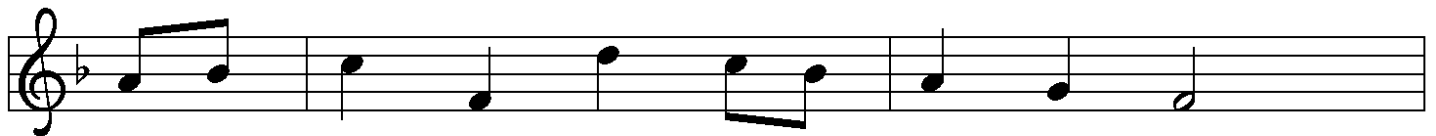
## Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

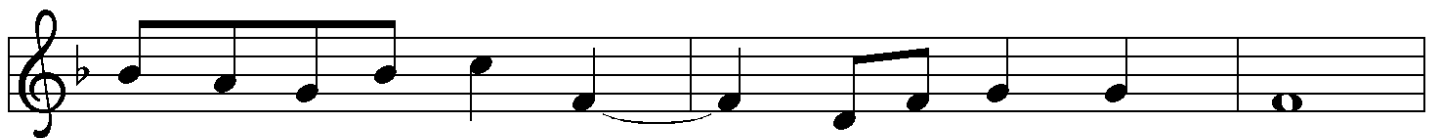
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

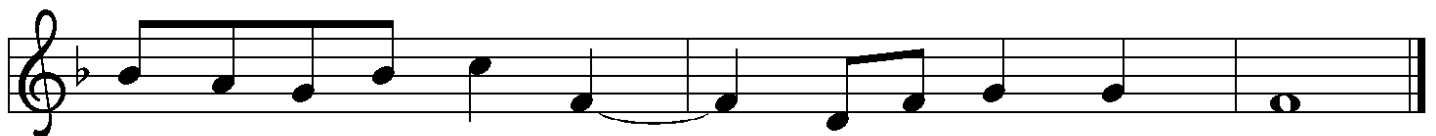
## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

ELW 517

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem**

**Lead Gently, Lord**  
Chancel Choir

**Clif Cason (b. 1955)**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

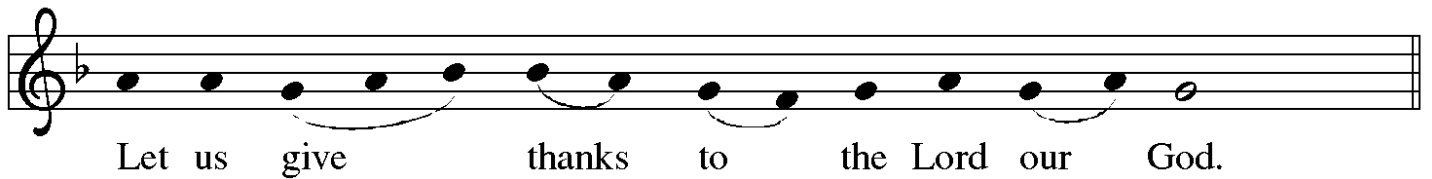
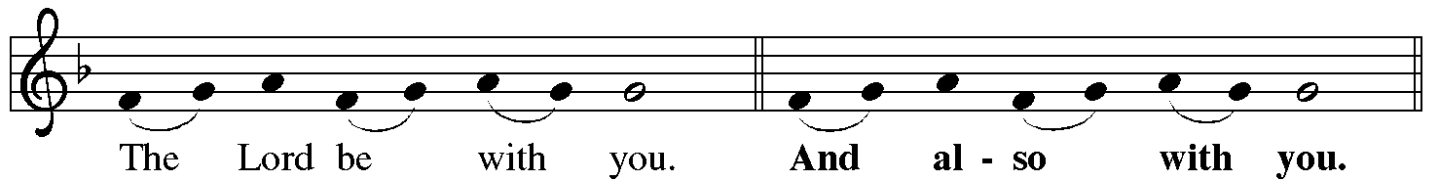
Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

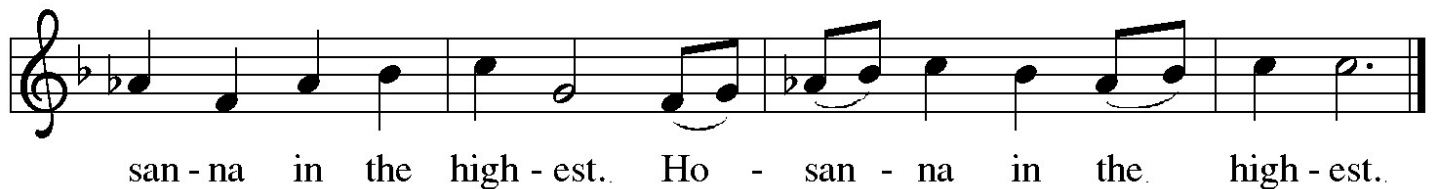
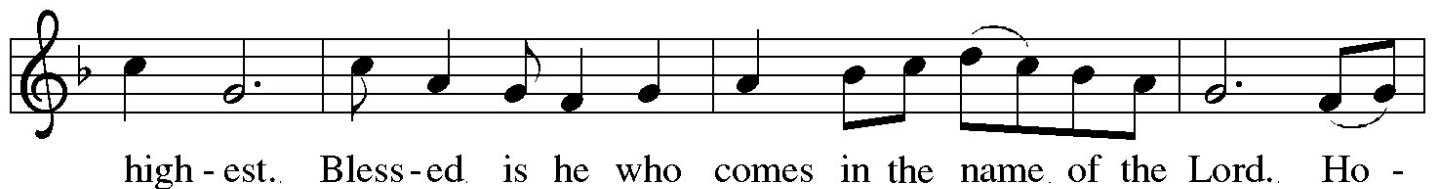
**Amen.**



## GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

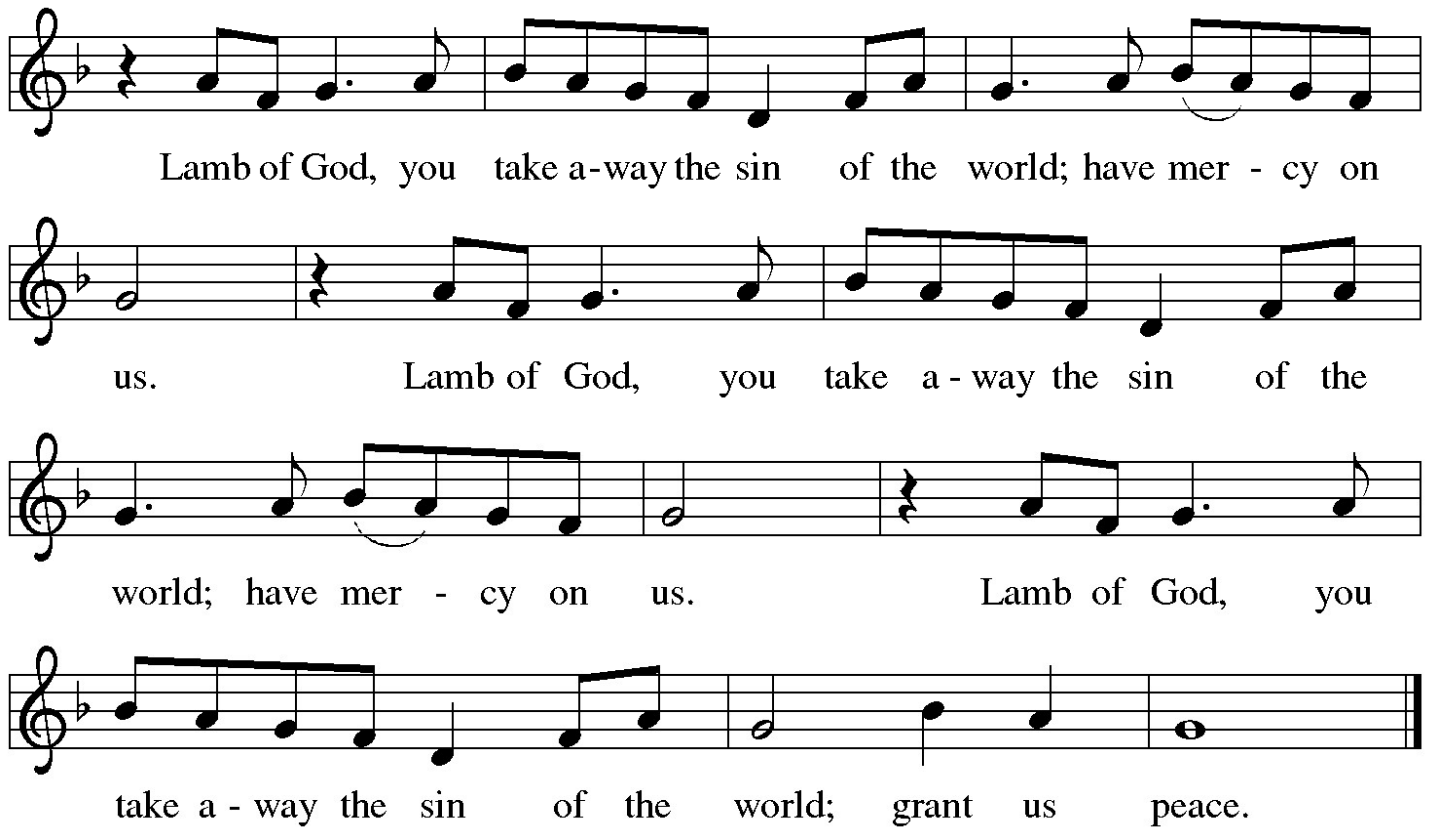
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!



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 HYMN**

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress

ELW 504

## **BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:**           UBI CARITAS (Where there is charity, and love, there is God)  
Norah Duncan IV (b. 1952)

## **In our prayers today we will remember**

*Barb and Tom Hamilton, Dave Paul, Eleanor Grunden, Lyn Delon-Fellonsteps, Mary Hardesty, Pat Adams, Linda Shaffer, Chris Collard, Chrissy Sturtz, and Carol Rohr, Mary Gainer, and Linda & Will Vandevander.*

## **Music Notes**

In honor of Black History Month, our service music will feature texts and compositions by Black composers.

A Virginia native, Dr. Marques L. A. Garrett is Associate Professor of Choral Studies at the University of North Texas. He holds a PhD in Music Education (Choral Conducting) from Florida State University, an MM from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a BA from Hampton University. An active conductor, Dr. Garrett is the founding conductor of the Nebraska Festival Singers and previously served as artistic director of the Omaha Symphonic Chorus. A versatile voice that performs both as a baritone and countertenor, Dr. Garrett has sung with several community, church, and university groups as both a chorister and soloist (including with Tom Trenney and the choir of First-Plymouth, who visited us last fall!). Dr. Garrett is an avid composer of choral and solo-vocal music, and today's prelude is a transcription of his choral anthem.

Today's anthem uses the text of the African-American poet Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906). Paul Laurence Dunbar was born in Dayton, Ohio, to two formerly enslaved people from Kentucky and became one of the first influential Black poets in American literature. He was internationally acclaimed for his dialect verse in collections such as *Majors and Minors* (Hadley & Hadley, 1895) and *Lyrics of Lowly Life* (Dodd, Mead and Company, 1896). The dialect poems constitute only a small portion of Dunbar's canon, which is replete with novels, short stories, essays, and many poems. In its entirety, Dunbar's literary body is regarded as an impressive representation of Black life in the turn-of-the-century United States, and his texts has been used in more than 200 musical settings.

"Lead gently, Lord, and slow, For oh, my steps are weak, And ever as I go, Some soothing sentence speak; That I may turn my face Through doubt's obscurity toward thine abiding-place, E'en tho' I cannot see. For lo, the way is dark; Through mist and cloud I grope, Save for that fitful spark, The little flame of hope. Lead gently, Lord, and slow, For fear that I may fall; I know not where to go Unless I hear thy call. My fainting soul doth yearn For thy green hills afar; So let thy mercy burn--My greater, guiding star!"

Dr. Norah Duncan IV is a professor, and former Chair of the Department of Music, at Wayne State University. Duncan received an undergraduate degree from the University of Detroit, a Master of Music degree from Wayne State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan. He has performed extensively in both the United States, Europe, and Australia and served as music director for the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Detroit) from 1980 to 2007. He was director of music for the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit in 1987. Because of his interest in Gregorian Chant, with the Benedictine Monastery in Solesmes, France, he established the Gregorian Institute of Detroit for the study of chant music. Dr. Duncan was a member of both the editorial and advisory committees for the revision of *Lead Me, Guide Me*, the African American Catholic Hymnal. Several of his compositions are included in this hymnal.

## **Chancel Choir Practice, every Wednesday**

**7:00 pm**

## **Bell Choir**

**6:00 pm**

Handbell ensemble will rehearsal February 21, 28, March 6, and 13 from 6:00-6:50 in preparation to play in worship on March 17. We need ringers to have an ensemble, so please consider making this short-term commitment to enrich worship through ringing!

## **Capital Campaign Report**

<b>Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$337,000</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$239,109</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$ 1,706</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 66,185</b>

## **Adult Sunday School Getting Ready for Easter**

What is a spiritual discipline? During this series of lessons, we'll explore spiritual disciplines that help get us ready for Easter, for resurrection, including our own. What is the place in our daily Christian lives for such practices as meditation, fasting, simplicity, and submission? And is there joy in this preparation, these disciplines? The answer is a resounding *yes!* Please join us as we meet each Sunday for Bible study and fellowship at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study: *Wrestling With Doubt* by Adam Hamilton 10:00 am**

Struggling with uncertainties on your spiritual journey? Whether a longtime Christian or someone brand new to the faith, get to know the God who is unafraid of hard questions. Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord!

## **Download the St Paul's Phone APP**

**Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.**

**Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.**

**Then click on the St Paul's logo, that's it.**

**To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, see the church calendar, and you can even give electronically.**



## Lenten Services

### Wednesday Community Lenten Service

Soup Supper 5:30

Worship 6:30

February 21 <sup>st</sup>	St. Paul's Lutheran
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Grace UCC
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Central Presbyterian
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	St. Timothy's Episcopal
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	First Baptist

### Holy Week at St. Paul's Lutheran

Palm Sunday	March 24, 10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday	March 28, 7:00 PM
Community Stations of the Cross (St Mary's Roman Catholic)	March 29, 12:00 noon
Good Friday	March 29, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise	March 31, 7:30 AM
Easter Morning	March 31, 10:00 AM

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<b>GATHERING HYMN</b>	O Love, How Deep	ELW 322
Public Domain		

<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b>	Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word	ELW 517
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<b>COMMUNION HYMN</b>	I Want Jesus to Walk With Me	ELW 325
Public Domain		

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	A Mighty Fortress	ELW 504
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## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Scott Larson</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Sue Reid</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers &amp; David Stoner</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Craig Maurer</b>
<b>Sacristy</b>	<b>Lynda Klein</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>John &amp; Linda Litman, Carol Marlow, Mark Waltz</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

## **Connections with Creation**

Water. Wilderness. Good news. That's the narrative flow of both Jesus' calling into ministry and Noah's deliverance from the flood. After an experience with water, each character enters a wilderness (one of desert, another of ocean) for forty days, then emerges into a gospel future. For Noah, it's the rainbow, the covenantal sign with all creation that God intends life, not death. For Jesus, it's the annunciation of heaven's reign come near. Waters can bring both birth and death. The wilderness can be both gorgeous and vicious. Yet through encounters with both, God brings new life and new promise. Consider the waters and wildernesses of your community and investigate how God might be bringing good news to all through those who journey through them.



# Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad:  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.  
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

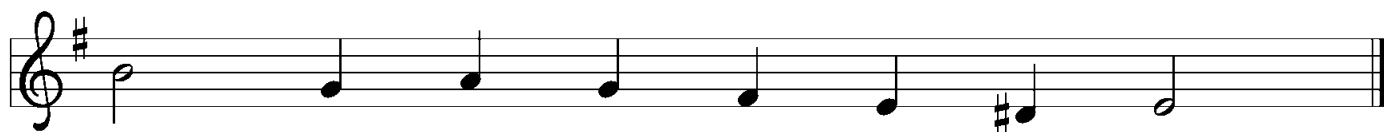
## Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



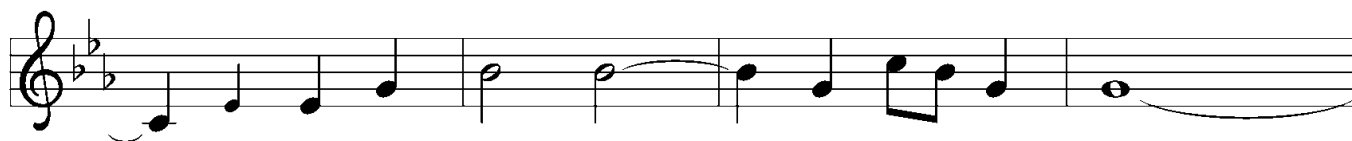
and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

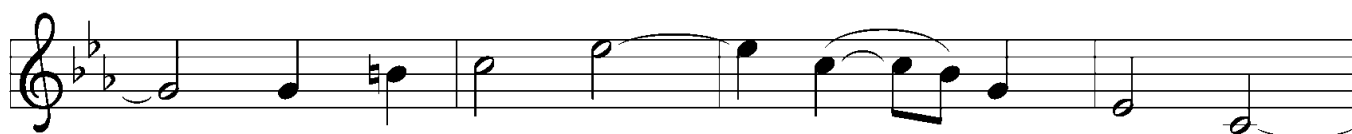
# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



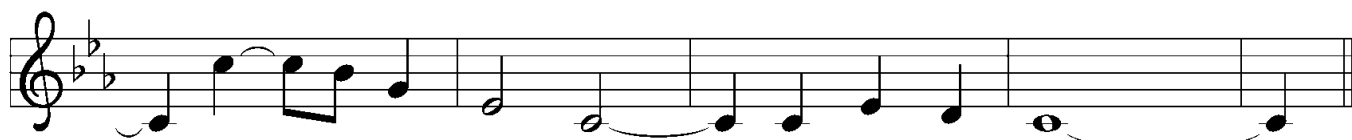
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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