

She bought it so that  
she might keep it for  
the day of my burial.

John 12:7, NRSV

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Liturgy of Word and Sacrament  
Sunday, April 7, 2019  
**8 AM & 10:30 AM**  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

WOV Holy Communion Setting Four: Light of Christ  
Pastor: The Reverend Faron H. Johnson  
Minister of Music: Michael Busija  
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994  
[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# ***Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!***

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected after the service.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to receive the elements at the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians. Persons, who may not wish to receive the bread and wine of the communion, are still welcome to come to the table to receive a blessing. To do so please fold your hands and bow your head.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom, equipped with a changing table and supplies and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** – The worship folder you are holding is also a weekly devotional booklet. The prayers and Scripture readings are appropriate for use at any time during the week. The liturgy itself is a Scripturally based order for daily prayer and devotion with Scriptural references noted where they apply. Even the hymns are appropriate tools for prayer and praise. Finally, there is a daily lectionary of Scripture readings for the rest of the week on the last printed page.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Lord our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading we recall the transformation of Saul, the persecutor, into Paul, the apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 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 and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*The assembly stands.*

### Christ, the Life of All the Living



- 1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
- 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
- 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

## 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.**

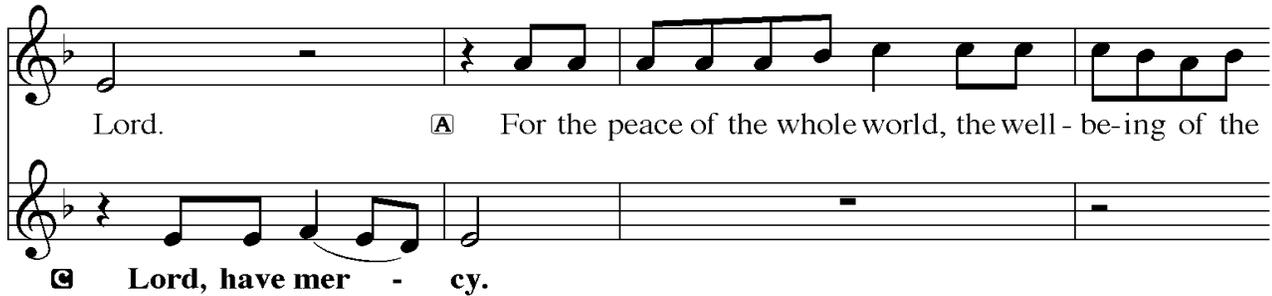
# KYRIE



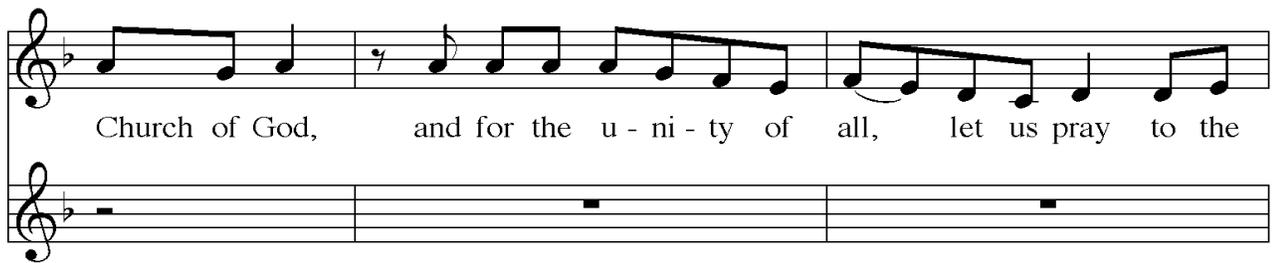
**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



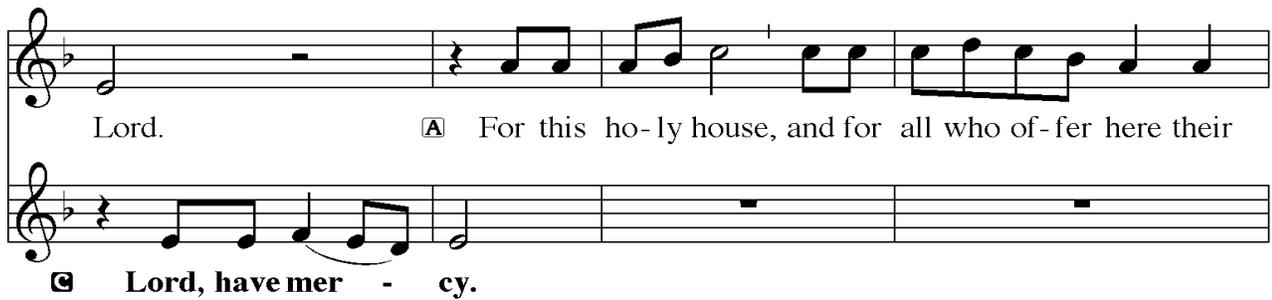
peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the



Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - being of the  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the



Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, our redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope in the world. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD WITH THE CHILDREN

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21**

A reading from Isaiah, the 43<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

*{The prophet declares that long ago the Lord performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, the Lord is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new exodus.}*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,

who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;

they lie down, they cannot rise,

they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;

for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

A reading from Philippians the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

*{Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.}*

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.

<sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

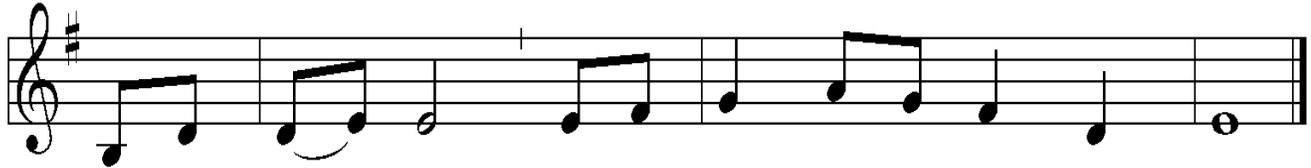
**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.}*

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

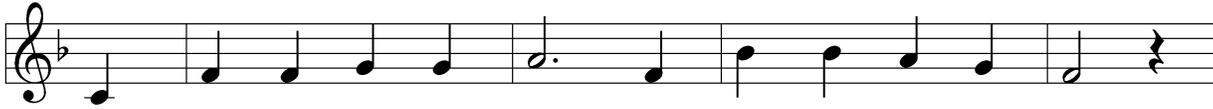
*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

*The assembly stands.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### My Song Is Love Unknown



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



love to the love - less shown, that they might love - ly be.  
but men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas to their King.  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.



Oh, who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take frail  
But, oh, my friend, my friend in - deed, who at my need his  
Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is all their breath, and for his death they  
Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these them - selves dis - please, and



flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
life did spend; who at my need his life did spend!  
thirst and cry, and for his death they thirst and cry.  
'gainst him rise; them - selves dis - please, and 'gainst him rise.

5 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 suff'ring goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

6 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.

7 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!

Together we confess our faith:

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of resurrection and new life, inspire your church to reconsider what makes us holy. When we focus on our own piety or others' sin, show us Christ's faithfulness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wherever destruction by flood, famine, or fire has devastated land and lives, cause green shoots to spring up, giving hope and vision for your promised future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Where nations are embroiled in chaos and unrest, cut a clear path for your people to follow. Lead us in ways of reconciliation, and foretell the new things you prepare. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Wipe away the tears of those who weep under the burdens of hard labor and despair (*especially*). Restore them, and bring them into the joy of your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Permeate this world with the sweet perfume of Christ's anointing. Fill your people with such gratitude that it spills over into service of those who are poor or in any need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Accompany those for whom death draws near. Bring us with all your saints to receive the abundance of heavenly glory through the covenant Christ sealed in his death and resurrection. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748  
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our



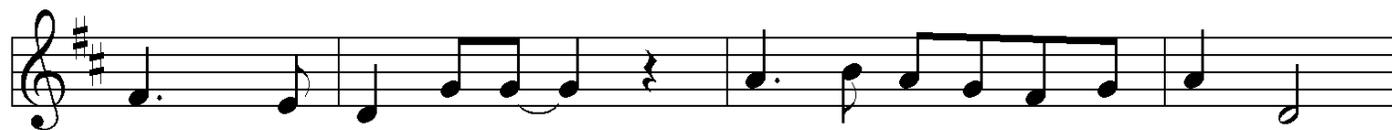
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,



that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the



prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,



and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

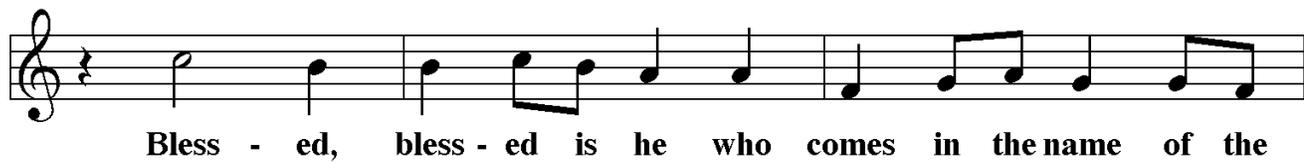
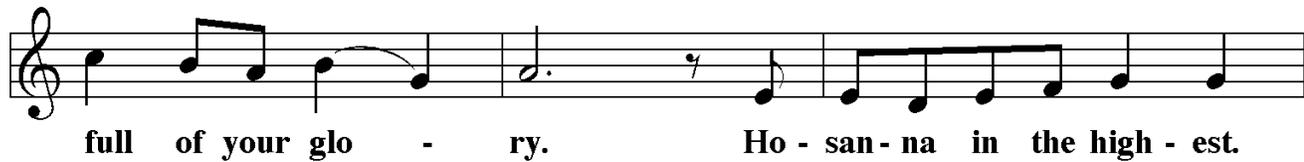
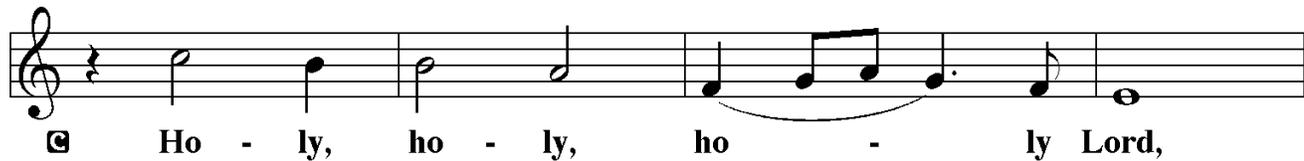
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.

Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the  
Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.

We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners,  
and his acceptance of death.

But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.

We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place, and unite them  
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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;**

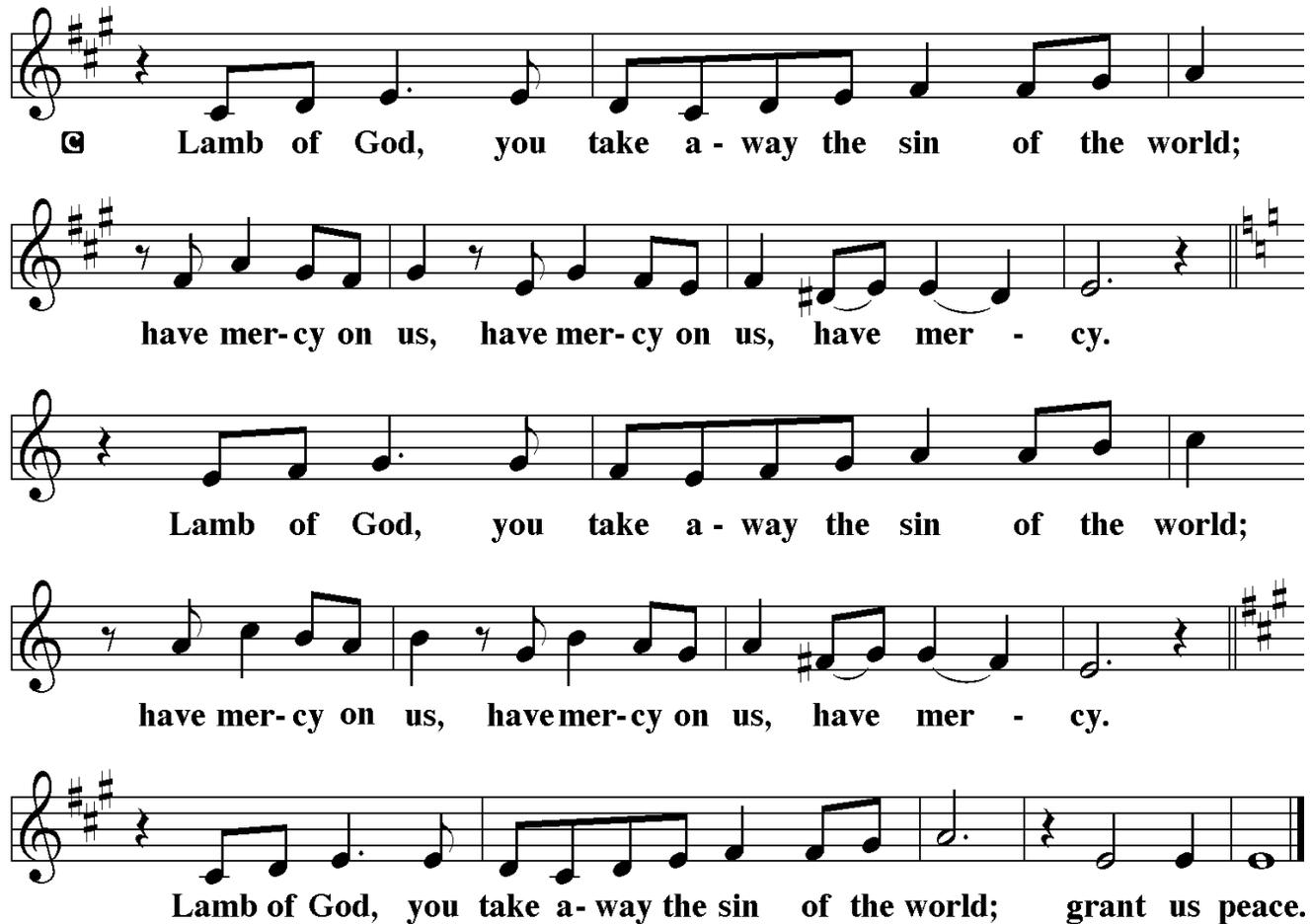
**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD



**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**

**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**

**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

Please come forward by the center aisle. Pick up a communion glass from the trays at the end of the center aisle. Then move to the altar where you may kneel or stand. After receiving the elements the empty glass can be returned to the tray for empty glasses as you return to your pew by the side aisles. Be sure to fill out the pew pad.

# COMMUNION HYMN

## I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All



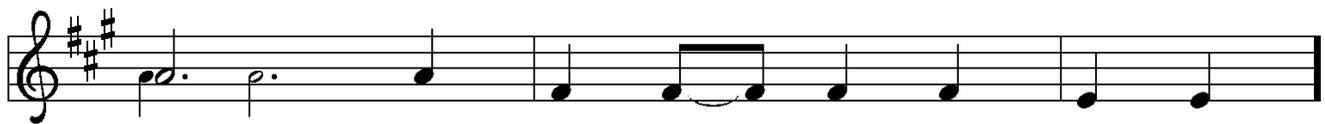
1 "I am the Bread of life. You who  
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my  
3 "Un - less . . . . . you . . . . . eat of the  
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . . . .  
5 Yes, Lord, . . . . . I be - lieve that . . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -  
flesh for the life of the world, . . . . . and if you  
flesh of the Son of Man . . . . . and . . . .  
I . . . . . am the life. . . . . If you be -  
you . . . . . are the Christ, . . . . . the . . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat . . . . . of this bread, you shall . . live for -  
drink . . . . . of his blood, and drink . . . . . of his  
lieve . . . . . in . . . . . me, e - ven . . though you  
Son . . . . . of . . . . . God, who . . . . . have . . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."  
ev - er, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."  
die, . . . . . you shall live for - ev - er."  
come in - to . . . . . the . . . . . world. . . . .



*Refrain*  
All



“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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*The assembly stands.*

*After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silence for reflection.*

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# QUIET MEDITATION

## SENDING HYMN

### Lead On, O King Eternal!



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;  
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,  
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917

Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**April 7, 2019**

### **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

#### **Wholehearted Love**

The one magnificent thing Mary could wholeheartedly do for Jesus was to love him. Most stunning in the memory of that dinner in Bethany, the line lingering after all the details fade, is this gorgeous passage: “The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume” (John 12:3). Such beauty! What Mary gave in those astonishing moments was what she had discovered at Jesus’ feet.

For Mary had been at his feet before; she sat there at another time in that house, indifferent to aromas of cooking and cleaning, but rather listening, attending to his word. We can easily imagine what she heard from Jesus, words other disciples and the merely curious alike heard: stories of mercy and hope, parables of thieves, tales of servants and masters, the directions of love. And at still another time she knelt at Jesus’ feet, weeping beside a stone gateway to death, stench rising from her dead brother’s body. Daring to have faith in the one who called, Mary ran to Jesus and, out of the wrinkles of scolding despair, heard him: “Lazarus, come out!”

The sweet, extravagant odor of love was in every room as Mary anointed Jesus’ feet, the scent ascending the way psalmists’ prayers rose as incense before God. Such love has no choice: it spends itself without caution, is not reduced to affordable charity, deliberately disregards prudence. It strains limits of convention and introduces itself with utter humility. It kneels.

Such love is not easily accepted: At home Martha was indignant at Mary. At the tomb, onlookers’ irritation ripened into execution schemes. At a Bethany dinner, Judas had little tolerance for wasteful devotion to a failed and foolhardy cause or its disappointing savior.

Following Mary’s example, we are called to kneel at the feet of Jesus, at the feet of one another. Jesus, too, assumes the posture of Mary at the feet of the disciples, welcoming them—and us—into the way of wholehearted love. May the house be filled with its fragrance.

## ***Daily Readings for the Week April 7-13***

<b>Sunday:</b>	Fifth Sunday in Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalm 20 Exodus 40:1-15 Hebrews 10:19-25
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalm 20 Judges 9:7-15 1 John 2:18-28
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalm 20 Habakkuk 3:2-15 Luke 18:31-34
<b>Thursday:</b>	Psalm 31:9-16 Isaiah 53:10-12 Hebrews 2:1-9
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalm 31:9-16 Isaiah 54:9-10 Hebrews 2:10-18
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalm 31:9-16 Leviticus 23:1-8 Luke 22:1-13

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