



I AM.

JESUS IN HIS OWN WORDS

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM

***Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024***

***St. John Lutheran Church
26555 Brickville Rd.
(815) 895-4477***

***** Live streaming begins at 8:55 am. Please silence your phones *****

Prelude ~ Trio Sonata in E Flat Major, BWV 525 (J.S. Bach); Movements 1 & 3

Welcome

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Stand and face the cross

Hymn of Invocation “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

LSB 431



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Jew - ish al - tars slain
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our sins a - way;
3 My faith would lay its hand On that dear head of Thine,
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den Thou didst bear
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the curse re - move;



Could give the guilt - y con-science peace Or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name And rich - er blood than they.
While as a pen - i - tent I stand, And there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree; I know my guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice And sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 43:3–5; antiphon: vv. 1–2a



A Vindicate me, | O God,*
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

C from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*
For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

A Send out your light and your truth; let them | lead me;*
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your | dwelling!

C Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*

and I will praise you with the lyre, O | God, my God.

A Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation | and my God.

C Vindicate me, | O God,*
and defend my cause against an ungodly | people,

A from the deceitful and unjust man de- | liver me!*

For you are the God in whom I take | refuge.

Kyrie “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

LSB 434 st. 1

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546
Text and tune: Public domain

Gloria in Excelsis is not sung during Lent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon
Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore

in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So

Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Small Catechism - Sacrament of Holy Baptism - Part II

A What benefits does Baptism give?

C It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

A Which are these words and promises of God?

C Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Epistle

Hebrews 9:11–15

When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Lenten Verse

LSB 157



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

John 8:42–59

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Sit

Children's Message

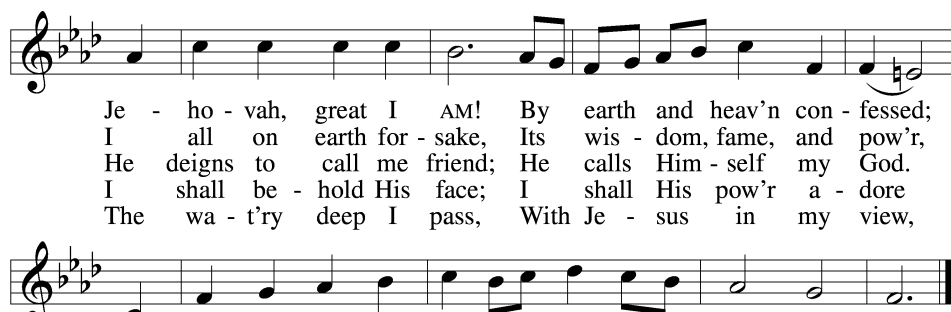
Hymn of the Day "The God of Abraham Praise" LSB 798 sts. 1-5



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, Who reigns en - throned a - bove;
2 The God of A - br'ham praise, At whose su - preme com - mand
3 The God of A - br'ham praise, Whose all - suf - fi - cient grace
4 He by Him - self has sworn; I on His oath de - pend.
5 Though na - ture's strength de - cay, And earth and hell with - stand,



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days And God of love.
From earth I rise and seek the joys At His right hand.
Shall guide me all my pil - grim days In all my ways.
I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, To heav'n as - cend.
To Ca - naan's bounds I urge my way At His com - mand.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake, Its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r,
 He deigns to call me friend; He calls Him - self my God.
 I shall be - hold His face; I shall His pow'r a - dore
 The wa - t'ry deep I pass, With Je - sus in my view,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name For - ev - er blest.
 And Him my on - ly por - tion make, My shield and tow'r.
 And He shall save me to the end Through Je - sus' blood.
 And sing the won - ders of His grace For - ev - er - more.
 And through the howl - ing wil - der - ness My way pur - sue.

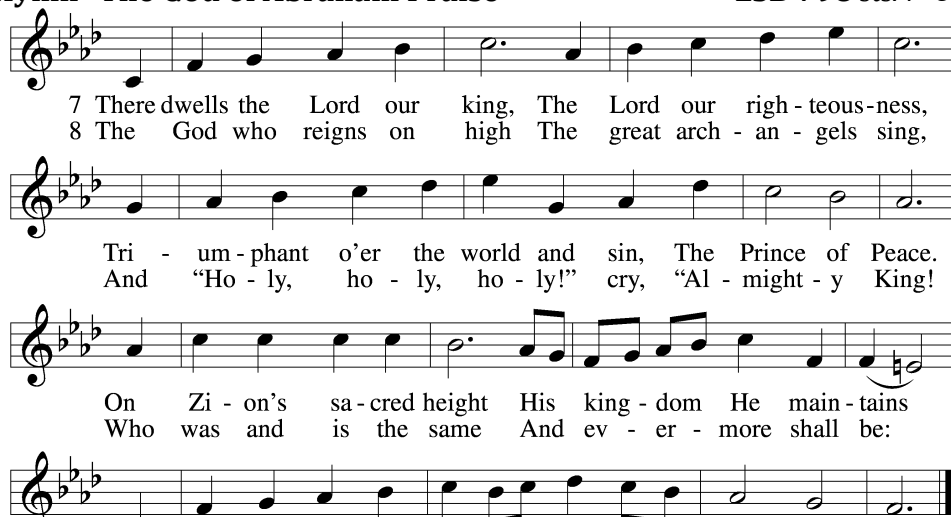
Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt. Tune: Hebrew Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Reception of New Members

Hymn "The God of Abraham Praise"

LSB 798 sts. 7-8



7 There dwells the Lord our king, The Lord our righ - teous-ness,
 8 The God who reigns on high The great arch - an - gels sing,
 Tri - um - phant o'er the world and sin, The Prince of Peace.
 And "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!" cry, "Al - might - y King!"
 On Zi - on's sa - cred height His king - dom He main - tains
 Who was and is the same And ev - er - more shall be:
 And glo - rious with His saints in light For - ev - er reigns.
 Je - ho - vah, Fa - ther, great I AM! We wor - ship Thee!"

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725-99, alt.
 Tune: Hebrew
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayers

After final petition:

P one God, now and forever
C Amen.

Sit

Offering ~ Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow (David Maxwell)

The offering is an opportunity for God's people to give back the "first fruits" of their financial blessings in response to Christ's love.

Service of the Sacrament

Reception of the Lord's Supper indicates unity in faith and confession. LCMS members who agree with our doctrine and practice and have declared their intention to our pastor are invited to receive the Lord's Supper.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.

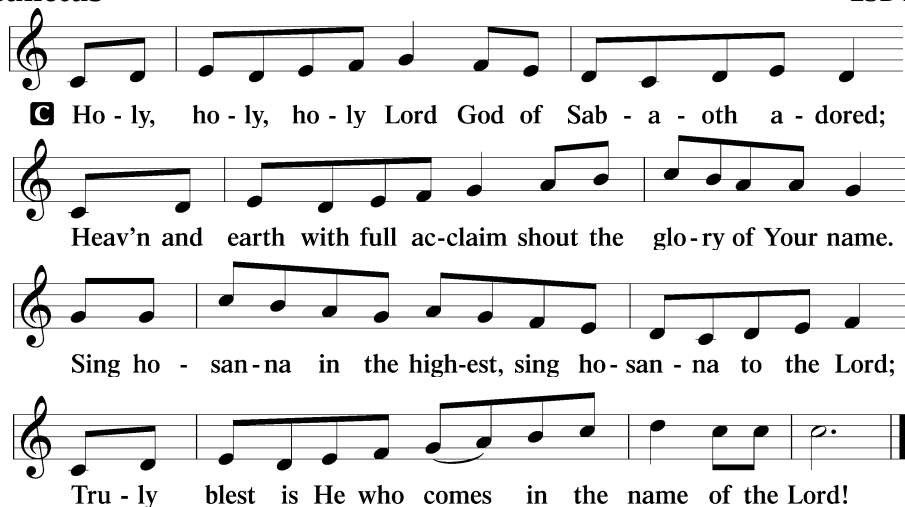
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to

all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

At Your command, Abraham prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice on the mountain; yet, in mercy You provided a ram as a substitute. We give You thanks that on Calvary You spared not Your only Son but sent Him to offer His life as a ransom for many.

As we eat and drink His body and blood, grant us, like Abraham our father, to trust in Your promise now fulfilled in Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

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 ✠ 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 ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution

Hymn "We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died"

LSB 429

1 We sing the praise of Him who died, Of Him who
2 In - scribed up - on the cross we see In shin - ing
3 The cross! It takes our guilt a - way; It holds the
4 It makes the cow - ard spir - it brave And nerves the

died up - on the cross. The sin - ner's hope let
let - ters, "God is love." He bears our sins up -
faint - ing spir - it up; It cheers with hope the
fee - ble arm for fight; It takes the ter - ror

all de - ride; For this we count the world but loss.
on the tree; He brings us mer - cy from a - bove.
gloom - y day And sweet - ens ev - 'ry bit - ter cup.
from the grave And gilds the bed of death with light;

The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heav'n above.

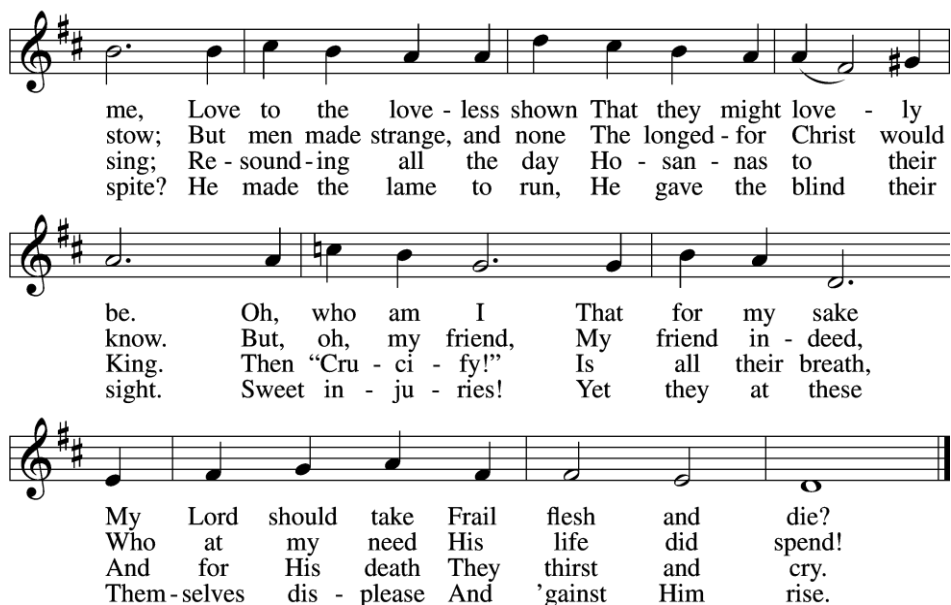
To Christ, who won for sinners grace
By bitter grief and anguish sore,
Be praise from all the ransomed race
Forever and forevermore.

Text (sts. 1–5): Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855; (st. 6): Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861
Tune: attr. Daniel Read, 1757–1836 Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn "My Song Is Love Unknown"

LSB 430

1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their
be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suffering goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.


Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,

In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683
Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962
Text: Public domain
Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001505

Hymn "The Lamb"

LSB 547

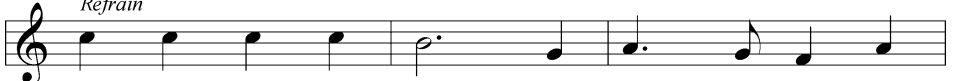


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain




Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His
own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

Text and tune: Gerald P. Coleman, 1953
Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001505

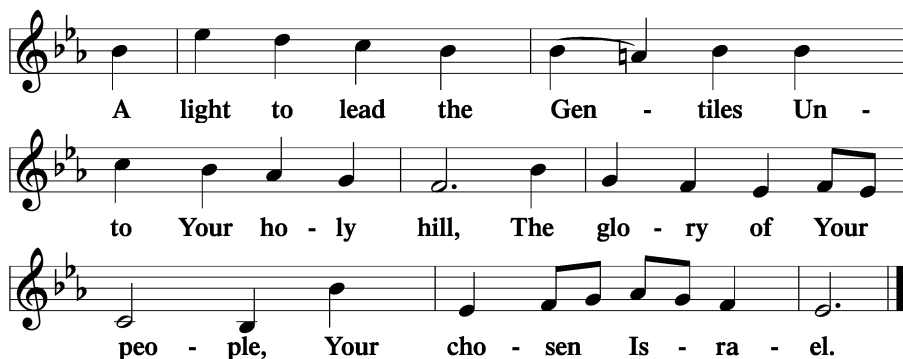
Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:



Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus & Benediction

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

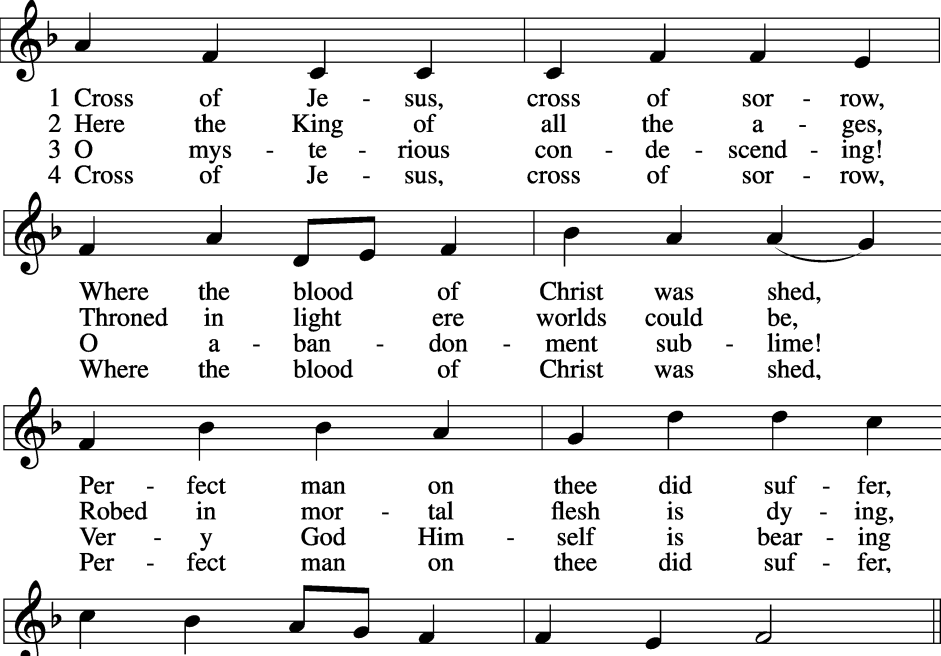
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

LSB 428



1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952
Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Announcements

Postlude ~ Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 549 (J.S. Bach)

Acknowledgments
Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.