



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 29/30, 2025
6:00 pm / 8:45 am
Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and WELCOME

Prelude “*Meditation on Pleading Savior*”

arr. David H. Hegarty

Reed Wagner, organist

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of
God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for
the world. We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the
radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress
others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform
our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW 608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Words and music by Will L. Thompson. Words and music Public Domain

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

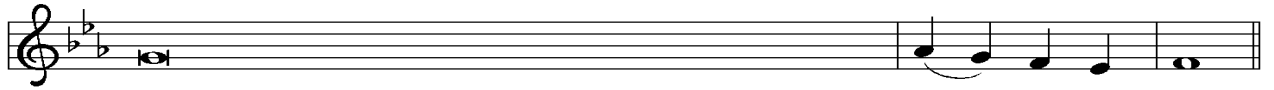
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



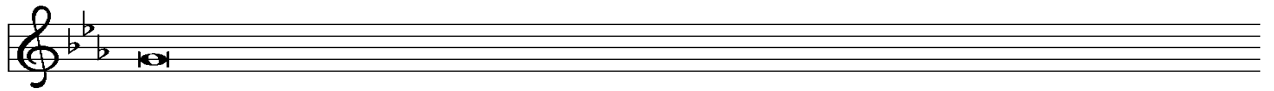
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



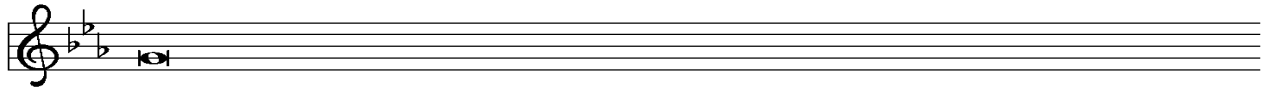
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

8:45 am Anthem “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Adoniram J. Gordon, arr. Joel Raney

Chancel Choir

Word

L: A Reading from Psalm 32.

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.


⁷You are a hiding place for me;
 you preserve me from trouble;
 you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
⁸I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
 I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
 whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
 else it will not stay near you.
¹⁰Many are the torments of the wicked,
 but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
 and shout for joy, all you upright in heart. (*Psalms 32*)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the fifteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: ¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’” (*Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

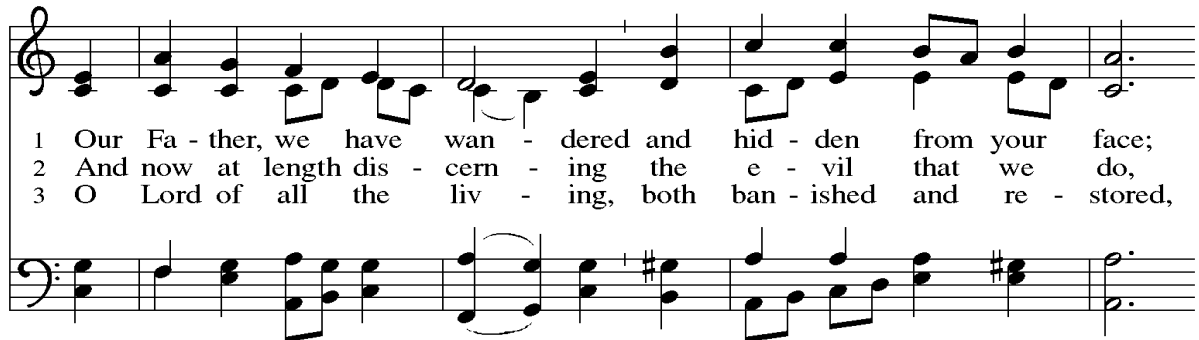
Children’s Message And “Noisy” Offering

Sermon Pastor Rick Carlson

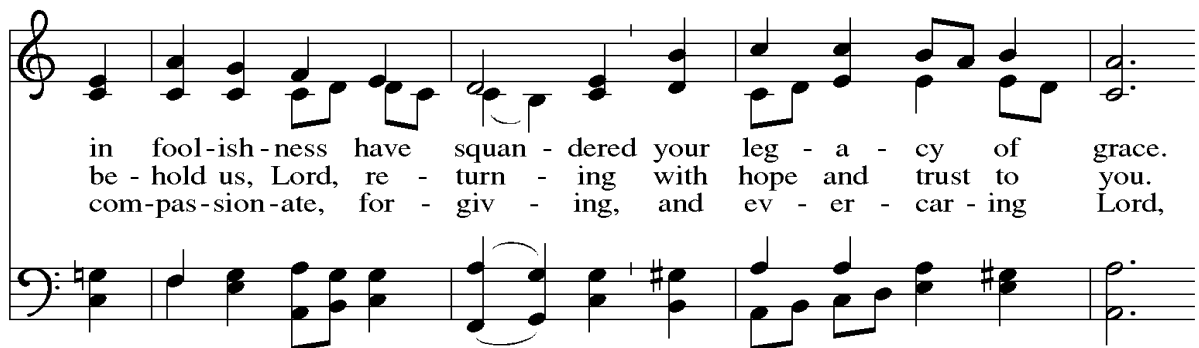
Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

"Our Father, We have Wandered" ELW 606



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006. Music: Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750
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Nicene Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

L: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence for reflection.

L: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.

God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life.

God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all.

God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all.

God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. We pray especially for...

Skyler Marie Adams	Larry & Jane Giddings	Garth Scism
Jim Anderson	Chuck Gilson	Denise Scott
Bertha Boyer	Linda Sue Jensen	Addison Sullivan
Vicki Buschelman	Betty Kempf	Tony Tauer
Gregory Carrico	Kylie Kotrc	Dave Vest
Jim Catterson	Ron Kruse	Eunice Warner
Wayne Deterding	Bob Lammers	Carl Weber
Terry Eirich	Emily McArthur	Misty White
Leonard Fowler	Bob Placzek	Dean Wiese
Tyler Freeland	Eileen Richter	Miranda Wright
Randy Fritson	Brent Roemmich	

Prayers of Comfort and Peace for:

- *the Samuelson and Petersen families on the death of Tricia Samuelson.*
- *the family and friends of Doris Schroeder on her death.*

L: God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

L: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*Please share a sign of peace with one another.
Please be seated.*

Meal

Offering "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

arr. Pierce Dickens

Organist: Reed Wagner

Offertory Response

"Come to the Table" ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

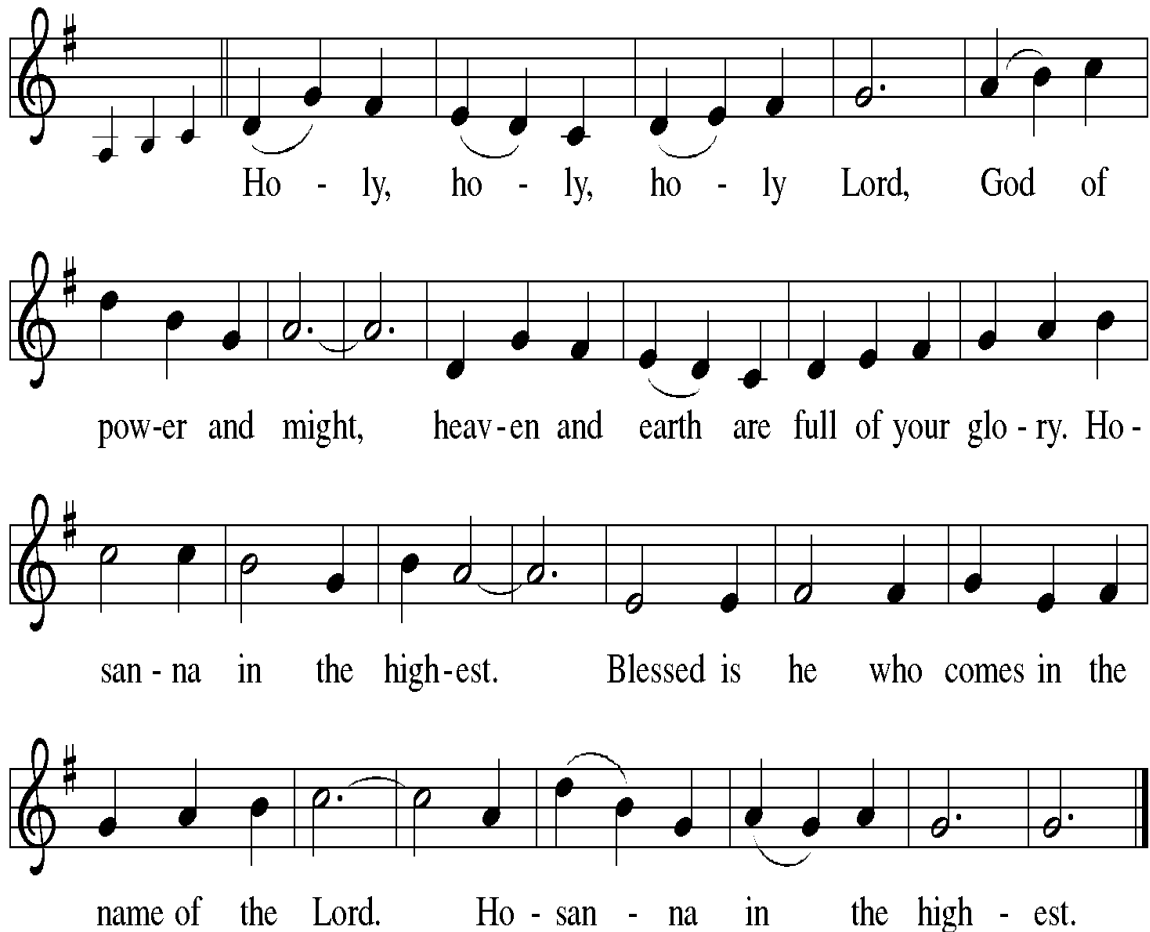
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

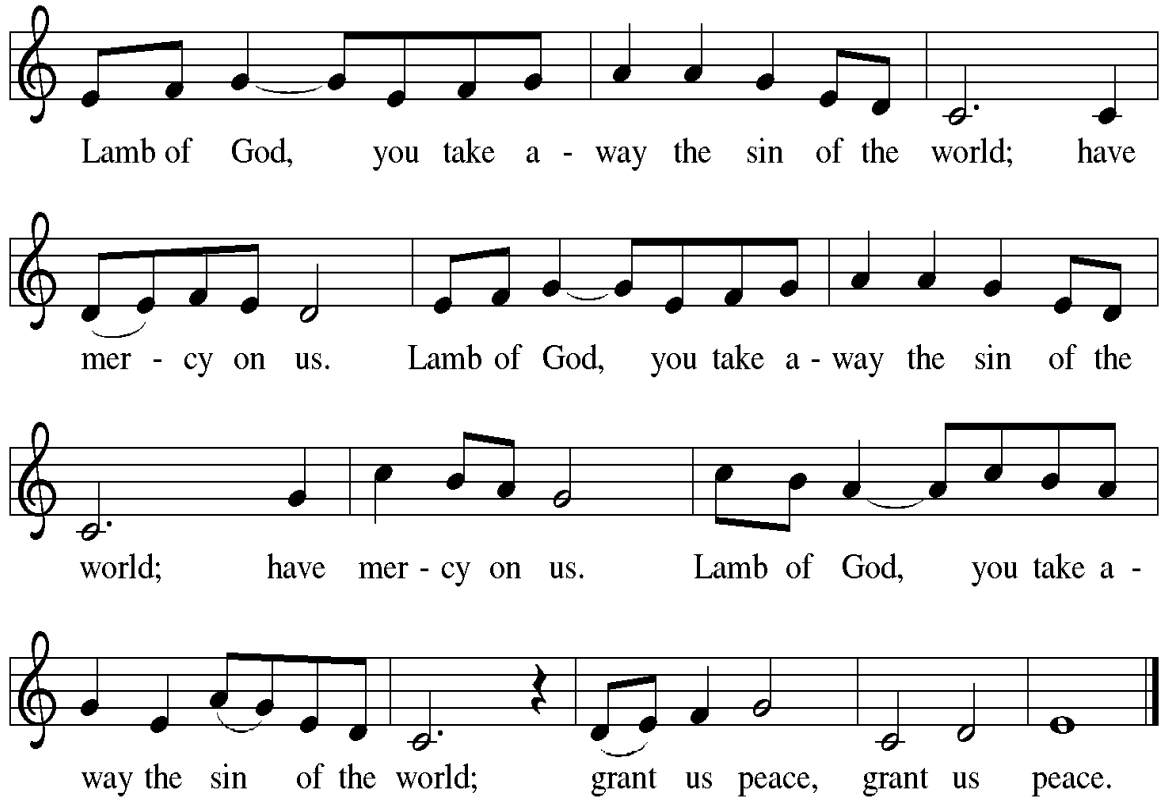
Amen.

Invitation To Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements at the altar rail. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.

Lamb of God



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, grant us peace.

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Communion Music

“A Lenten Song” by Charles Demorest

Reed Wagner, organist

Please stand as you are able.

Table Grace

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

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

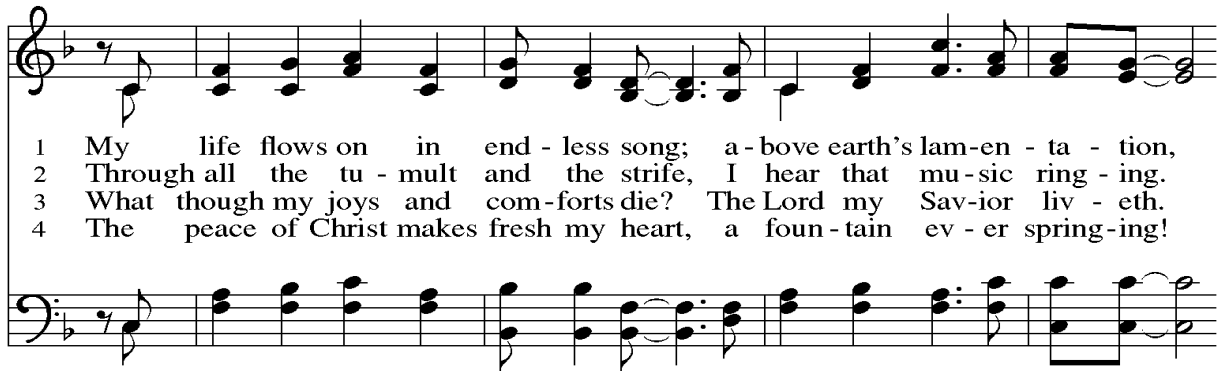
Blessing

P: God our tender caregiver,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

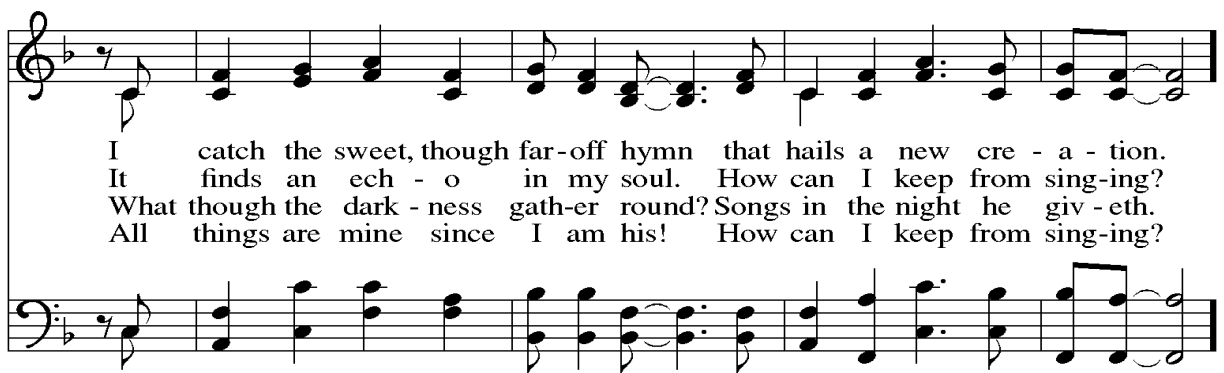
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"My Life Flows On in Endless Song" ELW 763

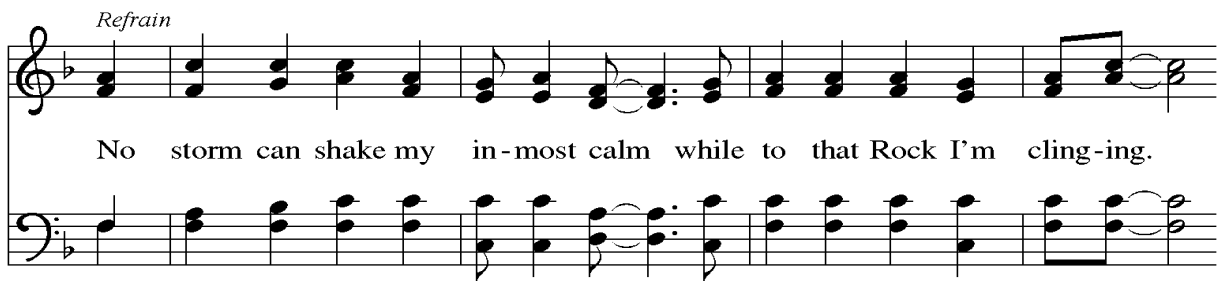


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

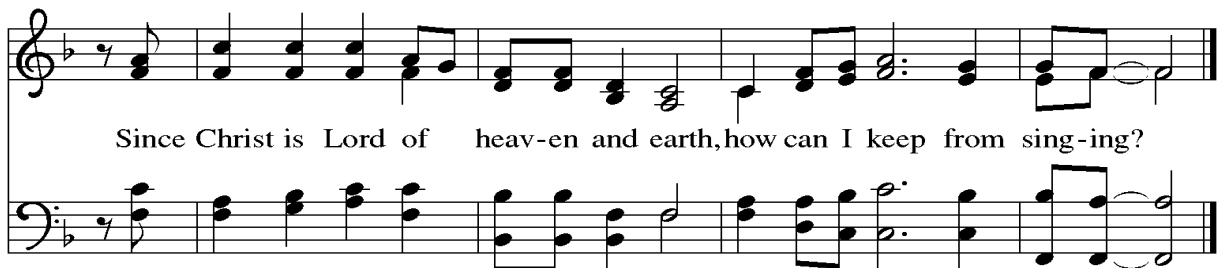


I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text and Music: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899 Text and Music public domain.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

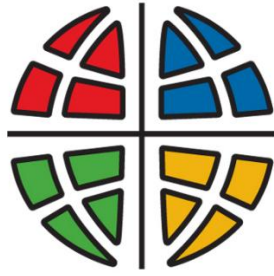
Postlude "*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*"

arr. Pierce Dickens

Organist: Reed Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:45 am & 11:00 am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookestone Garden Services: First Sunday** monthly at 2:00 pm
- **For the hard of hearing FLC offers a loop system** for wearers with a “T” (t-coil) setting; the coverage works **best** on the main floor in the **center** aisles. (It is not available in the balcony.)
- **Prayer Chapel**—across from Centennial Hall, a place for quiet prayer
- **S.A.F.E. Center donations** - for March are household cleaning products!
Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteers of the Month** – for March is the Assistant Ministry Team
- **Communion registration**—Please register annually to maintain membership. Registration cards in pew racks & on Welcome Stations.
- **Visitors**—please complete a visitor card, found in the pews.
- **First Lutheran Church Preschool Registration:**
 - **Registration is open to the public** – for 2025/2026
- **Sundays: Sunday School** – Pre-K through 8th grade 9:50 am - 10:50 am.
- **Sundays - March 30 – Cent. Hall | April 6 – Fellowship Hall** - Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick. 9:50 am.
- **Wednesdays** - April 2 & 9 –
 - 5:15 pm – Praiser Bells
 - 5:30 pm - Feeding The Flock
 - 5:45 pm - First Communion Class
 - 6:10 pm - Heavenly Treblemakers
 - 6:30 pm - Lenten Services
 - 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
- **Sunday, April 6** – Troop 339 Waffle and Bake Sale Fundraiser. Centennial Hall. 9:45 am – 12:30 pm.
- **Sunday, April 6** – Natalie and Friends Concert – 3:00 pm
- **Sunday, April 13** – Palm Sunday
- **Thursday, April 17** – Maundy Thursday Service – 6:30 pm
- **Friday, April 18** – Good Friday Service – 6:30 pm.
- **Saturday, April 19** – Holy Saturday Service – 6:00 pm
- **Sunday, April 20** – Easter SONrise Service: 7:00 am
- **Sunday, April 20** – Easter Services: 8:45 am and 11:00 am
- **Sunday, April 27th** – Together for Joy and Thanksgiving Unity service.
 - 9:45 am – Sunday School
 - 11:00 am ONE Service– Traditional with the Cantata
 - 12:00 noon – Dedication of new office area.
 - 12:15 pm – Pot luck luncheon.
 - Members with last names A-L bring a salad, side or dessert
 - Members with last names M-Z bring a main dish.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**First Lutheran Church ~ 3315 G Avenue ~ Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-5544 ~ office@firstlutherankearney.org**

**Rev/ Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Presiding Pastor
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Preaching Pastor**

**Assisting Ministers:
8:45 am – Annette Schwartz
11:00 am – Dana Ernst**

Organist: Reed Wagner

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