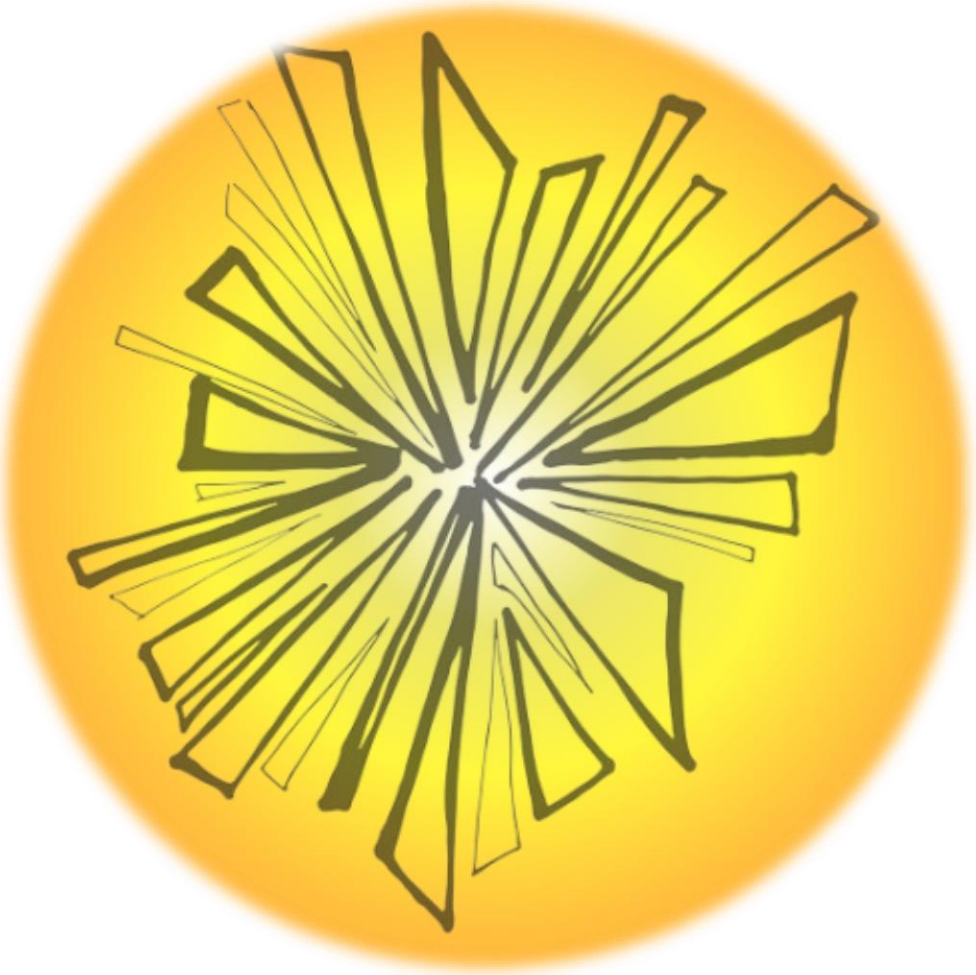
March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent



Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

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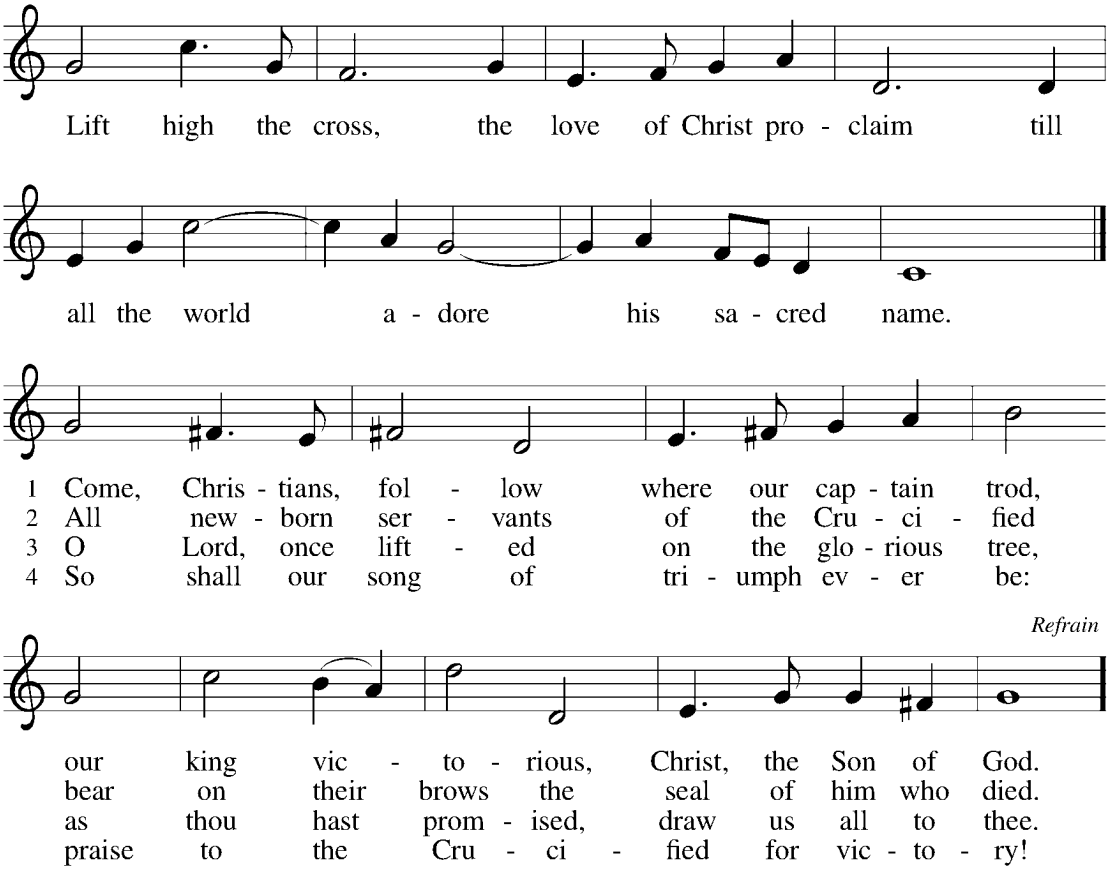
Pastor Kimberly Belken

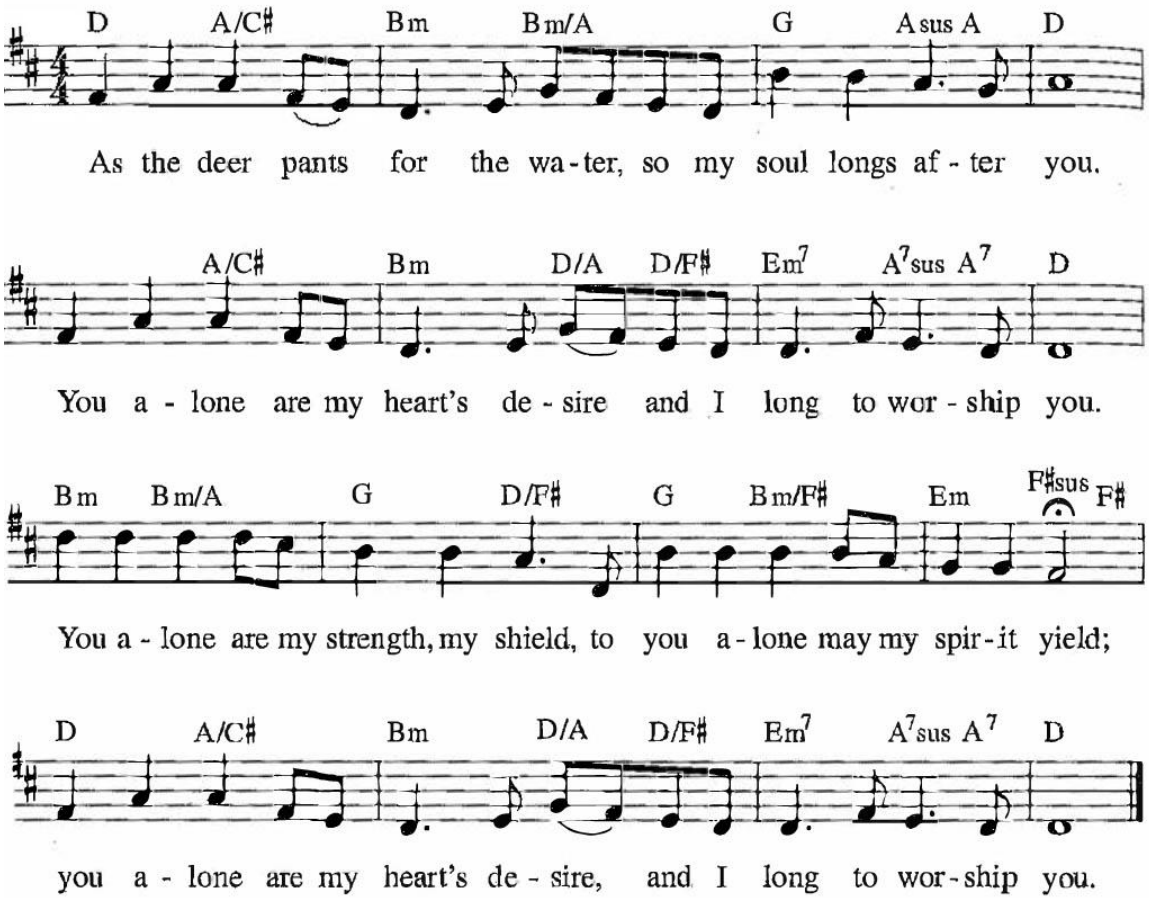
March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

Welcome & Announcements

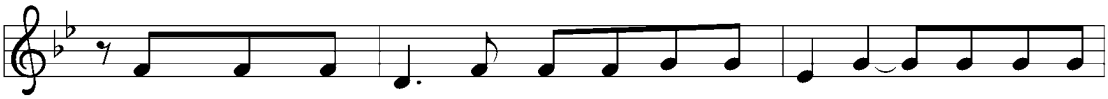
<u>Opening Song Set:</u>
Lift High the Cross



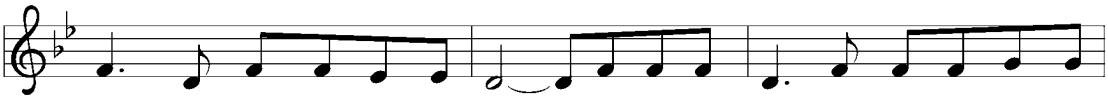
As the Deer


D A/C♯ Bm Bm/A G Asus A D
As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af-ter you.
A/C♯ Bm D/A D/F♯ Em7 A7sus A7 D
You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship you.
Bm Bm/A G D/F♯ G Bm/F♯ Em F♯sus F♯
You a-lone are my strength, my shield, to you a-lone may my spir-it yield;
D A/C♯ Bm D/A D/F♯ Em7 A7sus A7 D
you a-lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship you.

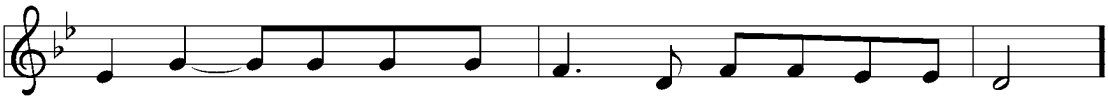
How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me

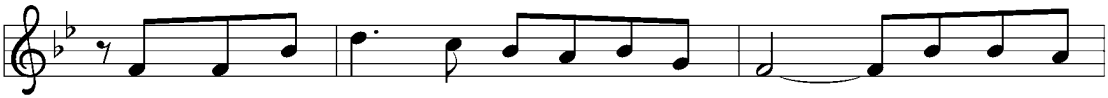


all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

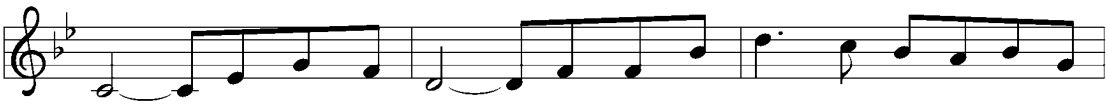


thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

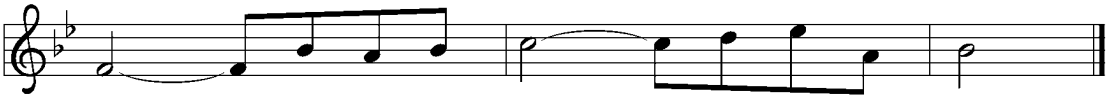
Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, 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

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

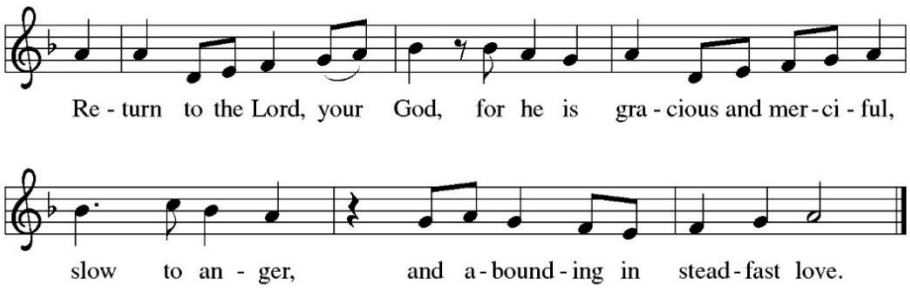
Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Holy Gospel John 4:5-42

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

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.

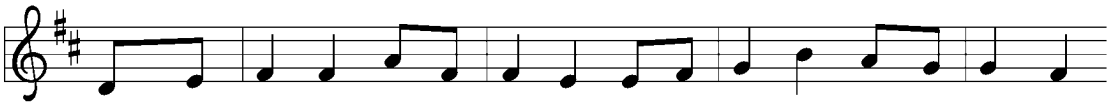
35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he
said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he,
sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have
seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I
believe." And 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 remains."

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

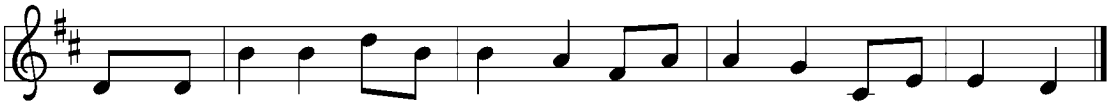
Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: Children of the Heavenly Father



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur-pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, give us the vision to see you when you come into our lives. Help us to be patient with your elusive presence. Preserve us from trying to figure you out on our own terms; help us be hospitable and to receive you on your terms. And when at last you speak to us, help us to respond to your voice, to answer when you call our name, then to follow where you lead. **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

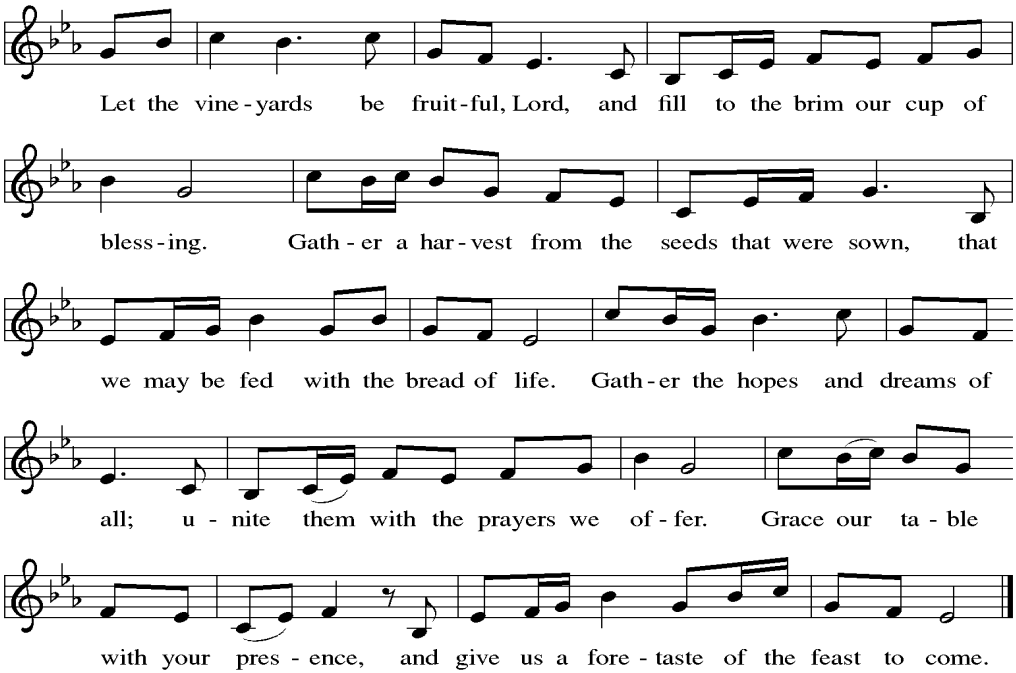
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,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

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

Offering: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 184)



Offering Prayer

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. Amen.

Thanksgiving at the Table

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

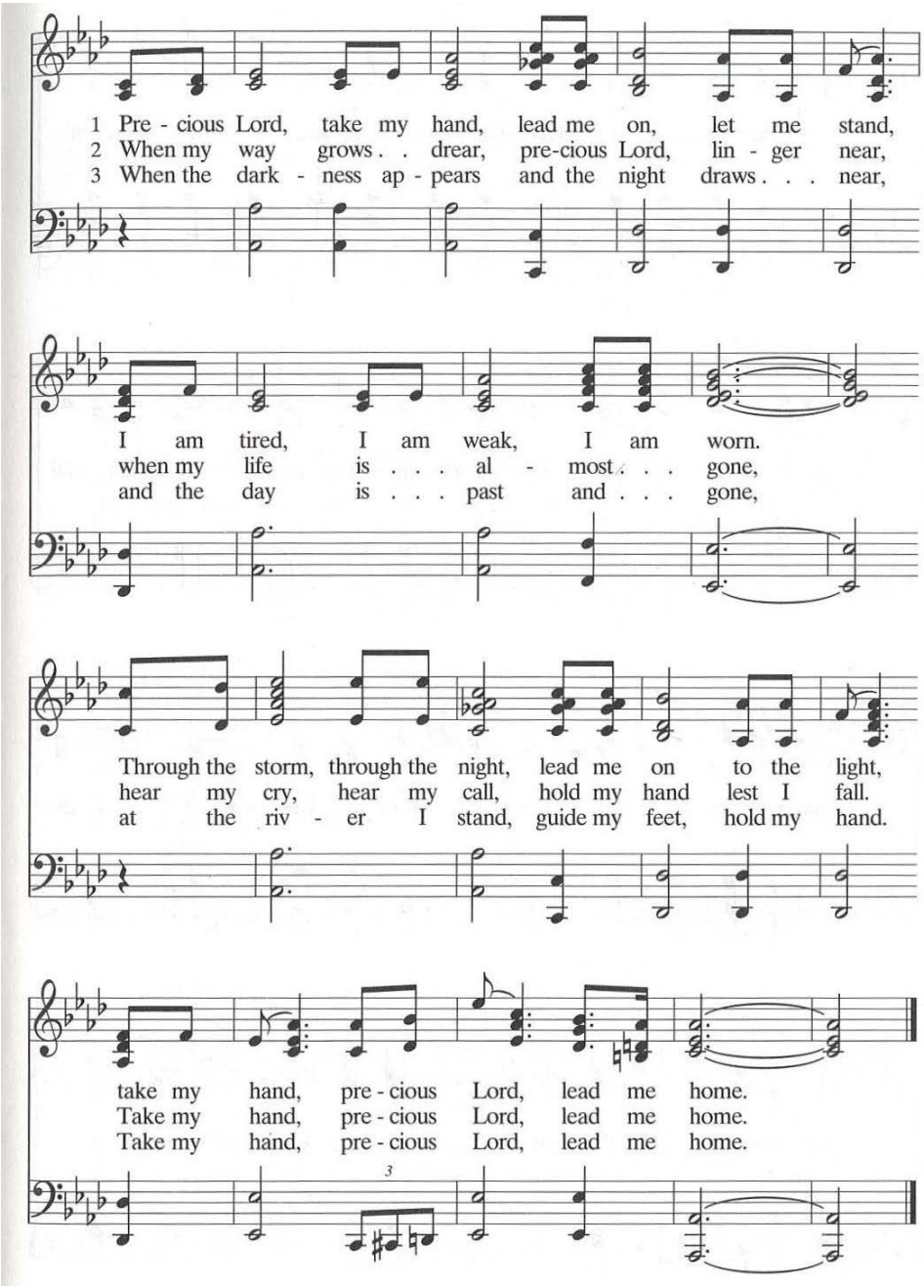
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

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

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Hymn During Communion: Precious Lord, Take My Hand



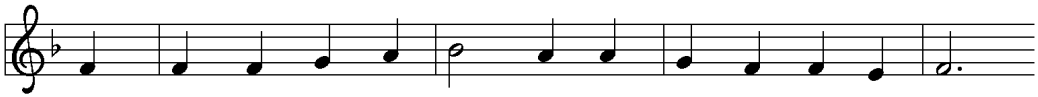
Post Communion Prayer

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. **Amen.**

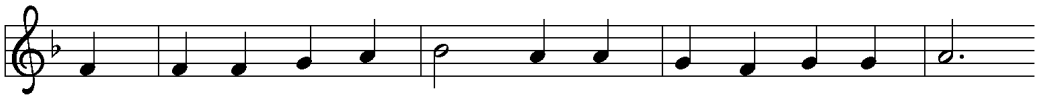
Benediction

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. **Amen.**

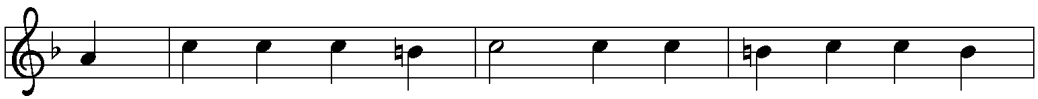
Sending Hymn: Hail to the Lord's Anointed



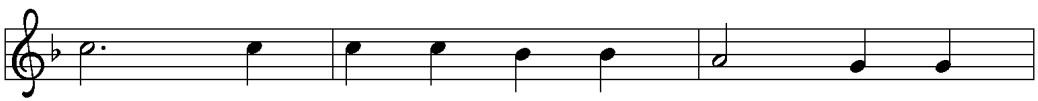
1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



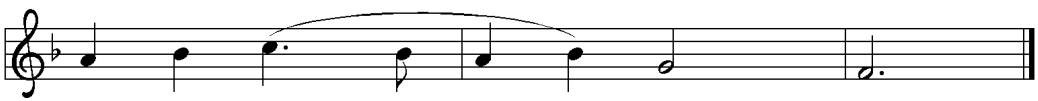
Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!
to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.
all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive
to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to
Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,
To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and
light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are
go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from
cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.
pre - cious in your sight.
hill to val - ley flow.
king - dom with - out end.

Dismissal

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

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Announcements

- **Midweek Holden Evening Prayer Service**: March 18 at 5:30.
- **Sign up for Easter Lilies**: Please sign up to order your Easter Lilies today. Each plant is $20 and the sign-up sheet and envelopes are on the table in the fellowship hall.
- **Singers Wanted!** We need singers for 2 group performances. Come one, come all! We will be singing on Easter (April 5) and Good Shepherd Sunday (May 3). Practice after Lenten services on Wednesday evenings. See you there.
- **Women's Soul Care Café:** On March 28 from10am-12pm we will be partnering with First Christian church to host a time for women in our community to get away and engage in some sacred self-care! Learning, conversation, and some hands-on activities! It is $10 for supplies and snacks and can be paid for at the door. Please bring a friend! Contact Pastor Andrea Brownlee to RSVP 515-259-1982
- **Stuff the Altar!** We will be stuffing the altar during Lent but with a twist, this time we will be collecting NEW items for Mt. Olivet Sleep Space. Please show your support by purchasing a new bedding item and bringing it during Lent to stuffing the altar.
- **Friends in Faith:** All elementary aged children are invited for an afternoon for faith and fun at the church hosted by Lutheran Lakeside Camp on March 22nd from 2-5 pm. We will have games, camp style worship, crafts and snacks. Let Pastor Kim know if you are interested!
- **Office Hours:** Pastor Kimberly is in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thursdays she will be splitting her time between Immanuel and Mt. Olivet, so if you would like to see her on that day, please call ahead so she can be sure to be in town. You can call the church number (515) 465- 5298 and it will ring to Pastor's cell phone if she is not in the office.