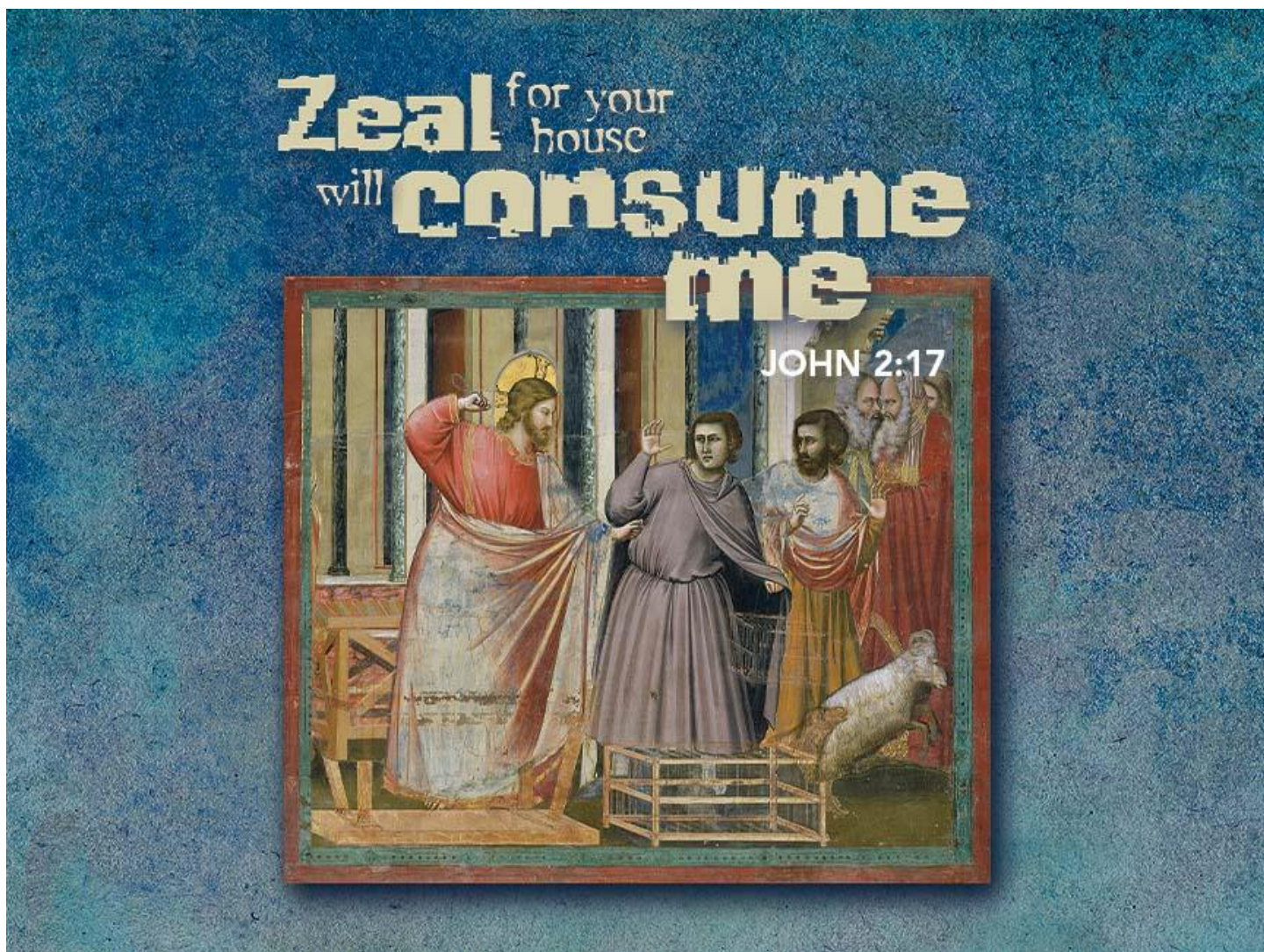


**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**SUNDAY March 7th, 2021**



***WELCOME***

**To our Church Family**

*We're Glad You're Here.*

Today's Hymns from the Tower  
The Westminster Strike

Church Carillon

Announcements

Prelude:

Arise, My Soul, Arise  
Fiona Coughlin, soprano

Dan Forrest

*Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears.  
Before the throne my surety stands. My name is written on His hands.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

**Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

**Amen.**

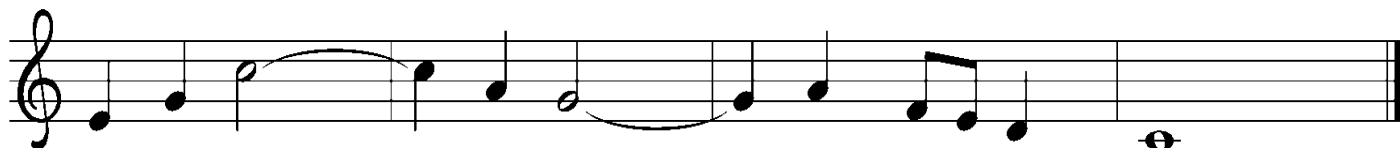
### GATHERING SONG

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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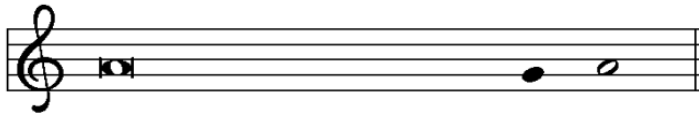
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## GREETING

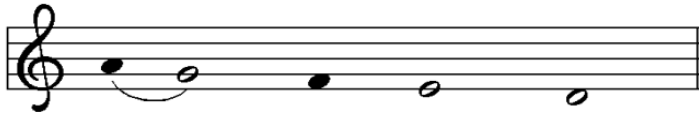
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



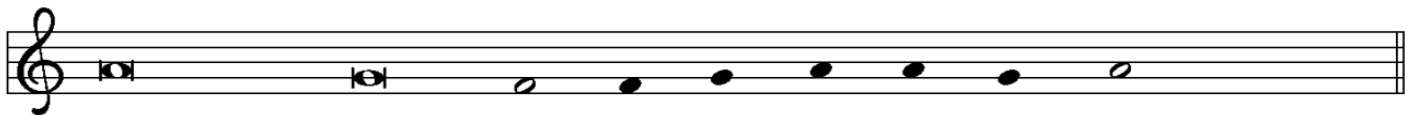
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



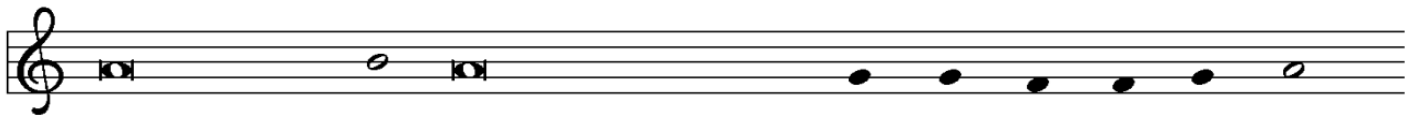
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

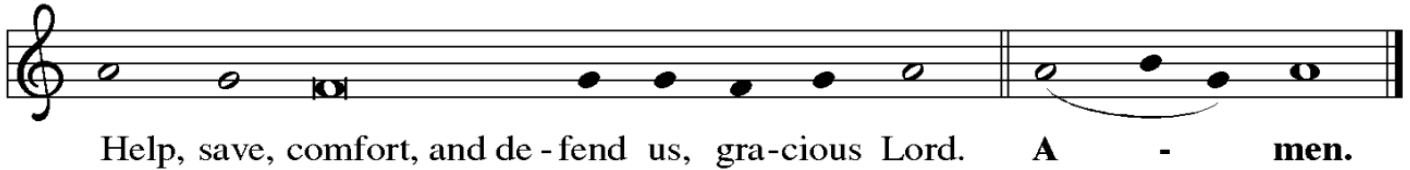


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



## 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.

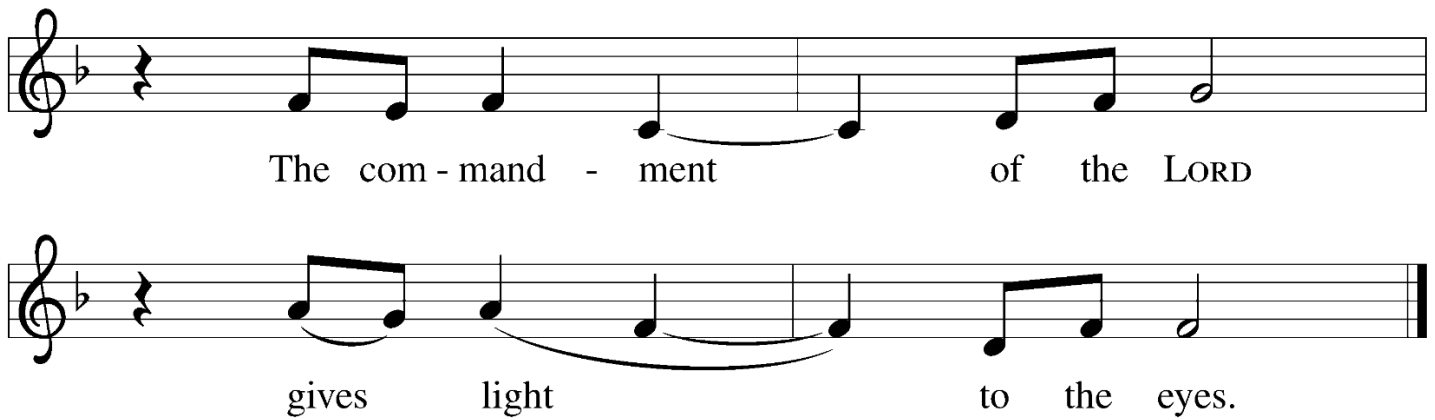
<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<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



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.

## 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

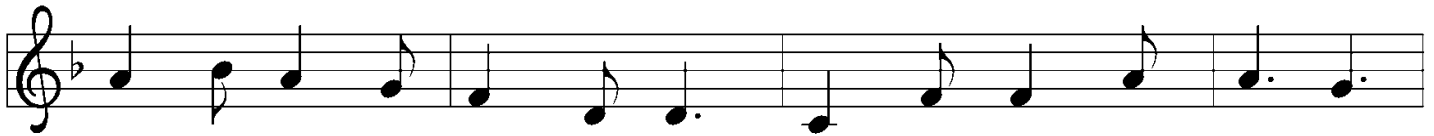
*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

Verses 1, 3, 4



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

### *Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

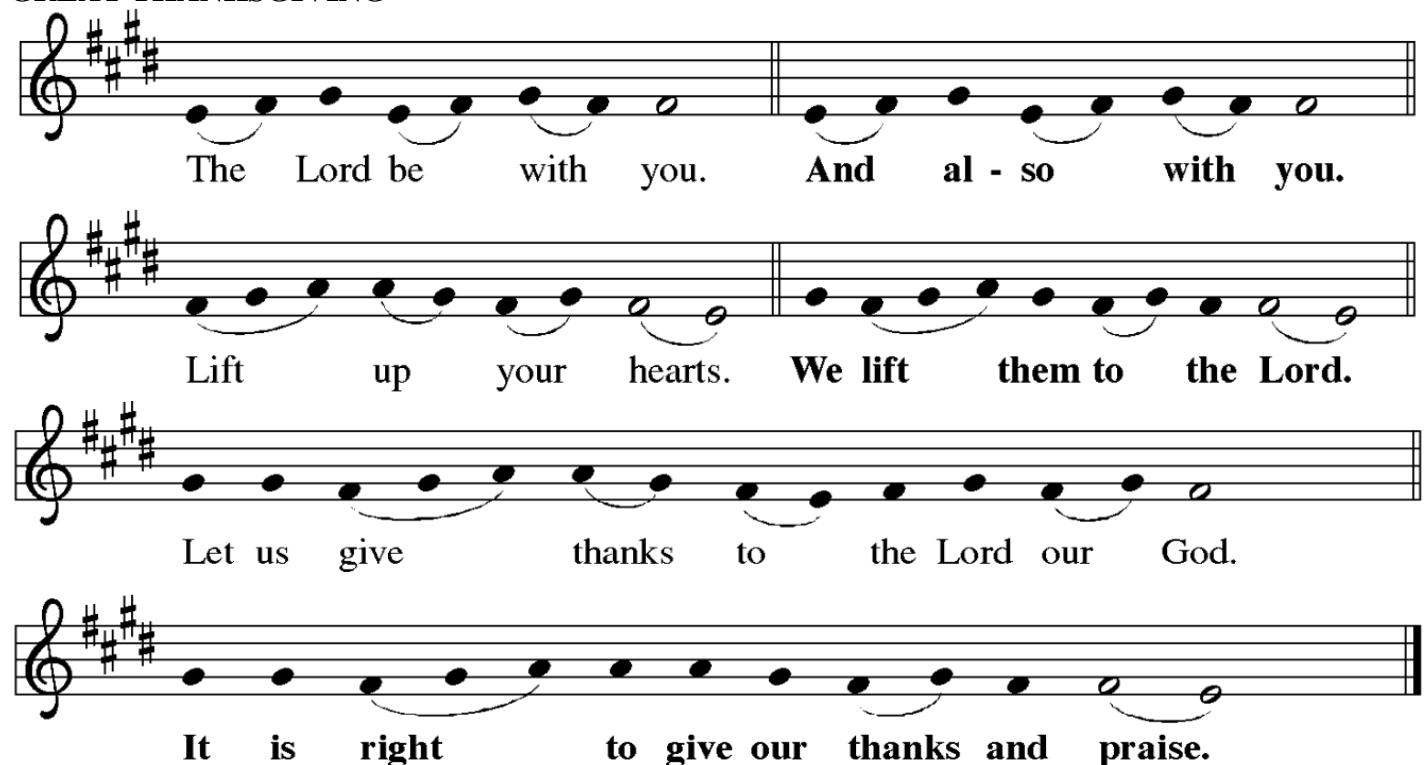
The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem:** This is My Father's World Arr. Emma Lou Diemer

## Offering Prayer

Let us Pray.  
Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: LENT

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

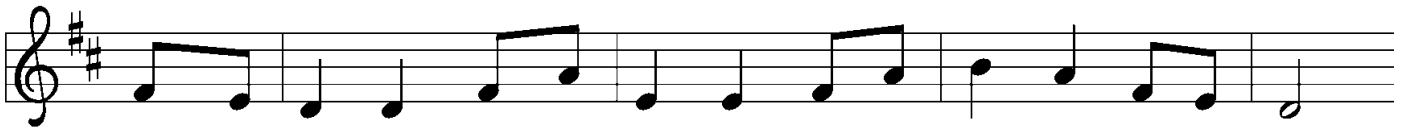
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## **TABLE BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**     Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness     ELW 843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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## BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Flowers:**

**Altar Flowers** are donated today by Carol Stoner in honor of Ron Stoner.

**In our prayers today we will remember**

*Scott Hoover, Jan Miller, Maria Garton, Carol Rohr, David Paul, Vera Gerber, Laura Mottice, Chase Haines, Ray Jones, Connie Crabtree, Jeannie Tidwell, Renee Brown, Chris Collard, Josh Keller, Dr Donald Zimmerman, Martha Scott, Judy Hall, Lynda Klein, Sara Hughes, Chrissy Sturtz, Donna Viles, Betty Ayers, Jean Dexter, Janet Duke, Betty George, Marjorie Hill, Bob Kirsch, Dan Landig, Anna Langenfeld, Karen Lunkwitz, Scott & Darlene Lewis, Angela Sutter, Amy White, Maria Lichtenberger, Diane Brant, Ron Meimer, Hazel Draper, Jennifer Mays, Alice Ferguson, Cheryl Shaw*

**Music Notes**

**Guest Musician:** Lyric soprano Fiona Coughlin is a sophomore in Firestone High School's *Akron School for the Arts* vocal program where she studies voice, music theory/history, and sings in Symphonic Choir, Women's Chorus, and Madrigal Singers. She has studied voice with Susan Wallin and has appeared in countless Akron-area theater productions and concerts. Most recently, she was the featured soloist in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's (Akron) virtual *Advent Procession* concert. She is the vocal soprano soloist for Allenside Presbyterian Church in Akron, where she coordinates and leads the music program.

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**GATHERING SONG**

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

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**HYMN OF THE DAY  
PUBLIC DOMAIN**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

**SENDING SONG**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

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