

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Holy Communion
9:30 a.m.

United Lutheran Church
Oak Park, Illinois

*Welcome to United Lutheran Church! If you're new to worship, parts **for everyone to say together are in bold**, parts for worship leaders are in regular print.
A brief description about themes of our worship today:*

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*standing*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive us and
cleanse us of our unrighteousness.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
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.
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

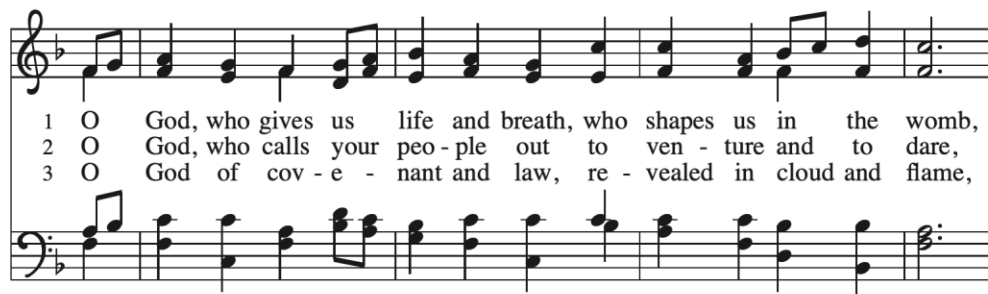
Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to you,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away the power of your wrongs and mine,
and restores the promise of life through + Jesus Christ.

Your sins are forgiven. By the Holy Spirit's creating breath,
turn your lives to serve and follow Christ.

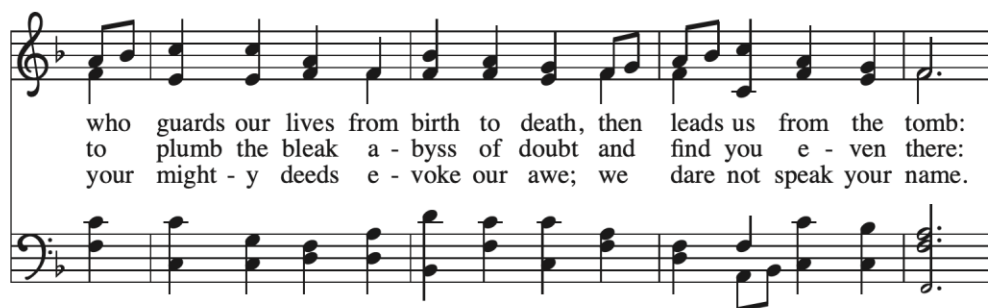
Amen.

GATHERING SONG (PURPLE HYMNAL) 1086

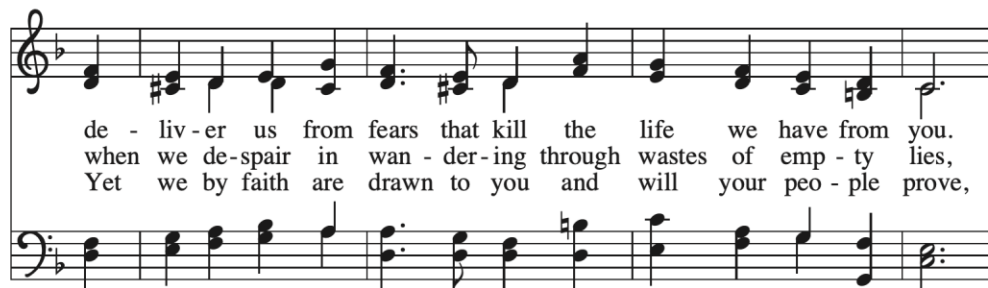
O God, Who Gives us Life



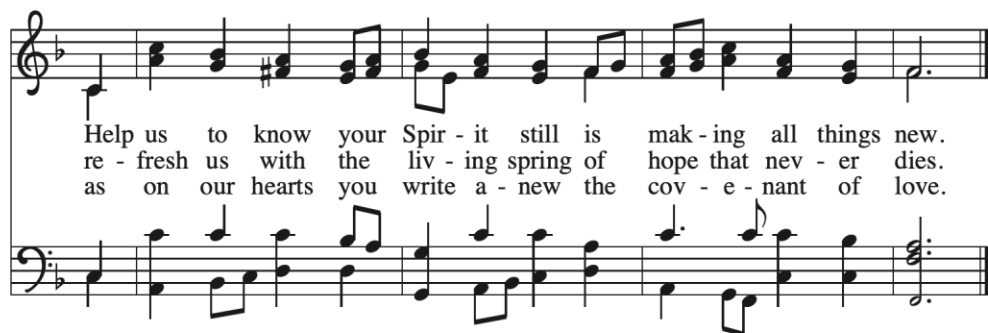
1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,
 2 O God, who calls your peo - ple out to ven - ture and to dare,
 3 O God of cov - e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.
 when we de - spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



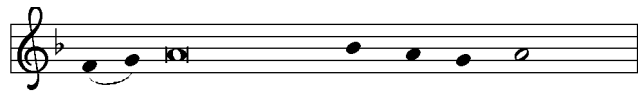
Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: NOEL, English melody; arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900
 Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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 - va - tion, 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,



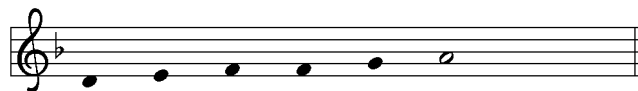
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

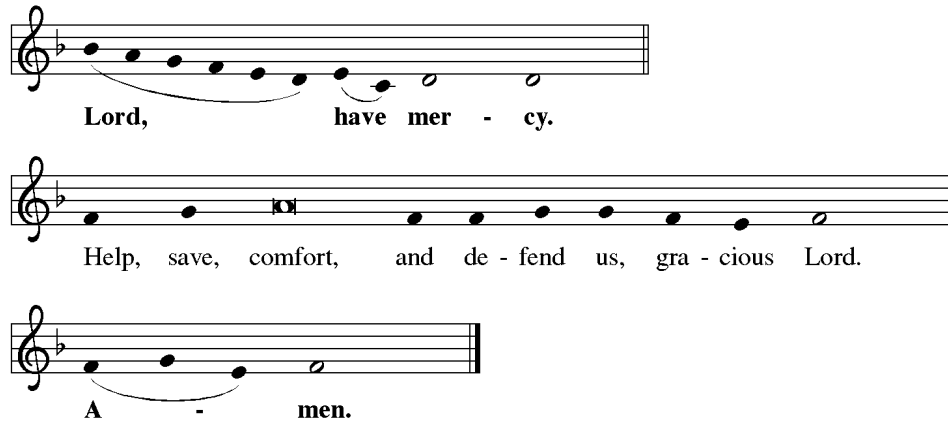


For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

(Kyrie continues on the next page)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (*sitting*)

Mission of the Month for March: New Moms

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

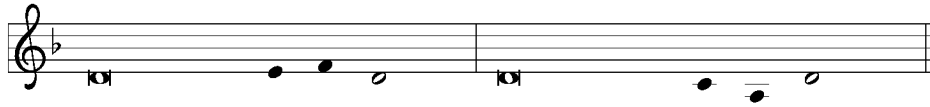
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-12

The cantor and the assembly alternate in singing the verses.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from Ephesians.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

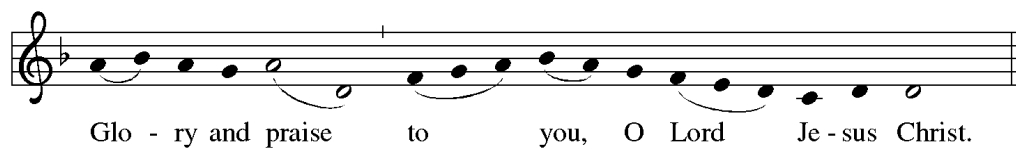
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

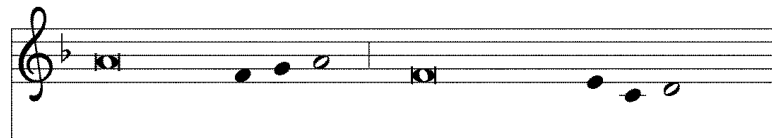
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*standing*)

Refrain



Cantor



Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a ¹ single grain;* but if it dies, it ¹ bears much fruit. (*John 12:24*)

Refrain again.

GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (*sitting*)

HYMN OF THE DAY (Red Hymnal) 330 (*standing*)
The music is found #330 in the Red Hymnal.

Seed that on Earth is Dying

- 1 Seed that in earth is dying
grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel
turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us
faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death.
- 2 We were baptized in Jesus,
into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise:
praise and eternal life.
Heaven's own praises begin here
where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.
- 3 Seed that in earth is dying
rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table,
give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you!
Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death.

Text: Svein Ellingsen, b. 1929; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, b. 1929
English text © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLE'S CREED*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**Reciting the ancient creeds together connects the church of each generation to the promises made in baptism and to the earliest followers of Christ. The act of saying the creeds embodies how Christian faith is individual and it is shared across generations. If you are new to worship, or if you haven't been baptized or confirmed, or if you aren't sure at this time if you can mean what you invited to say, remaining silent is also welcome and permitted.*

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.

In our prayers

Elliot, Maribel and the Garcia family, the Schmucker family, Claire Kroll, Mary Ann Kroll, the Osterlund family, Fred Fibeger, Phyllis Stadtwald, Kevin McCole, Tyler, Monica, Julie, Helen, Carol, Tomm, Jen, Edie, Michael, Don, and Mary.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*standing*)

Following each petition:

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

The prayers conclude:

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

At the end of worship today you may leave an offering in the plate on the table at the entrance to the sanctuary where the bulletins are, or you use our website <unitedlutheranchurch.org> and the giving tab on the menu bar. There is also a QR code printed on the last page of the bulletin.

OFFERING HYMN (Purple Hymnal) 923

As Your Spirit in the Desert

1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
 2 As - your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes - to
 5 God - of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid - us

dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
 Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
 jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the

cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
 man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
 ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the

wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
 wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
 wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

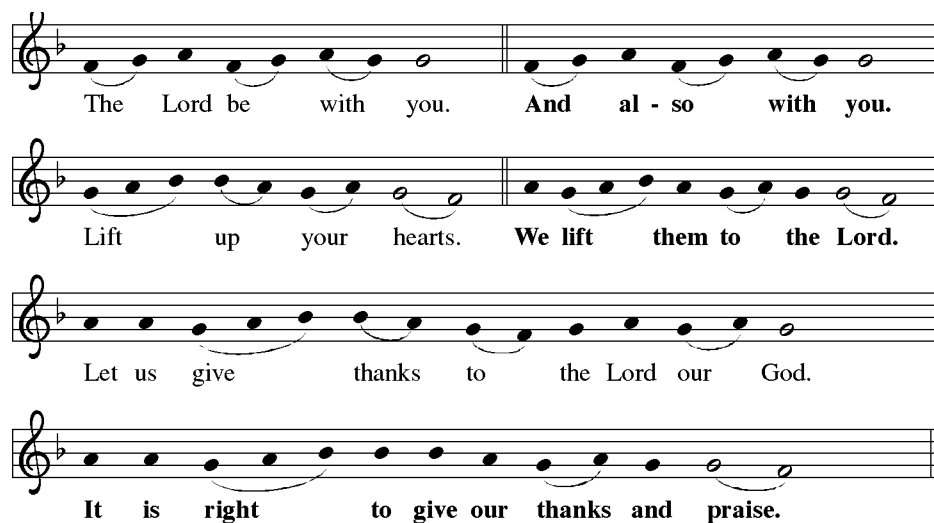
Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: ROSEVILLE, Michael D. Costello, b. 1979

OFFERING PRAYER (*assisting minister*)

Jesus, you are the bread of life
 and the host of this meal.
 Bless these gifts that we have gathered
 that all people may know your goodness.
 Feed us not only with this holy food
 but with a real hunger for justice and peace.
 We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING (*standing*)



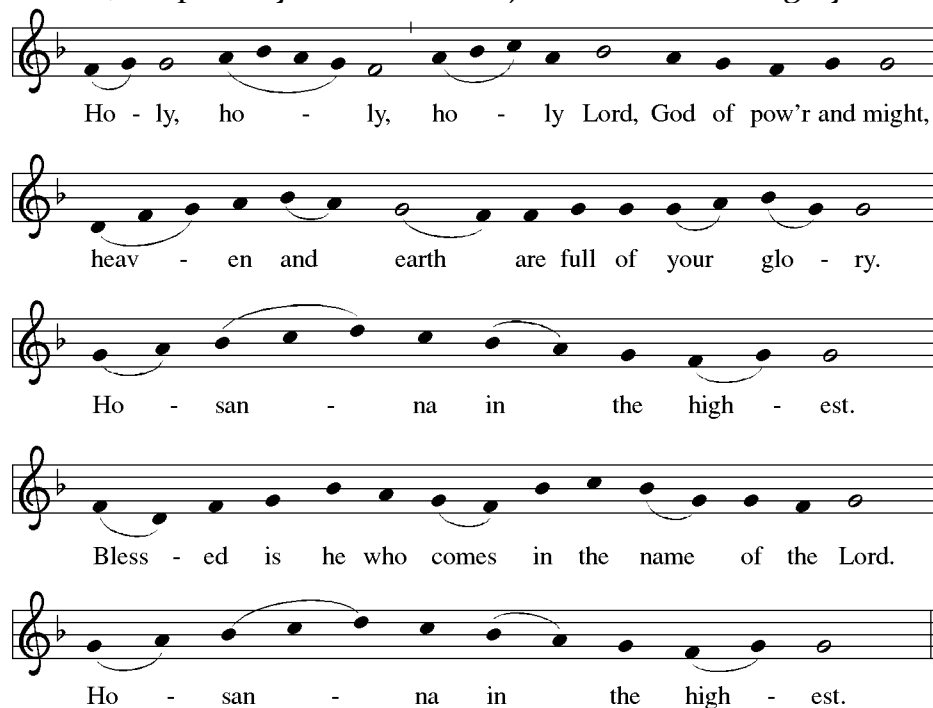
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en 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

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,
in their need you brought forth water from the rock,
and writing your law upon their hearts you willed that all would know and
teach your way, from the greatest to the least among them.
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 Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

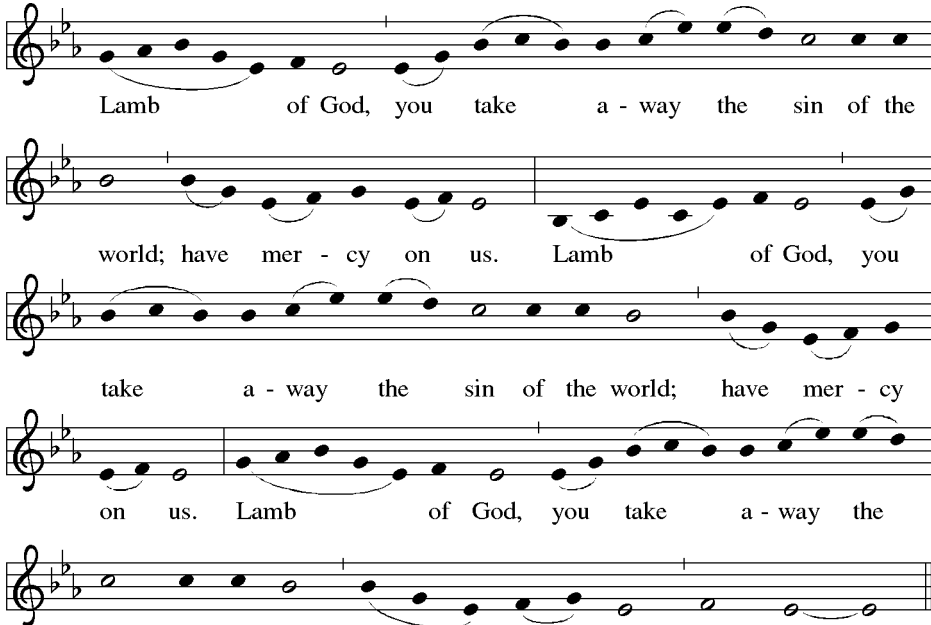
Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune. Worshipers seated on the pulpit side come forward in the center aisle first to receive the bread. Then turn to pick up an empty cup for wine or a prepackaged cup of grape juice. An assisting minister will pour wine from the pouring chalice into the empty cup. Return used cups to a tray near the head of the side aisle as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMN (RED HYMNAL) 340

A Lamb Goes Forth Uncomplaining



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain-ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.
2 This lamb is Christ, our great-est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.

He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.
"My Fa - ther's will is my com-mand; I'll do as I am bid - den."
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.

He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -
"Go down, my child," the Fa - ther said, "and free my chil - dren
Oh, won-drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com-plaint; his spot-less life he of-fers. He bears the shame,
 from their dread of death and con-dem-na-tion. The pain-ful stripes
 can-not right the Son was sent from heav-en. What love, O Love,
 ter-ni-ty be-fore the throne of heav-en, where we shall stand

the stripes, the wrath; his an-guish, mock-er-y,
 are hard to bear, but by your death they all
 who came to save by lov-ing e-ven to
 close by your side, your church, the well-ap-point-

and death for us he glad-ly suf-fers.
 can share the joy of your sal-va-tion."
 the grave un-til the stone was riv-en.
 ed bride, when all the faith-ful gath-er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
 Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*standing, led by assisting minister*)

Generous God,
 at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
 As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
 now make us one loaf to feed the world;
 in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Assisting Minister begins, representing the lay people of United:

The following people were approved at our congregational meeting for positions of leadership on our church council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

Tammy Dianovsky, President
Sandy Williams, Vice President
Zan Lofgren, Secretary
LaVerne Schwartz, Treasurer
Chidi Enyia
Bob Berg

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

The presiding minister continues:

You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church. You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:
Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices
to which you have been entrusted?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:
Will you support these, your council leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG (*Red Hymnal*) 545

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

QR code link to access United's online giving page.
Thank you. Your financial giving makes our ministry possible.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding Minister: Ole Schenk; *Musician:* Gloria Mitka; *Assisting Minister:* Ngozi Enyia; *Cantor:* Tammy Dianovsky; *Reader:* Sharon Stadtwald; *Audio Technician:* Kurt Stadtwald; *Zoom Technician:* Chris Galaviz; *Usher:* Phil Lofgren; *Altar Guild:* Max Guenther; *Sunshine Club:* Lynda Prischman; *Bread Baker:* LaVerne Schwartz.

Welcome to all worshipping with us this morning. We invite everyone to commune with us. Join us for a time of fellowship after worship in the fellowship hall on the main level of the building.

Please record your name and address on a white communication card, check off additional items as appropriate, and place the card in an offering plate as you leave.

Interested in membership at United Lutheran Church or would you like more information on participating in an activity or event? Please call or email the church office (contact information below).

Midweek Moments is a weekly email newsletter containing announcements from United Lutheran Church and you can subscribe to it on the *news page* of our website. Printed copies of the latest edition of Midweek Moments are also available on the tables with the worship bulletins at either entrance.

Find us on **Facebook** at <https://www.facebook.com/unitedlutheranoakpark/>

Call the church office: 708-386-1576.

Email the church office: office@unitedlutheranchurch.org.

Mailing address: 409 Greenfield Street, Oak Park, Illinois 60302-1143.

Website: www.unitedlutheranchurch.org

Contact Pastor Ole Schenk (he/him): pastor@unitedlutheranchurch.org, or 312-863-9747 (cell)



United Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.