The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026 · 9:30 a.m.

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

1100 E Murdock Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister L: Lector **C: Congregation/All**

*** *Invitation to stand***

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

* Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

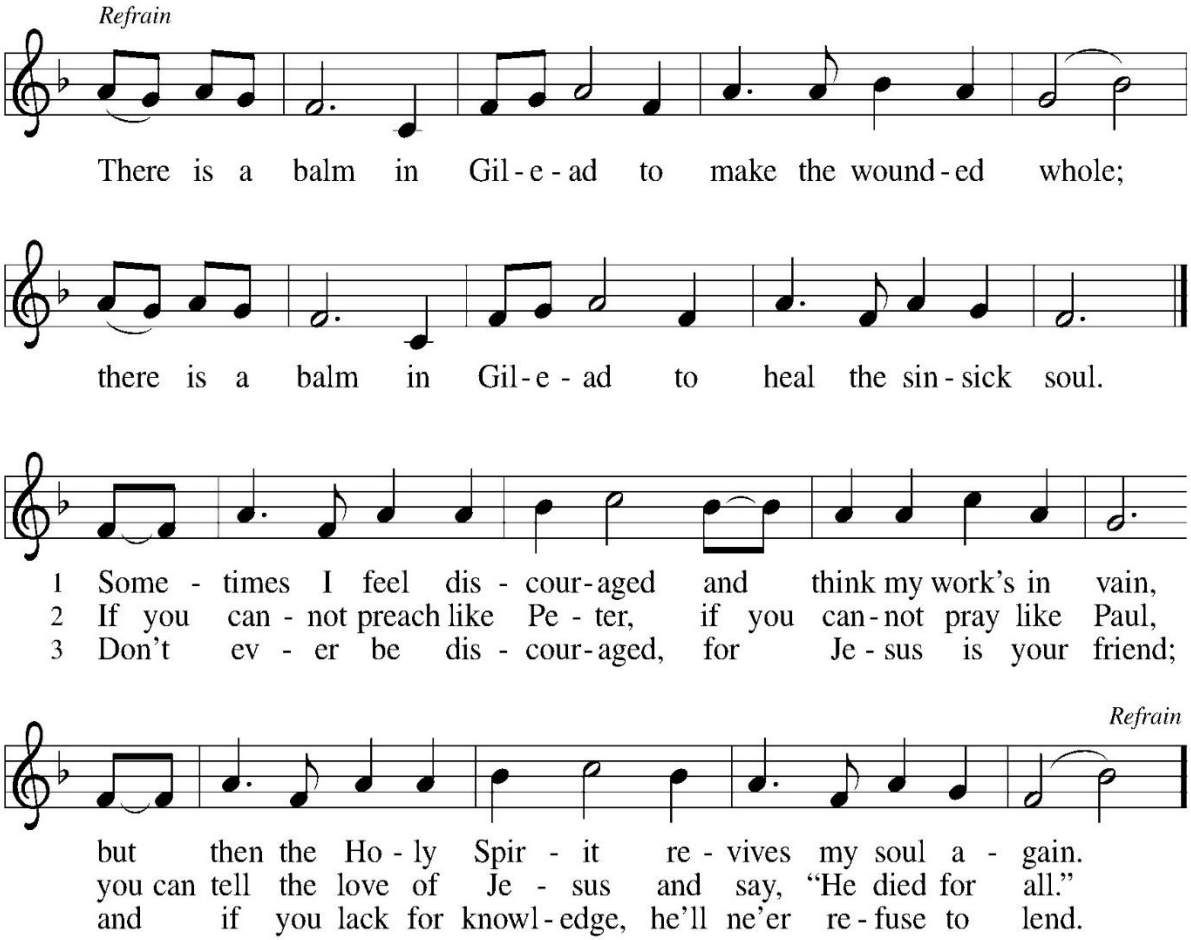
P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in
the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

* Gathering Hymn: *There is a Balm in Gilead* (ELW 614)



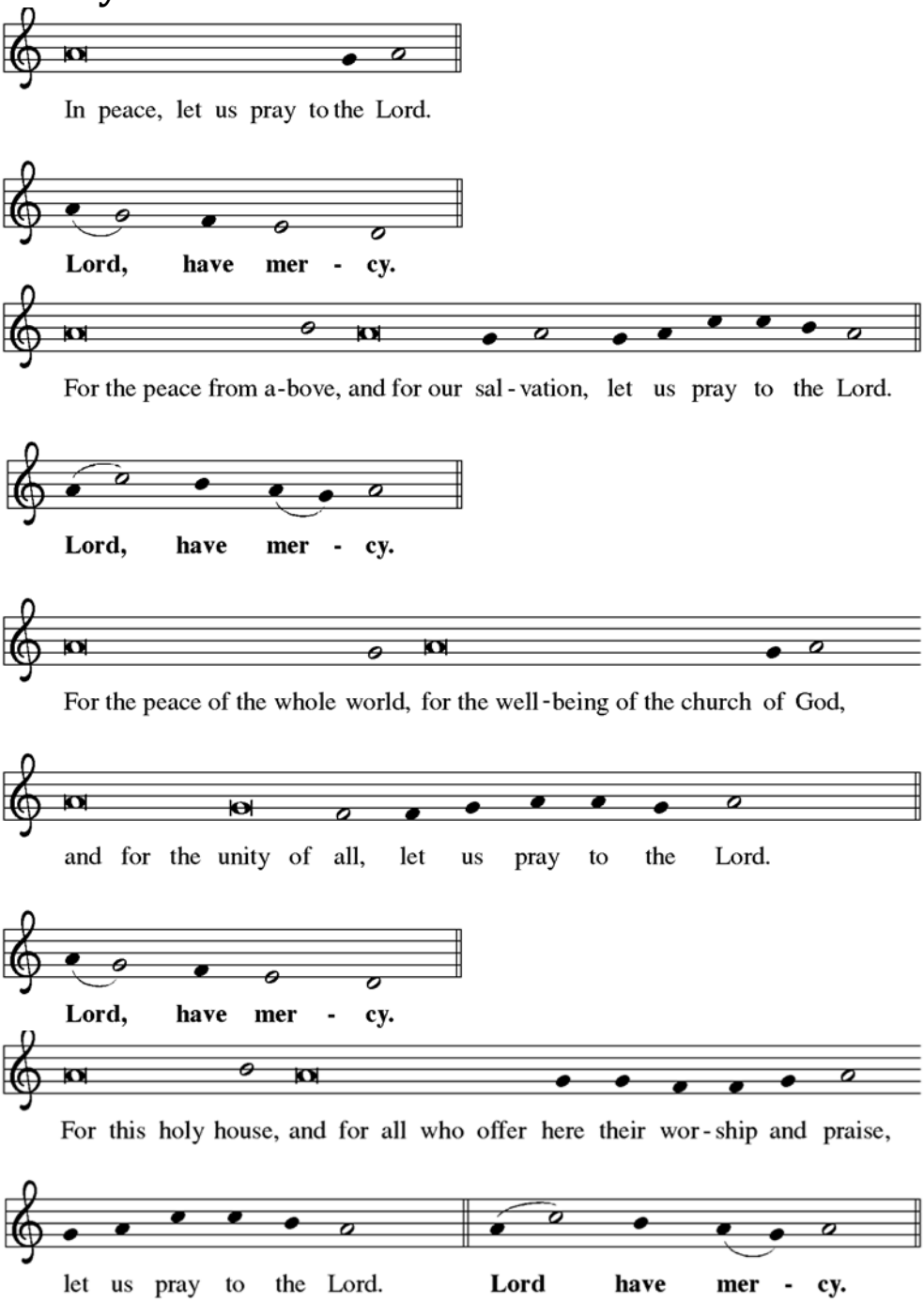
Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

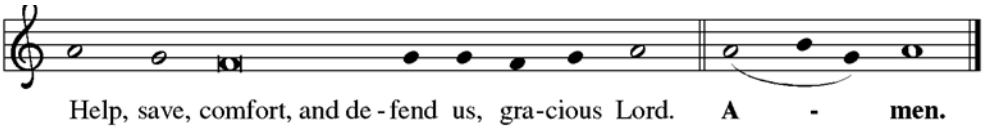
* Apostolic Greeting

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

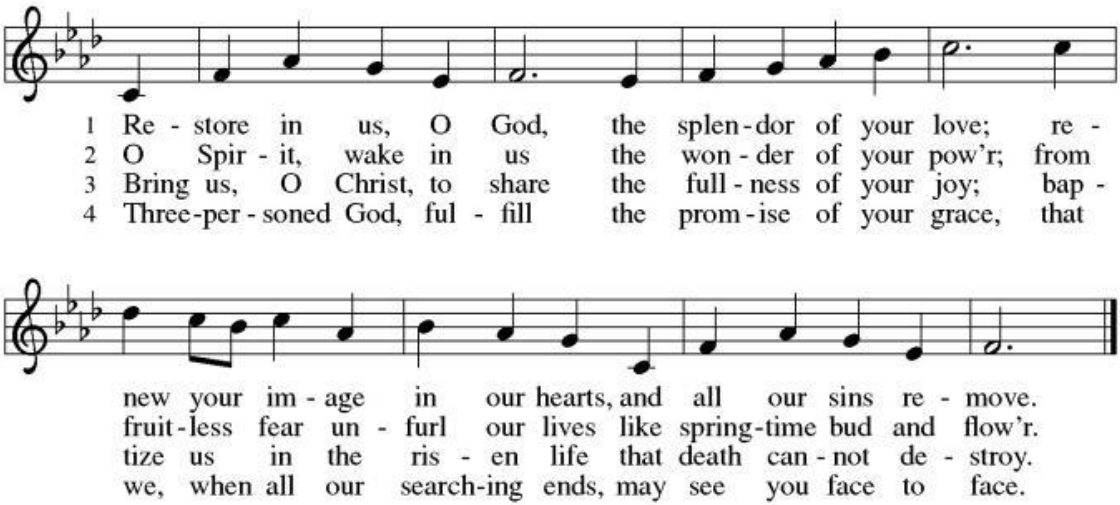
C: And also with you.

* The 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.



* *Restore in Us, O God* (ELW 328)



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
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* Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,

C: and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

L: A reading from 1st Samuel.

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from
being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the
Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said,
"How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with
you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will
show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to
you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the
city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said,
"Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me
to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.
6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now
before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on
the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as
mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the
heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said,
"Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he
said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before
Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel
said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest,
but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will
not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and
had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is
the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his
brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.
Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

L: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

A: The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
A: You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
A: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

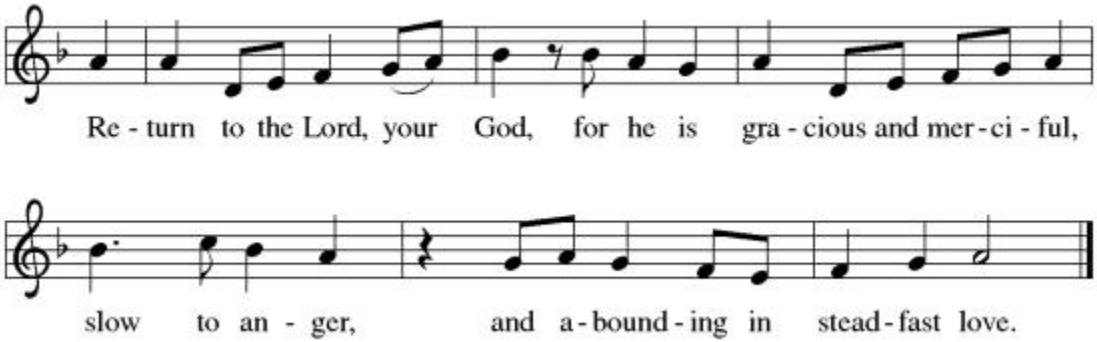
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

L: A reading from Ephesians.

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of
light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find
out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness;
rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do
secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that
becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

L: Word of God. Word of life.
C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation: Return to the Lord Your God



Gospel: John 9:1-41

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him,
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus
answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's
works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while
it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am
the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made
mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go,
wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came
back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar
began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is
he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am
he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He
answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me,
'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They
said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

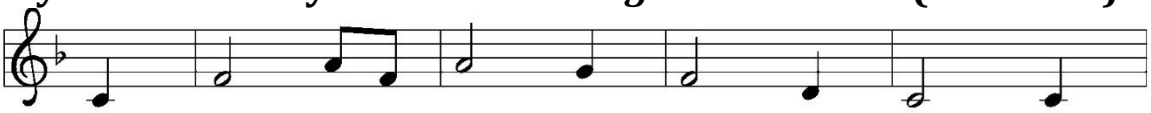
13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it
was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the
Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He
put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said,
"This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How
can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they

said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he
opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”
[18] The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until
they called the parents of the man who had received his sight [19] and asked them, “Is
this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” [20] His
parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, [21] but
we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes.
Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” [22] His parents said this because they
were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed
Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. [23] Therefore his parents
said, “He is of age; ask him.”
[24] So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to
him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” [25] He answered, “I do
not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I
see.” [26] They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” [27] He
answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want
to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” [28] Then they reviled him,
saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know that God has
spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” [30] The
man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes
from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he
does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world
began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this
man were not from God, he could do nothing.” [34] They answered him, “You were
born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.
[35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do
you believe in the Son of Man?” [36] He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that
I may believe in him.” [37] Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking
with you is he.” [38] He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. [39] Jesus said, “I
came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those
who do see may become blind.” [40] Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard
this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” [41] Jesus said to them, “If you
were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remain.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

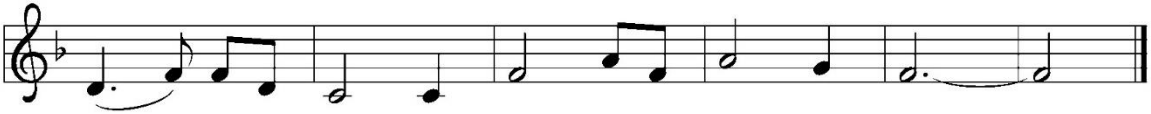
Sermon

* Hymn of the Day: *Amazing Grace* (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony,* 1835

* Apostles' Creed

A: Together, let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

* Prayers of Intercession

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community, in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, in our companion synod in South Africa, and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
A: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in need this day especially those we name now in our hearts . . . Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
C: Amen.

* Sharing the Peace

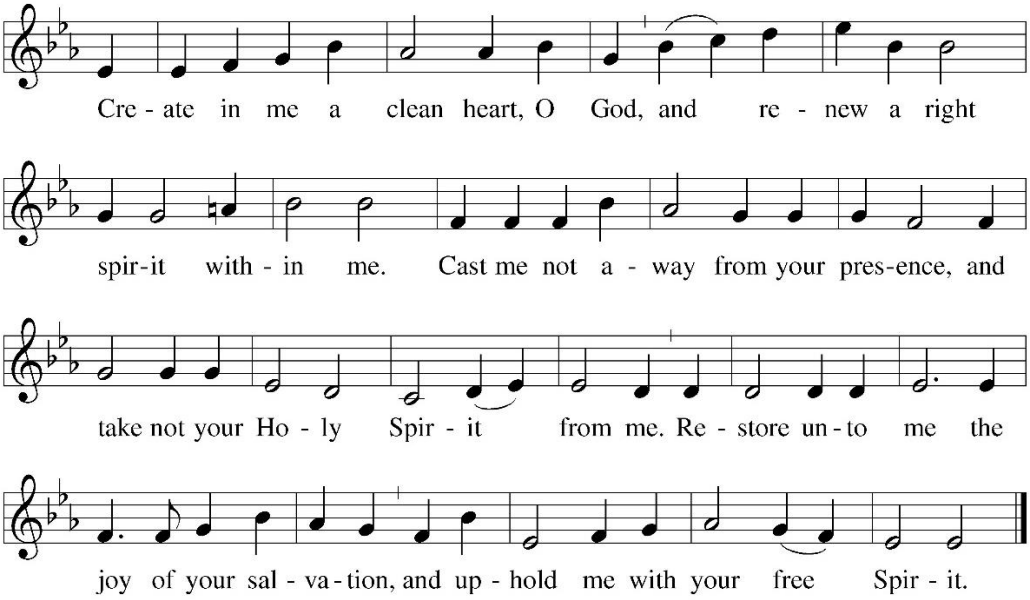
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Our Offerings for God's Work

Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary, as you enter or leave the church.

"Shepherd Me, O God" – Haugen
St. Andrew's Choir

* Offertory Hymn: *Create in Me A Clean Heart* (WOV 732)



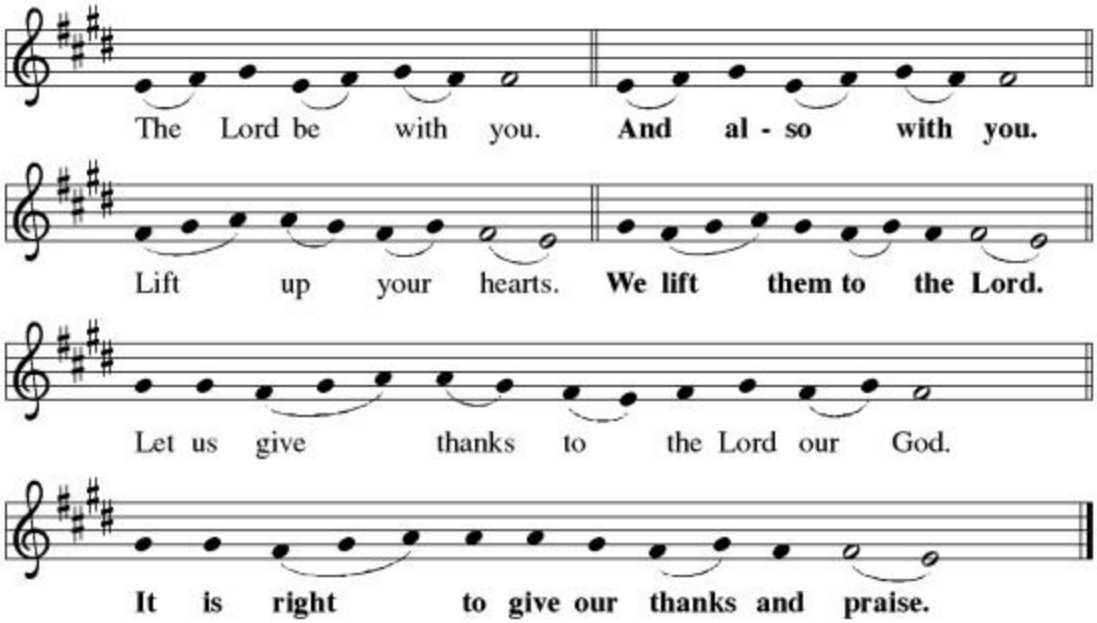
Text: Psalm 51:10–12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

* Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.
O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

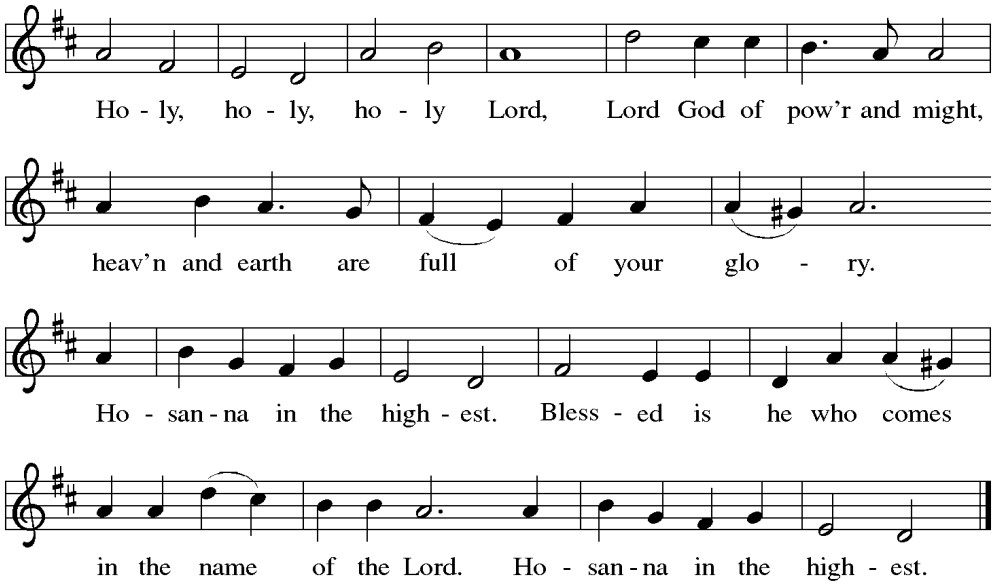
C: Amen.

* The Great Thanksgiving



* The Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



* The Words of Institution

P: 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.

* Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

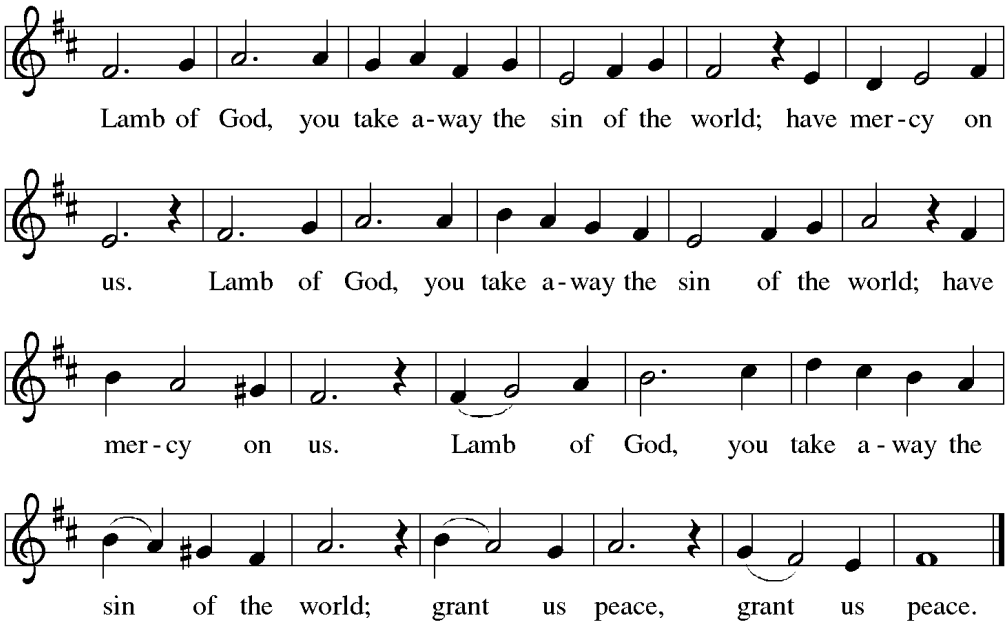
C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

* Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.
C: Thanks be to God.

- ***<u>All are welcome at this table</u>***. *Please follow the direction of the ushers as you make your way forward to the altar rail.*
- *You will receive a wafer, then be offered a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are also available.*
- *If it is either your practice or preference to not receive Communion today, please know that you are still welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.*
- *There is space on both sides of the sanctuary if you would desire to light a candle and observe a quiet moment of reflection as you return to your seat.*
- *If you need Holy Communion brought to you, please inform one of the ushers.*

"Lamb of God"



Please stand, as you are able.

* The Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you in God's grace.
C: Amen.

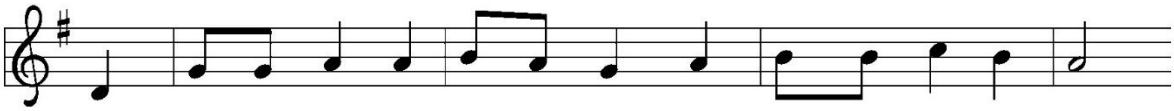
* Prayer After Communion

A: Let us pray:
God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

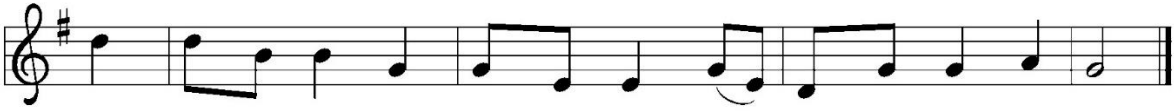
* Benediction

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
C: Amen.

* Sending Hymn: *Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death* (ELW 452)



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 8 am - noon