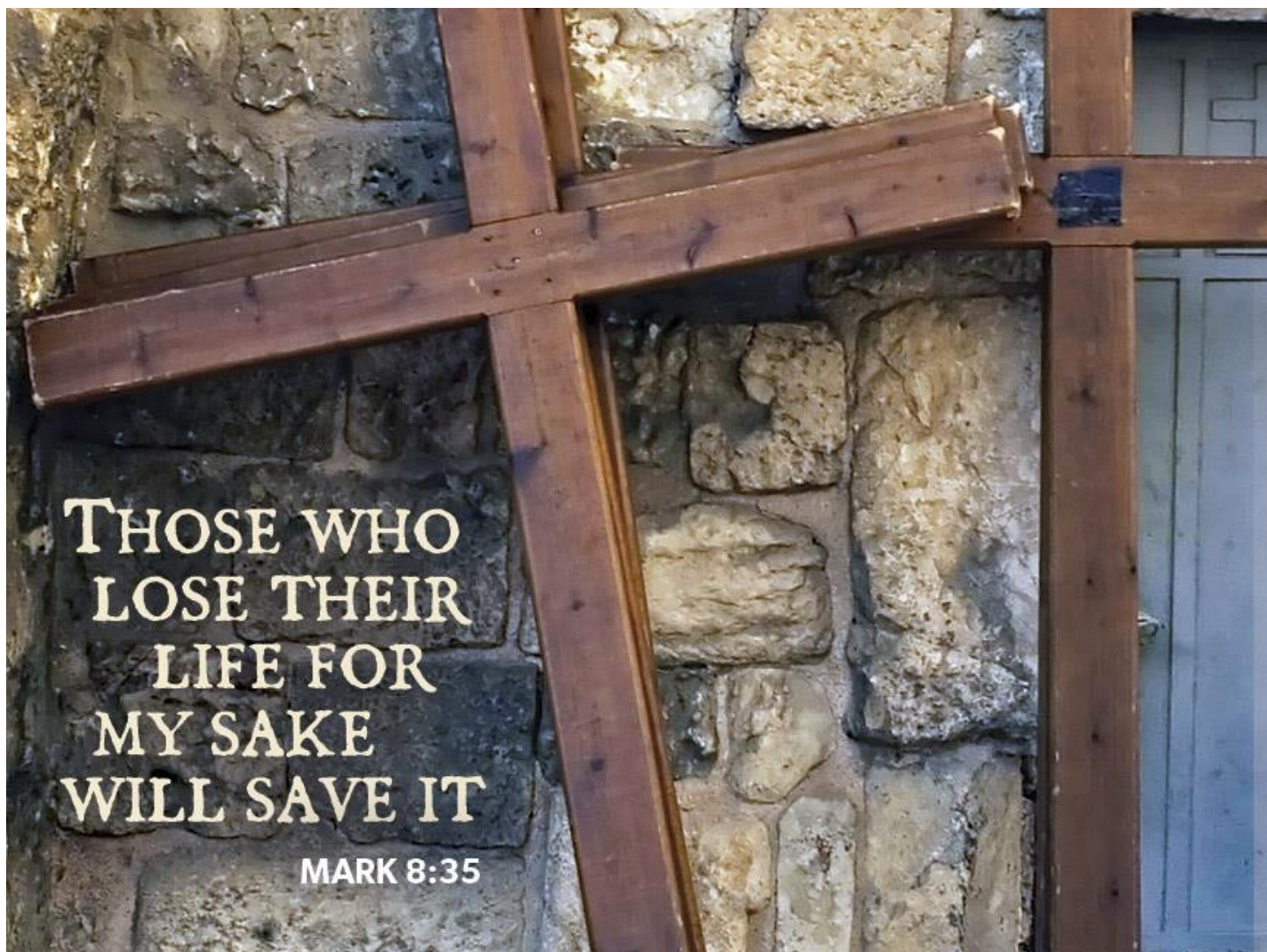


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wednesday, February 21st, 2024



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.

Images in the Readings

The most ancient **cross** that we have found in Christian art is a small ivory carving on the side of a box from the late fourth century. When execution by crucifixion was commonplace in the Roman Empire, Christians were understandably horrified by the cross, and only after the emperor Constantine outlawed crucifixions could Christians adopt the cross as a symbol of God's grace.

Ancient Israel had no sense of an afterlife. Rather, a successful patrilineal line constituted the continuation of one's life after death. Thus the biblical desire for a **son** exemplifies the perennial desire to overcome one's termination at death. (Yet in a biblical corrective to rigid patriarchy, none of the important sons in the Old Testament, from Seth to Solomon, was a firstborn: thus oftentimes the ideal of primogeniture did not actually determine inheritance.) Calling Jesus the Son of God arises from within this patrilineal worldview. As the Son of God, Christ Jesus is our way beyond death.

The usual translation "**God Almighty**" obscures the archaic image of God as residing above the mountain peaks or as nourishing the people with milk-filled breasts. The circumlocution **Lord** also obscures the non-gendered Hebrew "I AM." The God who promises us life from the cross is bigger than our language suggests.

Paul's language of justification assumes that God is a **judge** who requires of us a life of righteousness. That justification comes through faith does not eliminate the necessity for such a radical reorientation of the self before God.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Job 38: 1-7 (34-41)

¹Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,
I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements — surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

³⁴"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,
so that a flood of waters may cover you?

³⁵Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go
and say to you, 'Here we are'?

³⁶Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,
or given understanding to the mind?

³⁷Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?
Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

³⁸when the dust runs into a mass
and the clods cling together?

³⁹"Can you hunt the prey for the lion,
or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

⁴⁰when they crouch in their dens,
or lie in wait in their covert?

⁴¹Who provides for the raven its prey,
when its young ones cry to God,
and wander about for lack of food?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Jeff Shultz

HYMN OF THE DAY

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

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

O Lamb of God
Chancel Choir

Richard Shepherd (1949-2021)

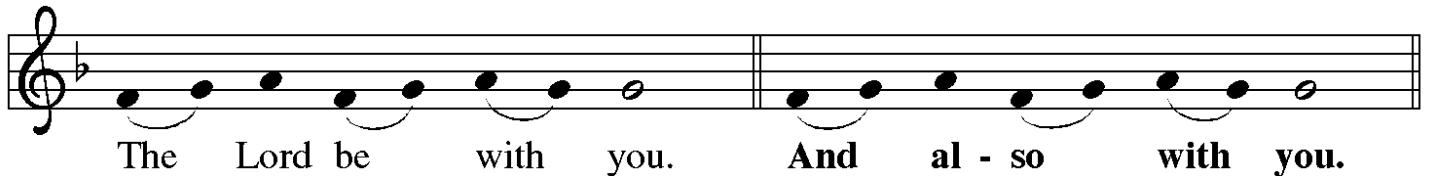
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

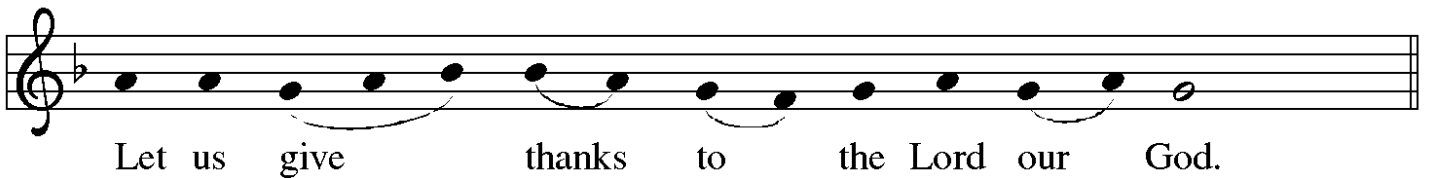
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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

O Father, We Have Wandered

ELW 606

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:

O Lamb of God Most Holy

Robert Lau (b. 1943)

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, a 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.

In our prayers today we will remember

Barb and Tom Hamilton, Paula Kritzer, 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.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Preaching	Rev Jeff Shultz
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

Cathedral Concert Series



Hector Olivera, Organist **Sunday, March 10th 5:00 pm**

We are looking forward to our first concert of the year, on Sunday, March 10 at 5:00 PM, when Maestro Hector Olivera joins us in concert on our beautiful Schantz organ! We hope you will join us and invite your friends to join us too!

The University of Akron Choirs **March 17th 4:00 pm** **Reflections of Reverence**

Performing selections of *Handel's Messiah*, *Vaughan Willian's Five Mystical Songs*, *Shaw's To The Hands*, and more



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 st	St. Paul's Lutheran
February 28 th	Grace UCC
March 6 th	Central Presbyterian
March 13 th	St. Timothy's Episcopal
March 20 th	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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GATHERING HYMN Public Domain	O Love, How Deep	ELW 322
HYMN OF THE DAY Public Domain	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	ELW 326
COMMUNION HYMN Public Domain	I Want Jesus to Walk With Me	ELW 325
SENDING HYMN Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-734490. All rights reserved	O Father, We Have Wandered	ELW 606

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.

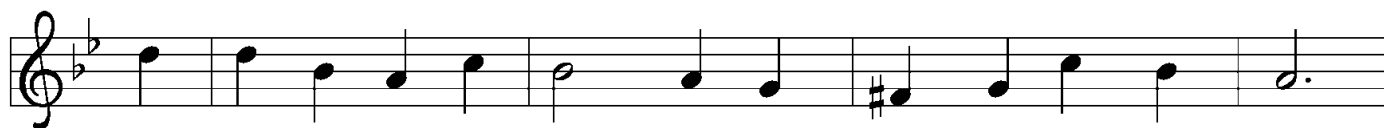
Bless Now, O God, the Journey



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

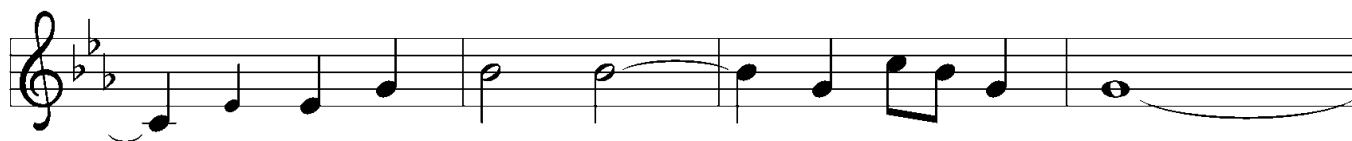
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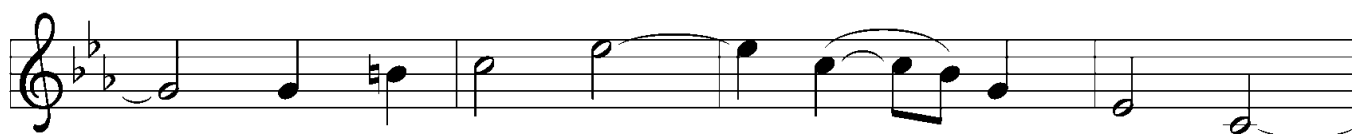
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



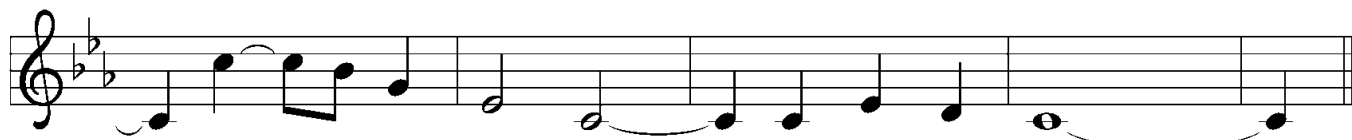
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



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

Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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