

... if you
confess
with your lips
that Jesus is Lord and

believe
in your heart
that God raised him
from the dead,

you will be
saved. Romans 10:9,
NRSV

St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Liturgy of Word and Sacrament
Sunday, March 10, 2019
8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
First 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

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

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

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.

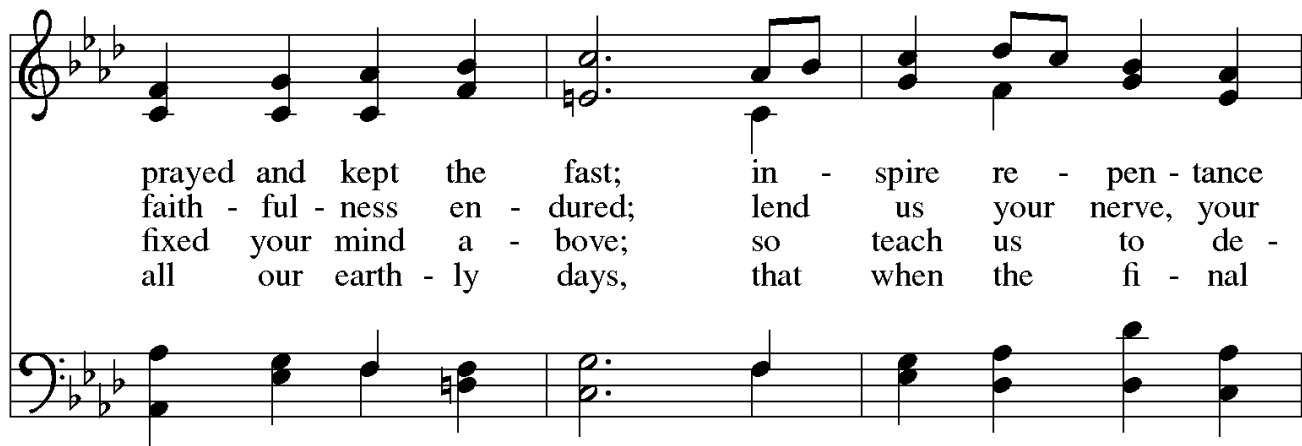
GATHERING HYMN

The assembly stands.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003

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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

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

G 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 - be - ing of the

G 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

G 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.

Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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 LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

A reading from Deuteronomy the 26th chapter.

{The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.}

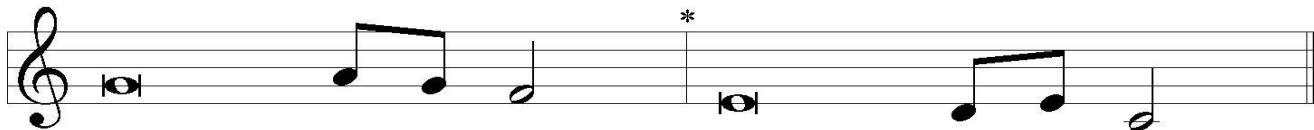
¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 (sung responsively)

Psalm Tone 1



¹He who dwells in the shelter of | the Most High,
abides under the shadow of | the Almighty.

²**He shall say to the LORD, "You are my refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust." R**

⁹Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰**there shall no evil hap- | pen to you,
neither shall any plague come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹For he shall give his angels charge | over you,
to keep you in | all your ways.

¹²**They shall bear you | in their hands,
lest you dash your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

¹³You shall tread upon the li- | on and the adder;
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent un- | der your feet.

¹⁴**Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I de- | liver him;
I will protect him, because he | knows my name.**

¹⁵He shall call upon me, and I will | answer him;
I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring | him to honor.

¹⁶**With long life will I sat- | isfy him,
and show him | my salvation. R**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans the 10th chapter.

{Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.}

^{8b}“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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: Luke 4:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

{After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."}

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"

⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,'

¹¹and

'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

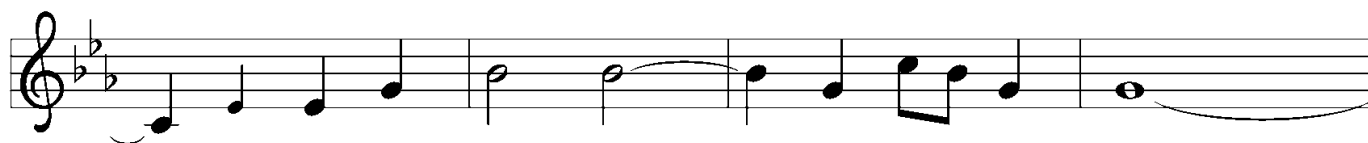
The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

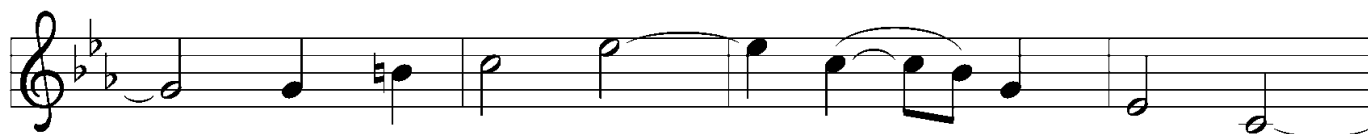
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



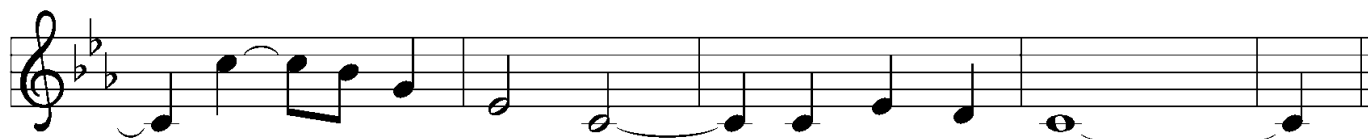
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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.

Holy and steadfast God, keep your word near to us, planting it in our hearts and communities. Make it blossom into proclamation for all people to receive. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

As you give your Spirit freely, so also give bread that sustains every living thing. Graciously feed hungry souls and hungry stomachs with your bountiful provision. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Stir up courage among your people to resist oppressive powers and to lead people into freedom (*as you did through Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, whom we commemorate today*). Shine the light of your justice through their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hold tightly those who grow weary in their struggle with addiction or temptation (*especially*). By your strength bear them up to live fully in your presence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Teach us the stories of our faith by heart. As you accompanied our ancestors in their uncertainty, so guide us confidently into the future. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

When we struggle and are tested, redeem us by the endurance of Christ. Give us steadfast faith to strive for your glory until we witness its fullness. 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

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song



- 1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
- 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
- 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
- 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
- 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,





Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

2 *Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route;
Jésus, je voudrais que ma voix soit l'écho de ta joie,
et que chante la terre et que chante le ciel;
Jésus, je voudrais te louer sur ma route.*

3 *Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route,
Jésus, je voudrais partager les souffrances de ta croix,
car tu livres pour moi et ton corps et ton sang;
Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route.*

4 *Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route,
entendre tes pas résonner dans le nuit près de moi,
jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé,
Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.*

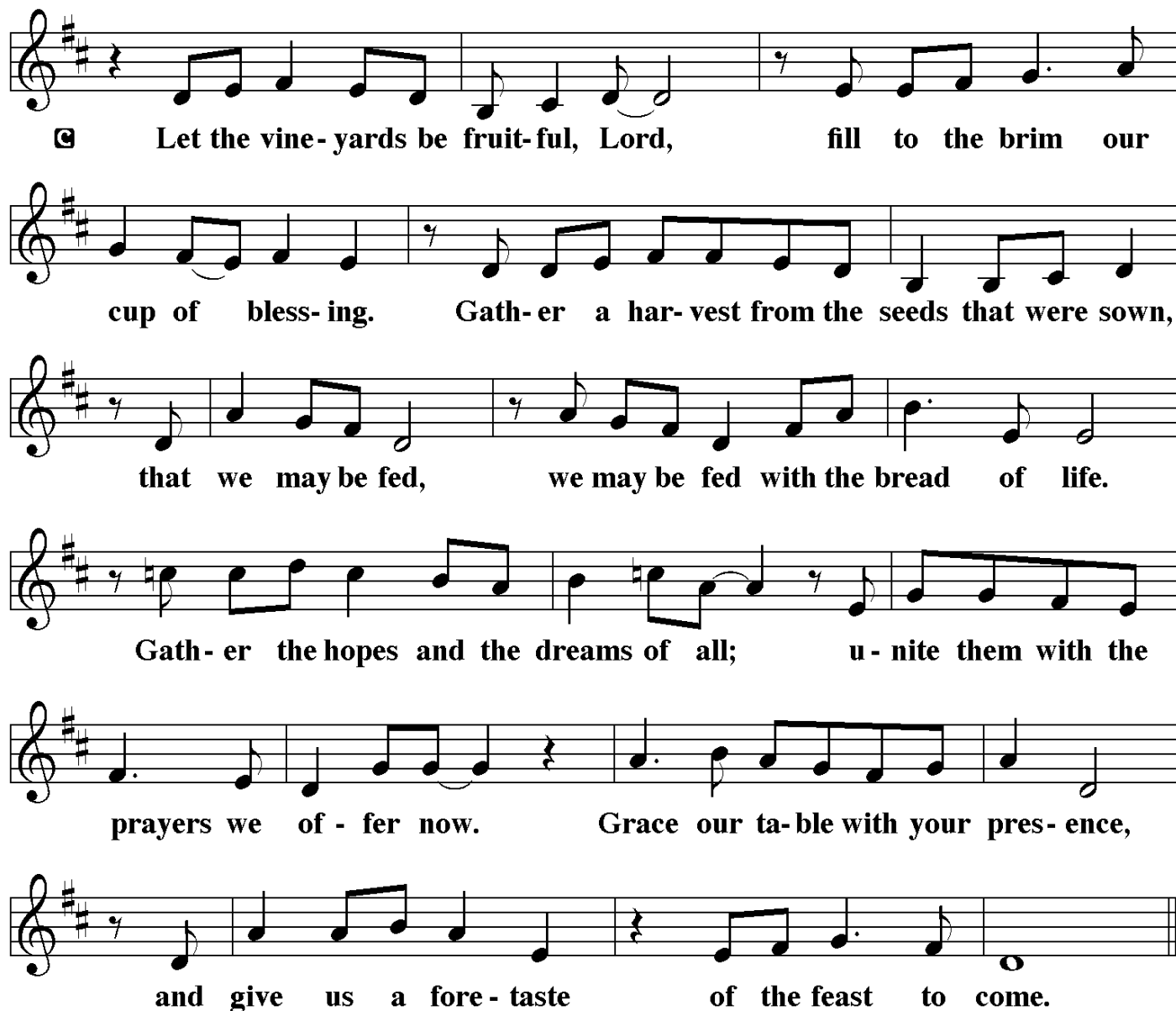
Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus
Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

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The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and melodic, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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.

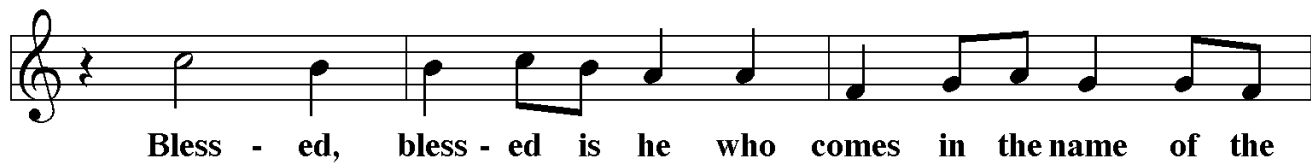
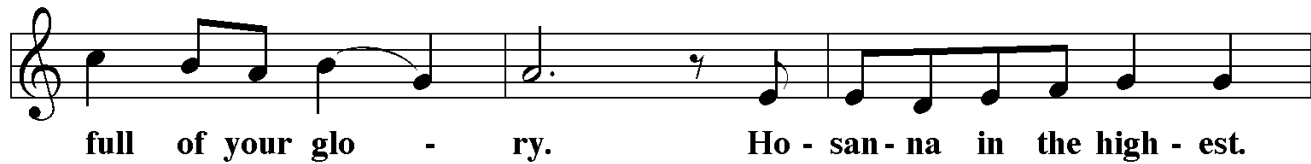
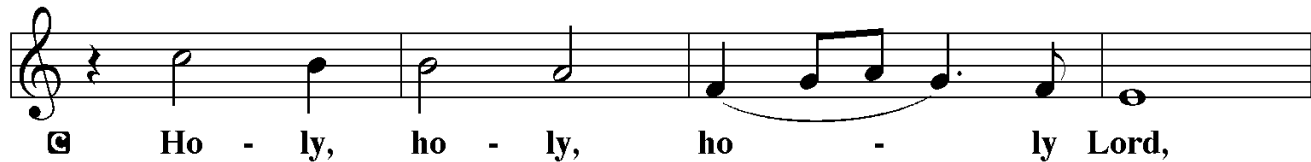
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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;

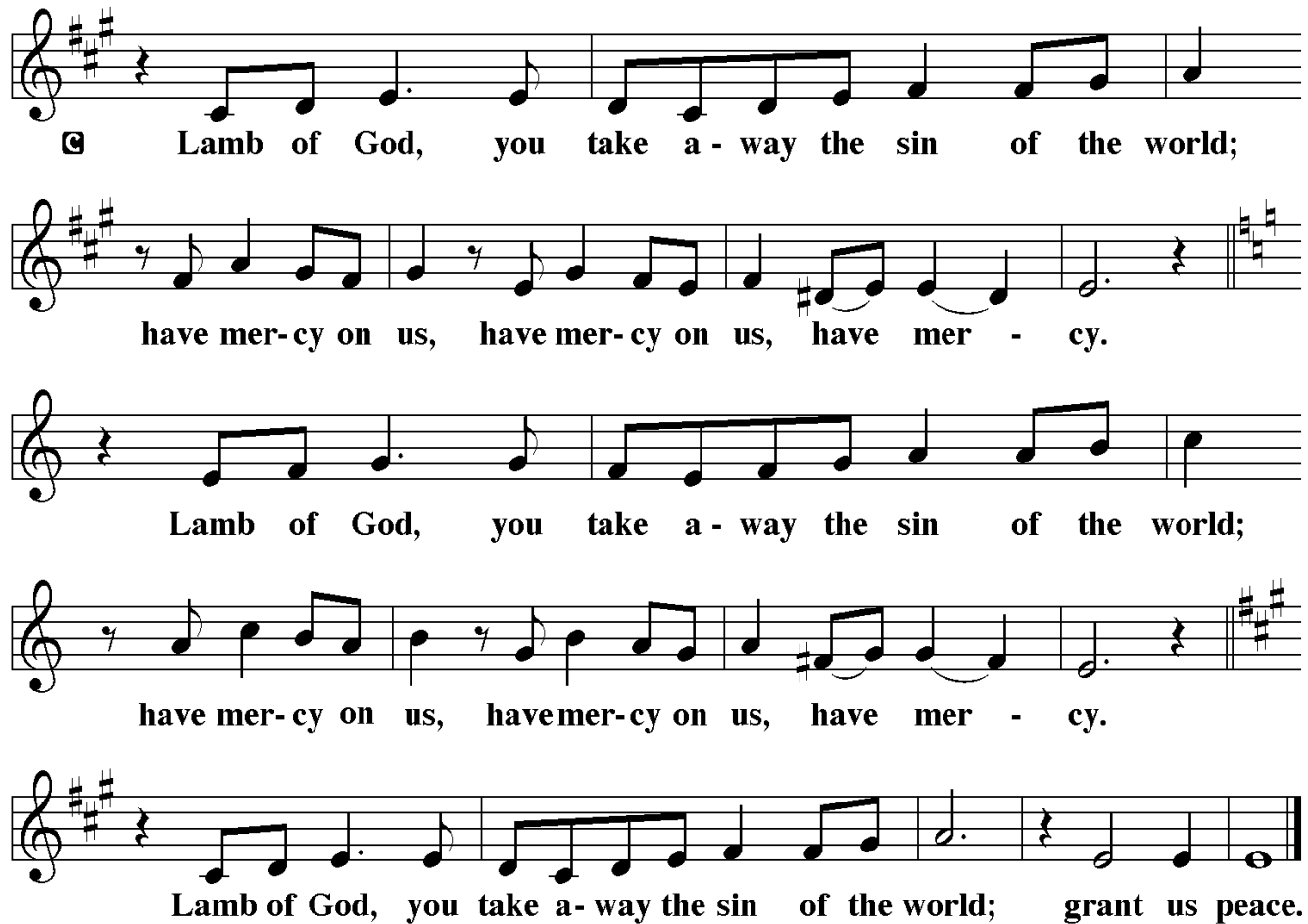
and lead us not into temptation,

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.

This morning we Commune by **intinction**. The congregation will proceed down the center aisle and receive the host from the pastor. Then, those seated on the right will go right and those seated on the left will go left, receive the chalice from one of the Communion assistants by dipping the host into the chalice. Then everyone returns by the side aisles.

COMMUNION HYMN

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, sr, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sr

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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

In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wilderness Encounter

The devil did not make him do it! No, it was not the Evil One who put Jesus on the path to the wilderness. Imagine the scene in this gospel story. Listen beyond the hissing sun and the howl of silence while you contend with this detail: It wasn't the devil's hand that tugged Jesus into the wilderness. No, it was not the diabolical villain of Eden's paradise nor the conniving accuser in Job's tragic saga that took him to taste loneliness and hunger. It was the Spirit! (Luke 4:1).

In a seemingly wretched epilogue to the grand scene by the river, Jesus, clean from the water of his baptism in the Jordan, goes to the wilderness. And yes, no surprise, in the wilderness the devil, the Great Deceiver, arrives with an unholy trinity of deceptions that offer nothing more to a hungry world than scraps that will not do. The Deceiver offers nothing more for empty lives than knock-off royal pedigrees that are cruel illusions, nothing more for unsteady nerves and faint hearts than a mockery of faith that bears no truth.

But the Spirit is there too, in this seemingly desolate place. There Jesus, the beloved Son, claims for himself more than name and ancestry; he reveals for us the holy work of God's mysterious Spirit. The same Spirit that descended on him at his baptism sustained him in the wilderness, and that very Spirit is wildly, graciously, probingly loose in the church and in the world today.

In our own wildernesses, where faith and doubt often collide, we can be sure that Jesus goes with us. The one who was led, accompanied, and followed by the Spirit in the wilderness surely does not abandon us to our doubts and fears. In places we are deeply afraid to go, Jesus waits for us with bread for the journey in his wounded hands.

Daily Readings for the Week March 10-16

Sunday:	First Sunday in Lent Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
Monday:	Psalm 17 1 Chronicles 21:1-17 1 John 2:1-6
Tuesday:	Psalm 17 Zechariah 3:1-10 2 Peter 2:4-21
Wednesday:	Psalm 17 Job 1:1-22 Luke 21:34—22:6
Thursday:	Psalm 27 Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18 Philippians 3:2-12
Friday:	Psalm 27 Genesis 14:17-24 Philippians 3:17-20
Saturday:	Psalm 27 Psalm 118:26-29 Matthew 23:37-39

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