## LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# The First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

**Welcome to Worship!** Today's readings emphasize different aspects of God delivering His people. The reading from Deuteronomy recalls how God freed His people from Egypt—"...with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm." In the Epistle Paul says God saves those who confess that Jesus is Lord, and believe in their hearts that God raised Him from the dead. Today's Gospel is the account of Jesus defeating Satan's temptations as a part of redeeming His people. Because our God is our strong deliverer, we pray that He would "guide us through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come."

Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper in which He feeds us with His body and blood. The Lutheran Church recognizes the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in this Sacrament, and we ask all who attend the Sacrament to share this faith with us. Members of our sister congregations in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are welcome to commune. If you are a guest and want to receive the Sacrament, please speak with the pastor or an elder before the Service prior to communing.

If you wish to receive the common cup instead of an individual glass, place your hand across your chest. At the center of the communion tray, there are glasses with a reduced amount of wine for those who don't wish to have as much wine when they commune. Please indicate your attendance at communion by signing the communion registration sheet on the desk by the outer door.

We have gluten-free communion wafers for those who need them. Please speak to the pastor prior to the service if you wish to receive them.

**Pastoral Greeting** 

**Divine Service Setting One** 

+ Confession and Absolution +

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

**Invocation** *Matthew 28:19b; 18:20* 

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

1 John 1:8-9

- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

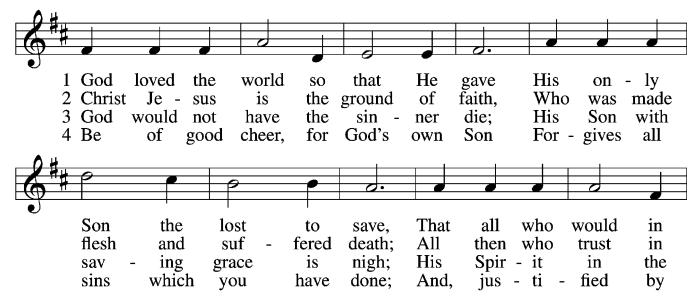
[John 20:19–23]

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

+ Service of the Word +

# **571 God Loved the World So That He Gave**



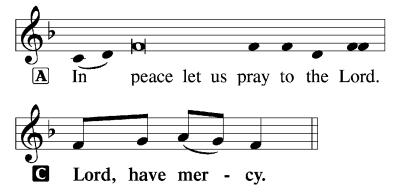


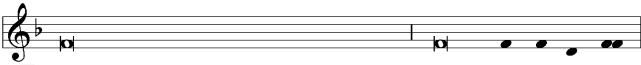
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.
- D6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One! To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

Kyrie Mark 10:47



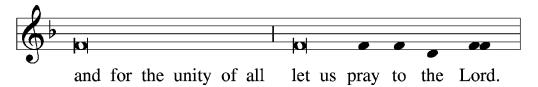


For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

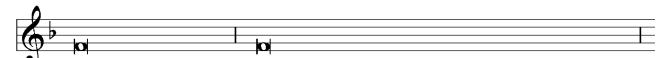




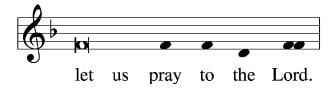
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



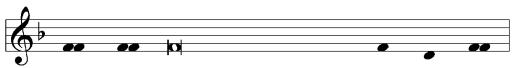




A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



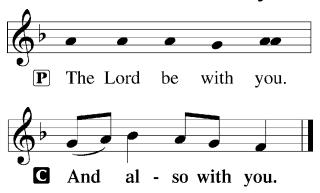




A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord.



# **Salutation and Collect of the Day**



# P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Deuteronomy 26:1–11

<sup>1</sup>"When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. <sup>3</sup>And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.' <sup>4</sup>Then the

priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

<sup>5</sup>"And you shall make response before the LORD your God, 'A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. <sup>6</sup>And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. <sup>7</sup>Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. <sup>9</sup>And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup>And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.' And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup>And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hebrews 12:2

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame.

and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

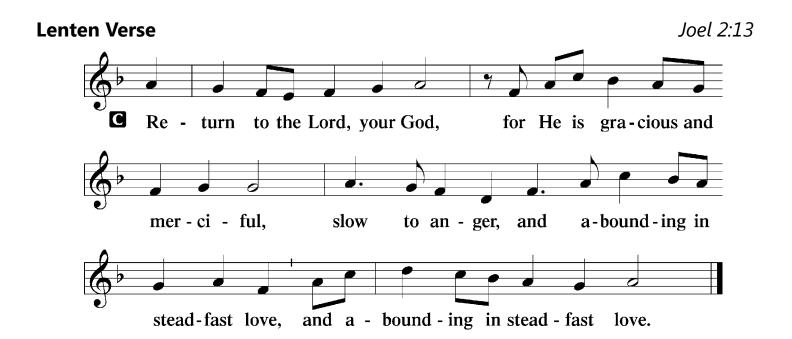
Epistle Romans 10:8b–13

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup>For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction

between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

### Stand



# Holy Gospel Luke 4:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



<sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup>And the devil took him up and showed him all the

kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup>and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

"'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,'

<sup>11</sup>and

"'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

<sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

### The Catechism

### **Table of Duties**

CERTAIN PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE FOR VARIOUS HOLY ORDERS AND POSITIONS, ADMONISHING THEM ABOUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- P What does the Bible say to bishops, pastors, and preachers?
- The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 1 Tim. 3:2–4 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 1 Tim. 3:6 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:9



Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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#### Sermon

Dear Heavenly Father,

We are about to hear your Word

Help us to believe we really are what your Word says we are

Help us to believe we really have what your Word says we have

Help us to believe we really can do what your Word says we can do

O Holy Spirit, make our minds alert, and our hearts receptive

Because we are about to encounter

The indestructible, incorruptible living seed of your Word

It has the power to melt our hearts

It has the power to change our lives

And, as your Word has its way with us,

It has the power to fashion us into Your new creations

In Jesus' name. Amen.

These next Sundays in Lent we're going to be focusing on the Old Testament readings, and what they tell us about the cross of Jesus. You won't read the word "cross" in any of those readings, and yet, each of our Sunday Old Testament lessons has something to *do* with the cross of Jesus. Martin Luther said, "The books of Moses and the prophets are Gospel, too, since they *first* preached and wrote about Christ what the Apostles *afterward* preached and wrote about Him." That being the case, we'll be looking for the cross in each of these readings, and we start with today's reading from Deuteronomy 26.

# I. Seeing the Promised Land Ahead (Life is a Journey)

How do you get your bearings in life? When things go bad—when you're confused—do you sit down and think about what you should do? Do you speak to a friend? You may have *guessed* this, but you can get actually get an app for your telephone that has "heart-warming photos of gorgeous teddy bears together with messages of wisdom about being kind to yourself and others. See what each bear has to say about living life well. There are bears doing all sorts of activities - hiking, meditating, reading, surfing, riding a motorbike, playing golf

and relaxing on the beach - just to name a few." That's one way of getting your bearings

When it comes to driving, I think most of us have experienced that disorienting feeling of being lost when you're in unfamiliar territory, and you *think* you should be going in a certain direction, only to discover that you've been going in circles. And everybody here knows that any male driving with his wife will take it as a personal insult to the genetic sense of direction that all men possess, when some female suggests that he might be headed in the wrong direction.

But how do *you* keep your bearings? That's one of the items that God is addressing in our text from Deuteronomy. What's fascinating to me is the fact that everything in the text is written in the future tense. The Israelites were *still in the wilderness*, and Moses was saying, "When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you...." God is directing the vision of the Israelites toward the Promised Land ahead of them and He's giving them a guiding landmark on which to keep their eyes.

All of life was a *journey* for this generation of Israelites. They had been out in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. You remember their ancestor, Jacob, had taken a

fearful trip and left home to escape his brother Esau's anger. Jacob was a wanderer most of his life, and in our text, Moses emphasizes Jacob's journeys by having the Israelites say, "A wandering Aramean was my father." I want you to notice in our text that God is *promising* the Israelites that they're actually going to get to the Promised Land, because He says, "When you get there, you will say to the priest, "I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us."

Life is a journey for you, too. We're headed for the Promised Land of heaven, and week after week, we have God's promise in the Lord's Supper that we, too, are going to arrive there safely. But sometimes we can forget what it *means* to be on the journey of faith. If you're en route to some place, it means you have been *uprooted*, either temporarily or for a prolonged period. A person who is traveling is characterized by a certain *detachment* from earthly goods and comforts, because after all, you have to leave all that stuff behind when you travel. Being on an excursion means that you're in *transition*—you haven't yet arrived at your ultimate goal. And, our life of faith as a pilgrimage presupposes both a place that we have left *behind* us, and a *destination* to which we're headed.

I want you to know that I'm putting myself first when I level this criticism, but sometimes I think we Christians forget what it means that when you have faith, you're on a journey. Sometimes it feels like we want to make the journey more of a cruise, on which we're trying to make ourselves as comfortable as possible. There's no particular destination that you keep in mind when you have the cruise mentality—you just go wherever the prevailing winds happen to take you, and you often end up back where you started. But that's not what God intends for us. It's important that we keep our destination in mind. One Grandfather learned that lesson the hard way. He was taking his four year old grandson out to buy donuts. On the way, Grandpa turned to Kevin and asked, "Which way is heaven?" Kevin pointed to the sky. "Which way is hell?" Kevin pointed towards the floor of the truck. Then Grandpa said, "And where are you going?" Little Kevin replied, I'm going to "Dunkin' Donuts with you, Grandpa." Grandpa didn't keep his mind on their destination, but little Kevin did!

The *cure* for the cruise mentality comes in today's Gospel, where we see Jesus wrestling with Satan in the wilderness. Jesus faced Satan alone in the wilderness. He didn't even allow Himself the comfort of *food*, so He wouldn't be distracted on the journey God had for Him to defeat Satan. And here's where the cross comes

in—the ultimate defeat of Satan comes when Jesus is *crucified*. As one man put it, "Jesus may have been *crucified*, but Satan was the one who got *nailed*!" And when you and I turn to the cross and ask for forgiveness for all of our bad attitudes when it comes to our journey toward heaven, God *forgives* us, and He holds up the *cross* as *our* guiding landmark on the journey of faith.

When you feel like you're lost or disoriented—when you feel like things in life are happening to you and you don't know why—just head in the direction of the cross, and hear God say, "Come toward the cross, and see what I've done to make certain you will enter the Promised Land." Wherever you happen to be right now, moving closer toward the cross will head you in the right direction to reach the Promised Land.

# **II.** Getting Closer to Home

The *climax* for the Israelites would come when they got to the Promised Land, and they remembered everything God did to get them there. They would be standing in the Promised Land with an offering of fruit from the land God had given them. And Moses is telling them about this happy ending *ahead of time*, even though they still had battles to fight and miles ahead of them.

You and I are in the same position. We still have battles to fight and miles ahead of us. And because of Jesus' victory over Satan, we know about *our* happy ending *ahead of time*. And God's happy endings are beyond our wildest expectations! Abraham had to adjust his bifocals so he could see the son he never expected. Moses eventually *made it into* the Promised Land, but he didn't do it with Aaron or Miriam at his side. He had Elijah and Jesus at his side at Jesus' transfiguration. And those two Emmaus-bound pilgrims thought they reached a dead end when their friend Jesus died, but when they reached out to take a piece of bread, they saw that the hands from which it was offered were pierced.

Before we part ways today, I'd like to conclude with a story is about a group of climbers who set out to scale a large mountain in Europe. The view was a breathtaking peak of snowcapped rocks. On clear days the snow crested peak of the mountain was all they could see on the horizon. Its white tip jutted into the blue sky inviting the climbers and offering inspiration.

On clear days like that, the hikers made their greatest progress. The peak stood in front of them like a compelling goal. Their eyes were called upward. The walk was

brisk. The cooperation was unselfish. Though there were many climbers, they climbed as if they were one, all looking to the same summit.

But on some days the peak of the mountain was hidden from view. The cloud covering would cover the blue with a drab, gray ceiling and block the view of the mountaintop. On overcast days like that, the climb became tough. Eyes were downward and thoughts inward. The goal was hidden from view and almost forgotten. Tempers were short. Weariness was an uninvited companion.

Complaints stung like thorns on the trail.

Our journey of faith can be a lot like that, can't it? As long as we can see the Promised Land in the distance, as long as the cross is within eyesight, we have faith that there is no problem through which God can't pull us, there is no insurmountable height of difficulty that will prevent us from arriving in heaven safely. But take away our vision of the cross, block our view of the Promised Land, and the journey becomes discouraging.

You can avoid that discouragement. This Lent, and for the rest of your lives, keep the cross in view by gathering with your fellow believers to ponder what Jesus has done for you. Know that His sacrifice for you puts the Promised Land in view

for you. After all, when you see the Promised Land ahead, you know you're getting closer to home. Amen.

#### Stand

# **Apostles' Creed**

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ⊤ everlasting. Amen.

#### Stand

# **Prayer of the Church**

- P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.

- P For deliverance, that the Lord Most High would be our dwelling place and refuge against every evil and plague, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For faith to follow our Lord Jesus and resist temptation, that we would come through this fallen world to dwell with Him forever, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For pastors, that God would command His angels concerning them as they proclaim the One who trampled the serpent underfoot, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For parents, that God would bless them with all wisdom as they teach their children His ways, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For the governing authorities, that God would protect them from every temptation of the devil and equip them to curb what is evil and promote what is good, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For those in need of healing and restoration, especially... that God would be with them and heal them according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For a right reception of the Lord's Supper, that God would bring them with penitent hearts to receive the great riches of His Son's body and blood for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Almighty God, Your Son was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to suffer temptation for our sake as part of our redemption. Strengthen us when we are tempted so that we do not take His obedience for granted,

and teach us to rely upon Your Word as our defense against the evil one; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### C Amen.



+ Service of the Sacrament +

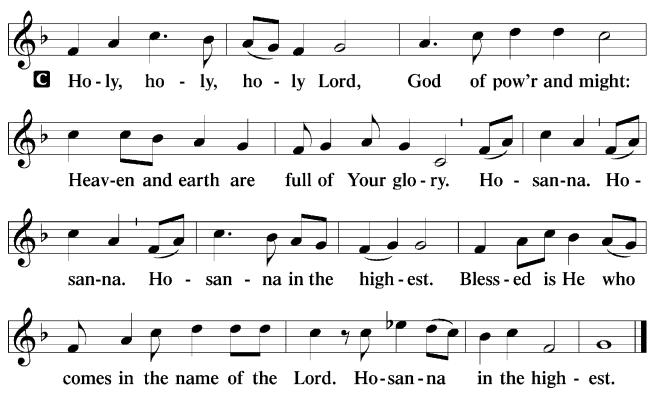
## **Preface**



# **Proper Preface**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **Sanctus**



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## C Amen.

#### The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

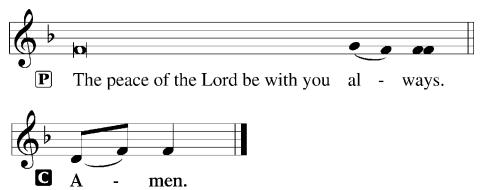
# **Lord's Prayer**

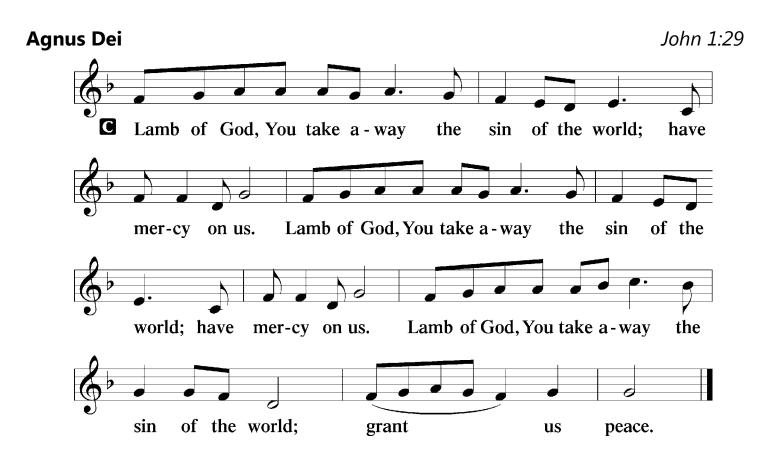
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;

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.

Pax Domini John 20:19





Sit

#### Distribution

# **Distribution Hymn**

# 746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit



Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Musika Teutsch, 1532, Nürnberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

### **Post-Communion Collect**

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## **Benediction**

Numbers 6:24-26



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



## 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On



Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: Adam Drese, 1620–1701 Text and tune: Public domain

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