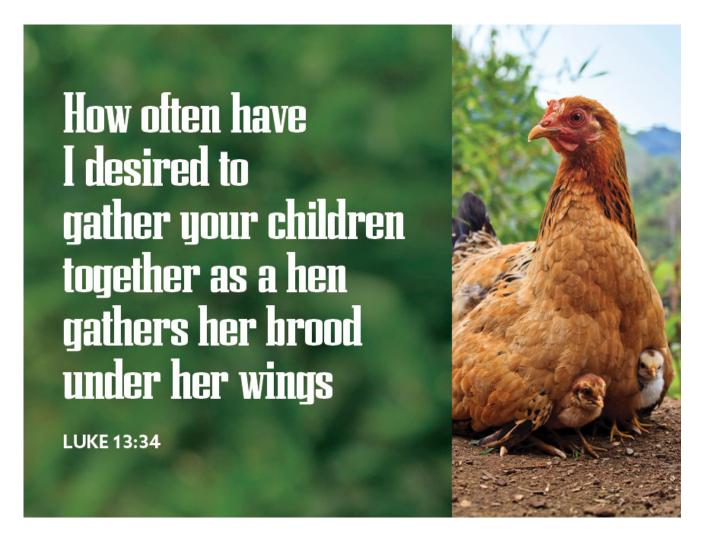
## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# WELCOME

To our **Church Family** 

We're Glad You're Here!

1

#### 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 Kathy & Bryan Corbin in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The **Throne Flowers** were given today by Carol Stoner in memory of her mother's birthday.

#### Introduction

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

#### Readings and Psalm

#### Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The covenant with Abram and his descendants

#### Psalm 27

In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)

#### **Philippians 3:17—4:1**

Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior

#### **Luke 13:31-35**

I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood

#### In our prayers today we will remember

Jason Loveday, Kathryn Sheets, Darlene Lewis, Betty Scot, Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Dan Lint, the family of Rich Sadler, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts, Richard Green, and David Fox.

#### The Westminster Strike

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier (Dearest Jesus, We Are Here) Emily Maxson Porter (b. 1942)

#### **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 forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

**GATHERING SONG** My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ELW 596

#### GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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**



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 27



In the day of trou - ble,

God will give me shel - ter.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God  $^{\rm I}$  in the temple. R

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- on a rock.

<sup>6</sup> Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music  $^{\mid}$  to the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

<sup>8</sup> My heart speaks your message—| "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek. R

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

10 Though my father and my moth- er forsake me,

the LORD will | take me in.

11 Teach me your | way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> Subject me not to the will | of my foes,

for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD in the land | of the living!

<sup>14</sup> Wait for the LORD | and be strong.

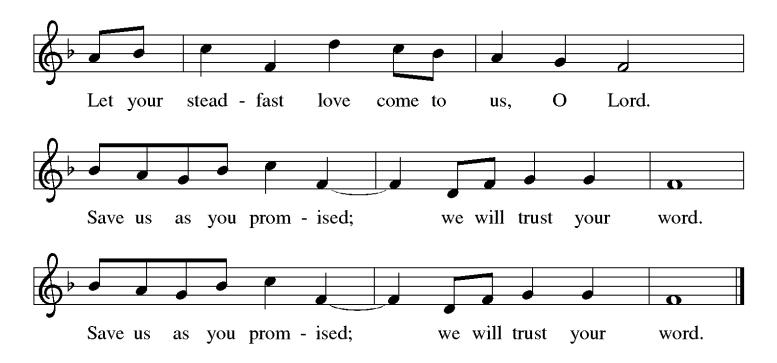
Take heart and wait | for the LORD! R

#### Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my broth The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



#### **GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON** Rev. Mark Kreemer

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Lord, Christ When You First Came to Earth ELW 727

#### **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 and became truly human

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

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition the following response is given

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

<sup>\*</sup>Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

#### **PEACE**

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

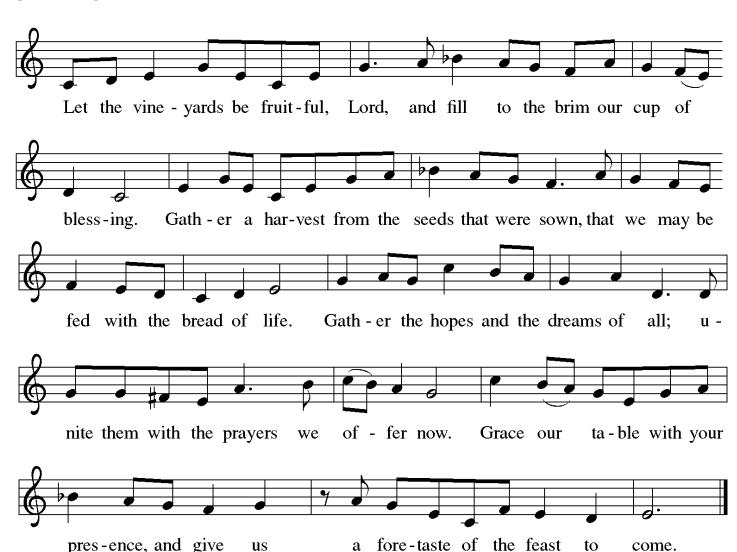
#### **OFFERING**

**ANTHEM:** 

O Lamb of God Most Holy Chancel Choir Sandra Gay (b. 1943)

O Lamb of God most holy, who on the cross did suffer, so patient still and lowly, yourself to scorn did offer. Our sins by you were taken, or hope had us forsaken, have mercy on us, Jesus! When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

#### **OFFERTORY**



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us Pray,

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

#### **DIALOGUE**



#### PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.......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:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY





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

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

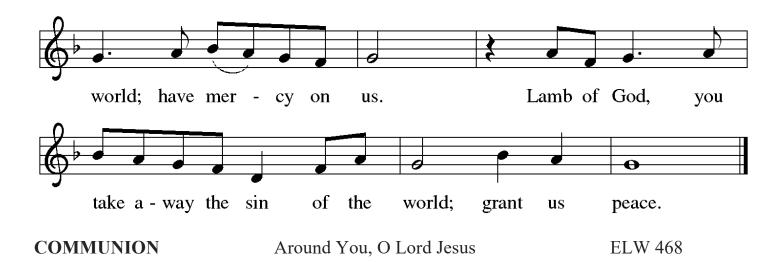
#### **COMMUNION**



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



#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us Pray

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

SENDING SONG

God of Grace and God of Glory

**ELW 705** 

#### **BLESSING**

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE** How Great the Bliss to Be a Sheep of Jesus Margaret Sandresky (b. 1921)

#### **Music Notes**

Emily Maxson Porter earned a B.A. in Elementary Education, with a minor in Music (organ study with Paul Manz), from Concordia College in St. Paul, MN. She earned a M.F.A. in Organ from the University of Minnesota. She did additional organ and composition study at the University of Michigan and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Porter also holds a M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is a member of AGO, ALCM, the American Composers' Forum, and the Wisconsin Alliance for Composers. Porter has numerous published works, including anthems, vocal, choral, instrumental pieces, and larger organ works. She won the 2002 Holtkamp-AGO Award in Organ Composition, a prestigious prize including performance at the 2002 National AGO Convention.

American composer **Sandra Gay** earned her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance and pursued advanced training at the Eastman School of Music where she studied composition with Samuel Adler and organ with David Craighead. Sandra has composed music in nearly every genre—including works for orchestra, choral ensembles, instrumental ensembles, handbell choir and ensemble, piano, organ, and other solo instruments. She resides in Hamilton, Montana, where she is active as a free-lance composer.

The daughter of a gifted soprano and a well-known pianist, organist, and composer, **Margaret Sandresky** is the fourth generation of professional female musicians in her family. A graduate of Salem College (organ) and Eastman University (composition), with additional study under a Fulbright grant at the Hochschule für Musik in Frankfurt, Germany, she has held teaching positions at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, the University of Texas at Austin, the North Carolina School of the Arts (where she established the organ department in 1965), and Salem College. She has held the position of organist at the Home Moravian Church, the First Baptist Church, and at Centenary United Methodist Church (all in Winston-Salem, NC). Her compositions include music for solo organ, music for mixed and unison chorus, piano music, harpsichord music, and music for small and large instrumental ensembles.

## **Upcoming St. Paul's Concerts**

These concerts are FREE and open to all. Your freewill offering is gratefully received.

Malone University Choir, Sunday, March 23, 4:00 PM Sonnenberg Station, Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM

## **Capital Campaign Report**

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	\$377,000
Funds raised	\$351,317
Remaining funds	\$ 25,683
to be raised	

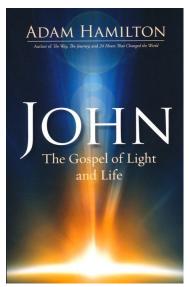
## **Adult Sunday School Class**

#### God is With Us

I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.... (Genesis 28:15a)

During the month of March, we will continue to study the life of Jacob and watch the ways in which God's presence and promise of keeping guide and protect him. Even when Jacob fails, God's grace is poured out. And so it is with us!

We meet together each Sunday morning at 11:30 for fellowship and Bible study, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

By: Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name."

Adults, youth, and children alike can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam

Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, John: The Gospel of Light and Life. You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

## Windows to Wonder: A Devotional Crafting Series for Lent 2025

This Lent, engage your faith through devotional crafting with Windows to Wonder, a creative series inspired by Nicodemus' journey in the Gospel of John. Choose from three free creative options: a mystery cross-stitch stitch-along, a crochet-along shawl, or weekly creative writing prompts. Each craft is paired with a devotional podcast co-hosted by Pastors Tina Crog and Angel Jackson, exploring how we see Jesus more clearly over time.

Deepen your faith with this prayerful, hands-on Lenten journey! All materials are free. Visit <a href="www.stitchologycrafts.com/windowstowondersal">www.stitchologycrafts.com/windowstowondersal</a>

## 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, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.

### Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

**Assisting Minister** Dave Stoner

Lector Lynda Klein

Greeter Marilyn Norton

Communion Assistants Dwight Butler & Cindy Lash

Sacristan Lynda Klein

Ushers Gary Collard, Chris Hall,

Shane Jackson, & Craig Maurer

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

## Massillon Area Clergy Association Community Lenten Worship Services

March 19th St. Timothy's Episcopal 226 3rd St SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Ash Welch preaching on fasting \*incense will be used

March 26th St. John's UCC 101 Tremont Ave SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Tina Crog preaching on almsgiving

April 2nd First UMC 301 Lincoln Way E, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. David Anderson preaching on penitence

April 9th First Baptist Church 20 Sixth St. SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Ed Hill preaching on repentance

Through the season of Lent, churches in the Massillon area will once again join together for worship and Holy Communion, rotating locations and preachers. Our focus this year is "The Five Themes of Lent."

A light dinner of soup and salad will be served at 5:30pm. Then at 6:30pm, we will worship together. Childcare may be provided. Offerings will go to the Family Living Center, which provides housing for local families in need.

## St. Joseph Lenten Concert Series

Wednesdays 12:00 noon

March 19: Ralph Morrison, Zion UCC, North Canton

March 26: Phyllis Staver, Substitute/accompanist/adjudicator

April 2: Dennis Roden, Little Flower Catholic Church

April 9: Heather Cooper, Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton

## **Community Social Media Pages**

Facebook & Instagram, Search "Massillon Lutheran Churches"

#### **Facebook**

"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon" or "Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"

#### Last Cathedral Concert for '24-'25



Sunday, May 17, 2025, 2:00 PM The Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus

CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. YOUR FREEWILL OFFERING IS GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED.



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 CHERRY RD. NE MASSILLON, OHIO 44646

https://stpaulsmassillon.org



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**GATHERING SONG** My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less ELW 596 Public Domain

**HYMN OF THE DAY** Lord, Christ When You First Came to Earth ELW 727 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved

COMMUNION Around You, O Lord Jesus ELW 468
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**SENDING SONG** God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, **License #A-734490**. All rights reserved



#### **Images in the Readings**

There are lots of animals in this Sunday's readings. Like other evils that lurk around, a **fox** is a clever predator that lives off the death of the unsuspecting meek. The young of **chickens** are notoriously weak, and the mother **hen** protects them under her wings. Many Old Testament poetic passages speak of God as having outstretched wings. Now in the Louvre in Paris is the 1562 painting by Frans Floris, "Allegory of the Trinity," in which God the Father and the dove of the Spirit attend Christ, whose arms extended on the cross are superimposed upon immense wings, under which all the faithful are gathered. You can find a photo of this most interesting painting on the internet. Israel, like its pagan neighbors, conducted **animal sacrifices** in which the life of the valuable animal symbolized the devotion of the worshiper. This practice of animal sacrifice is recalled when Christians compare Christ to a lamb.

God is present to Abram as a flaming torch. From the burning bush of Moses to the tongues "as of fire" on the forehead of each believer, **fire** functions in the Bible as a symbol of the power of God. Fire not only burns refuse away, but it also occasions human community: gathering around the fire, we share heat and light, and we cook food to eat together.

A Roman **citizen** was a free-born male who enjoyed numerous legal rights: the right to vote, to sue, to appeal a trial verdict, to function as paterfamilias. A Roman citizen could not be tortured or whipped, nor executed by crucifixion. These and many other rights meant that Roman citizenship was a coveted privilege. Paul uses the imagery of citizenship when describing the benefits of faith.

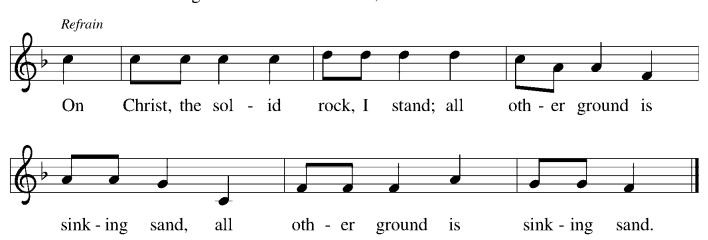
### My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov e nant, his blood sus tain me in the rag ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name. in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil. when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay. clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!



Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

## Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth



Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.

Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

#### Around You, O Lord Jesus



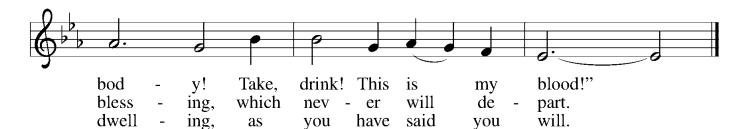
- 1 A round you, O Lord Je sus, your own you gath er still
- 2 We hear your in vi ta tion, and heed, O Lord, your call;
- 3 We are your own for ev er; un til our fi nal breath



to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill. your word of con - so - la - tion is spo - ken here to all. we will be true and nev - er— in joy, in grief, in death—



"Take, eat! You say lov - ing - ly, This to us SO is my draws ing heart; us to your lov it brings to us your for are still de - part from you, you a - mong your peo ple



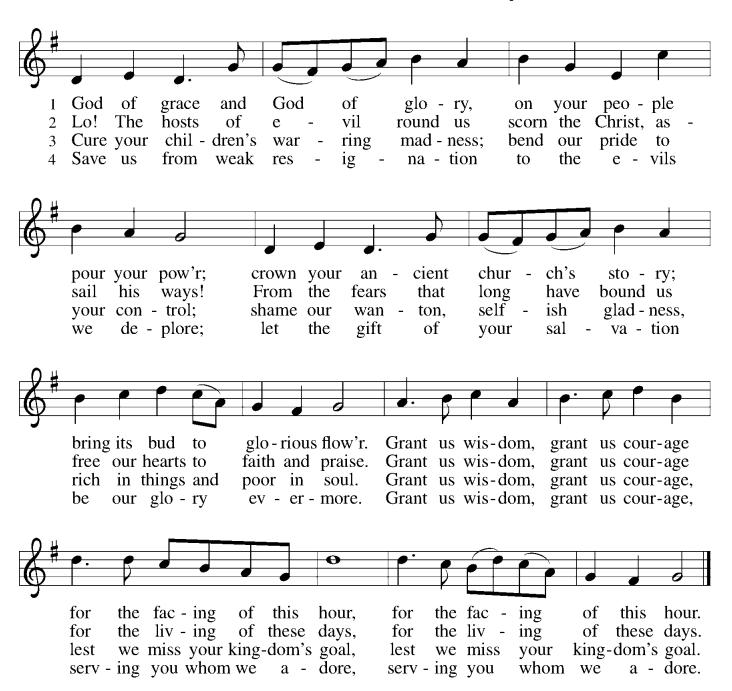
Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite

Music: O JESU, ÄN DE DINA, H. Thomissön, Den danske Psalmebog, 1569

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## God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932