# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church SUNDAY March 3<sup>rd</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 Jennifer & Craig Maurer in memory of Wilma Maurer.

# **Today's Worship Theme**

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

#### **Readings and Psalm**

**Exodus 20:1-17** 

The commandments are given at Sinai

**Psalm 19** 

The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

**1 Corinthians 1:18-25** 

Christ crucified, the wisdom of God

John 2:13-22

The cleansing of the temple

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

Church Carillon

PRELUDE

Love Eleanor Manes, steelpan drum

Liam Teague (b. 1975)

### **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,  $\pm$  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**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation ELW 645

#### **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.



men.

A

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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: Exodus 20:1-17

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

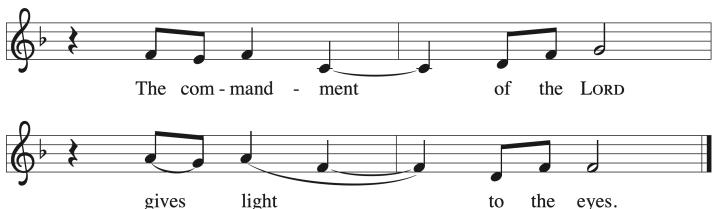
<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm: Psalm 19



<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale | to another,

and one night imparts knowledge | to another.

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no | words or language, and their voices | are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends | of the world,

where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of | it again;

# nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. R

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-| vives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and re-| joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is | great reward.

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's | own offenses?

Cleanse me from my | secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. R

# **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

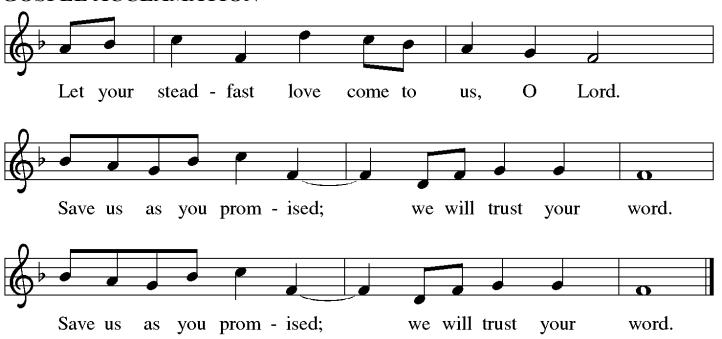
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

# Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### GOSPEL: John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.** 

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

**SERMON** Rev. Mark Kreemer

**HYMN OF THE DAY** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW 803

#### **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,

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.

and his kingdom will have no end.

Your mercy is great.

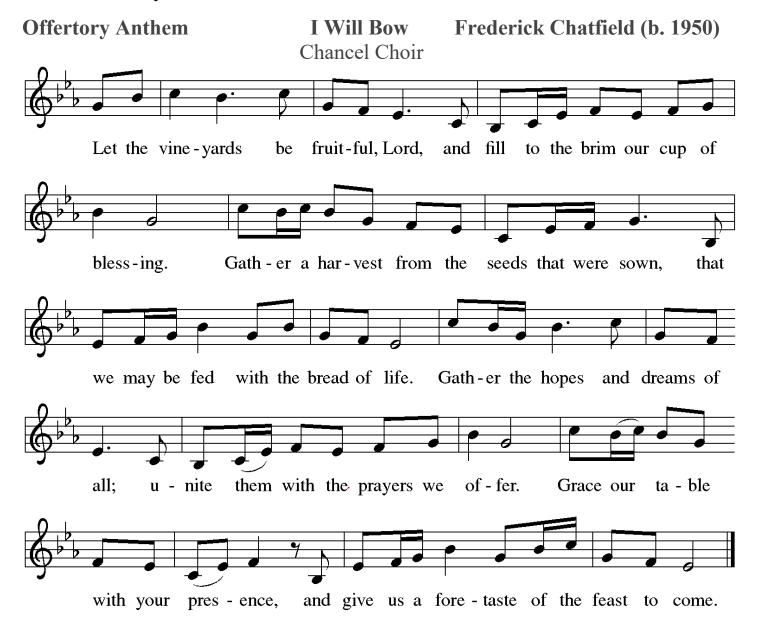
Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

## And also with you.



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

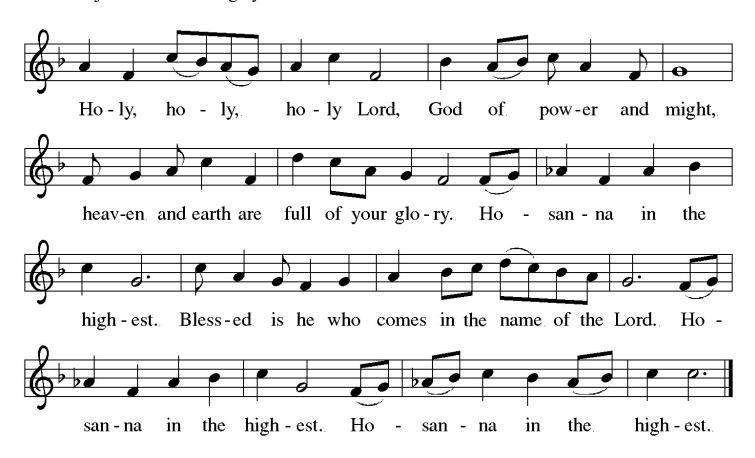
Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

#### 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**

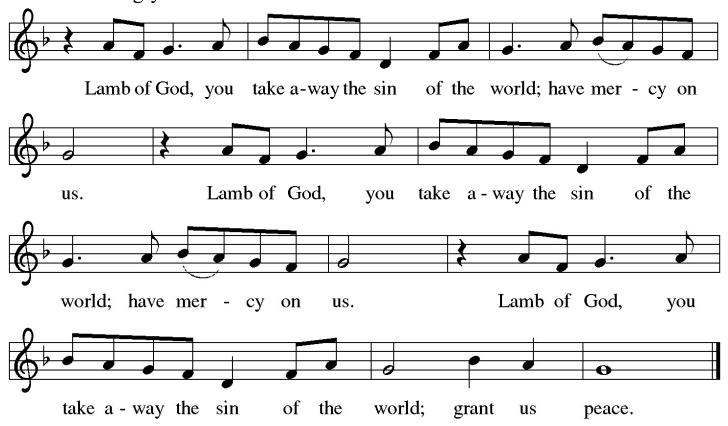
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

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!



**COMMUNION HYMN** In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324

#### 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** 

God of Grace and God of Glory

**ELW 705** 

#### **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  $\pm$  give you peace.

Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:** Prelude in D minor, Op. 16, No. 3

Clara Schumann (1819-1896)

# In our prayers today we will remember

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

#### **Music Notes**

March is Women's History Month, and today's music features music performed and written by women.

Eleanor Manes is a percussionist, vocalist, and composer from the Akron/Canton area. She graduated from the University of Akron in 2021 with a degree in Percussion Performance. During her time there, she won the Tuesday Musical Scholarship Competition, taught in Jamaica through the Jamaica Field Service Project, and published a paper on steelpan pedagogy. Since then, she has been teaching privately and performing at JCC Shaw of Akron and with the choirs of St. Paul's Lutheran, Westminster Presbyterian, and the Canton Symphony Orchestra.

Clara Schumann was unusual among nineteen-century women in being trained from childhood for a musical profession, but typical in that her career was severely limited by domestic demands. Clara married the composer Robert Schumann, and, for a time, her composing, piano practice, and performing were overshadowed by her domestic duties as a wife and mother of eight children. After Robert's death in 1856, she revived her performing career to increase her income as a single parent to their seven surviving children, and in 1878, she became the piano professor at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt. She composed a large body of music for piano, chamber groups, choirs, and solo voice. Although her Prelude in D minor was designated for piano solo, its sustained pedal points and large stretches suggest it is likely that she also had in mind performance on the organ.

# Chancel Choir Practice, every Wednesday 7:00 pm

# Bell Choir 6:00 pm

Handbell ensemble will rehearse February 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>	\$337,000
Funds raised	\$239,109
Interest	<b>\$ 1,706</b>
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$ 30,000
Remaining funds	\$ 66,185
to be raised	



# Cathedral Concert Series Hector Olivera, Organist Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 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 will join 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 is 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: John: The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton 10:00 am

This Lent, join Adam Hamilton and experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of John. Along with Hamilton's comments, this book includes the entire text of the Gospel of John (CEB), divided into six parts for ease of reading and study. Topics are:

- 1. The Word Made Flesh
- 2. The Miraculous Signs of Jesus
- 3. The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus
- 4. The Farewell Discourse
- 5. The Arrest, Trial, and Crucifixion of the King
- 6. Eternal Life



We invite you to **study**, **pray**, **reflect**, and **give** with us during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — for our families, our neighbors, and communities around the world.

These 40 days are a season to reflect and remember, to look forward and ahead. These are not easy times for many of us. We know the challenges our world faces. Yet the season of Lent reminds us that God is not yet through with us or our world. Amid our own dependence on God, we know by faith that God is even now at work, drawing us toward the resurrection and restoration of the world.

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving invites us to be part of that work and to bear witness to it with partners, companions, friends, and neighbors. Will you join us? Pick up your coin banks at the entrance to the sanctuary and return them on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

# **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

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 March 29, 12:00 noon

(St Mary's Roman Catholic)

Good Friday March 29, 7:00 PM
Easter Sunrise March 31, 7:30 AM
Easter Morning March 31, 10:00 AM

# Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:

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**HYMN OF THE DAY** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross ELW803 Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

**COMMUNION HYMN** In the Cross of Christ I Glory ELW 324

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**SENDING HYMN** God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705

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# Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

Lector Rev. Lynn Williamson

Assisting Minister Andrew Lang

Communion Assistants Cindy Lash & Scott Larson

Greeter Sue Ambrosic

Sacristy Sue Ambrosic

Ushers Gary Collard, Chris Hall,

Shane Jackson, Craig Maurer

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

# Clearing a Path to Worship

In the gospel for today, Jesus discovers that the temple has been turned from a place of worship into a marketplace. The predominance of the selling of animals and the exchanging of money for profit overshadow what is supposed to be the main activity in the temple, worshiping God. The vendors and moneychangers seem to be more interested in serving their own interests and greedily filling their purses with coins than in serving God and God's people. Instead of helping people worship God, they are getting in the way. The commercialization of worship means that those who cannot afford the costs are unable to offer their worship to God, and money becomes a god more valued than the God to whom the temple was dedicated.

Jesus finds this situation unacceptable. The first commandment clearly states, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exod. 20:3). Jesus will not allow anything, especially money, to be given more devotion than God. In addition, Jesus' purpose in coming to earth was to take away the barriers between humans and God, so that all people might be reconciled to God through him.

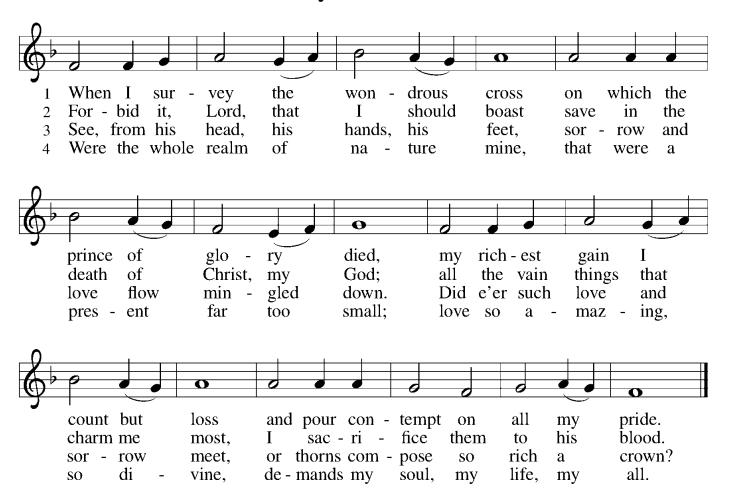
John's gospel is unique among the four gospels in that it places the story of Jesus clearing the temple at the beginning, rather than the end, of Jesus' ministry. This placement shows how John's gospel emphasizes that Jesus has come to replace the temple. No longer will God's presence be confined to a place, the temple, but instead, God's presence is now embodied in the person of Jesus. Jesus welcomes all to him and erects no barriers or limits on who can be his follower.

# Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

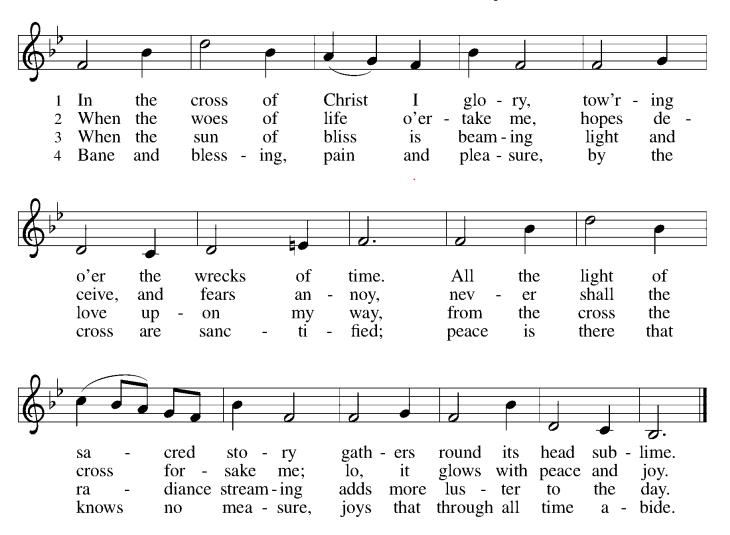
# When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# In the Cross of Christ I Glory



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

# God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932