

Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

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Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2021*

Setting Five

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world

Prelude



Confession and forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C. Amen.

P. God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection. You may sit, stand or kneel for the Confession.

Fountain of living water,

C. pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen

P. Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more.

C. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Oh, Love, How Deep

ELW 322

The Greeting

P. The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling 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 a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



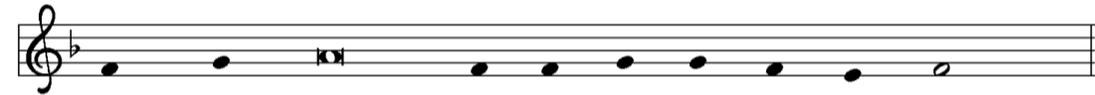
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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

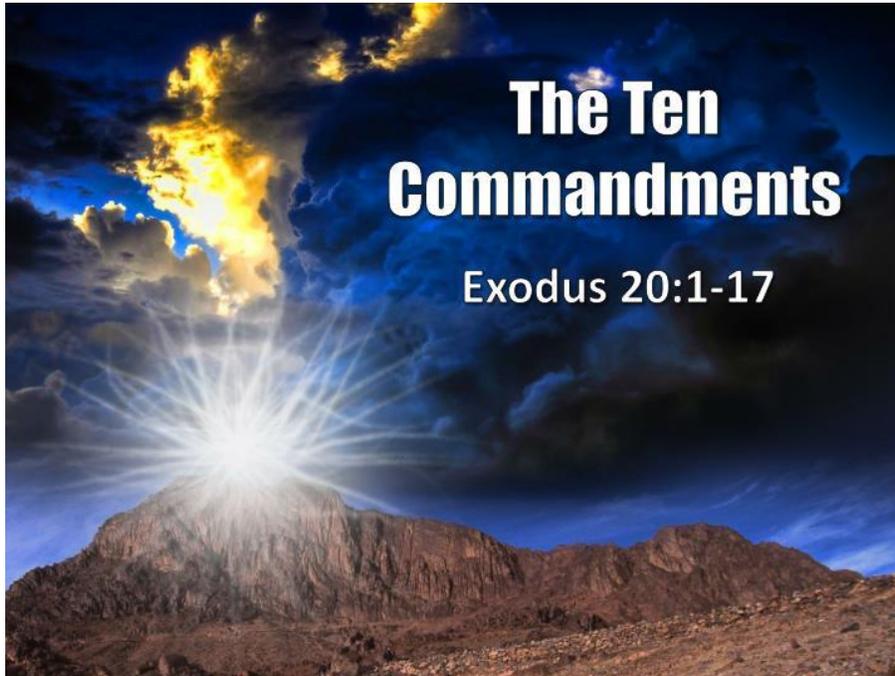


A - men.

Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray

C. **Holy God, through your Son you have led us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**



First Reading

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

P. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 19

read responsively

The heavens declare the glo-¹ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its¹ maker's handiwork.

**One day tells its tale¹ to another,
and one night imparts knowledge¹ to another.**

Although they have no¹ words or language,
and their voices¹ are not heard,

**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends¹ of the world,
where God has pitched a tent¹ for the sun.**

It comes forth like a bridegroom out¹ of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to¹ run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of¹ it again;
nothing is hidden from its¹ burning heat.**

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-¹vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to¹ the simple.

**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-¹joice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light¹ to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and en-¹dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous¹ altogether.

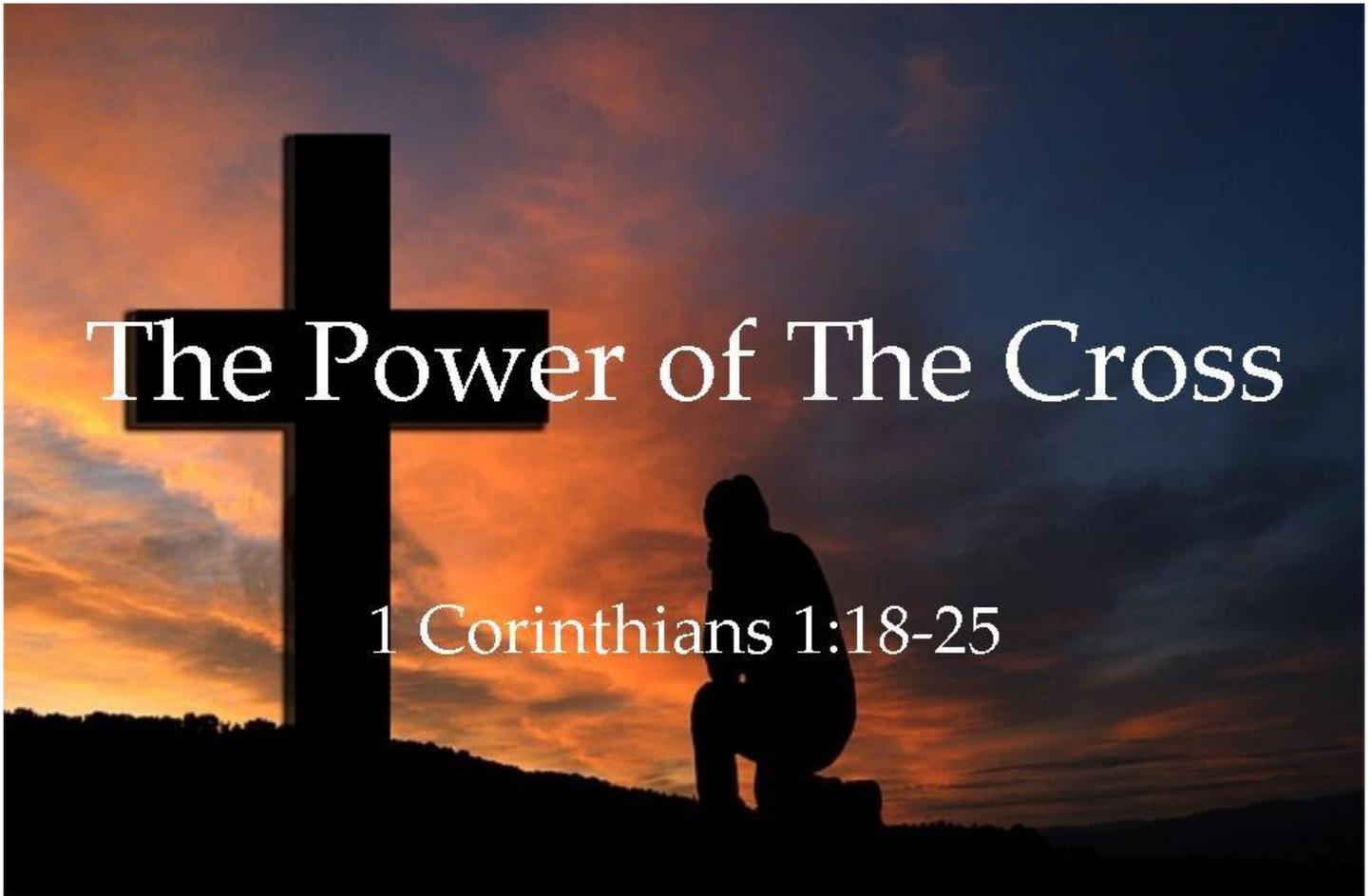
**More to be desired are they than gold, more than¹ much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey¹ in the comb.**

By them also is your ser-¹vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is¹ great reward.

**Who can detect one's¹ own offenses?
Cleanse me from my¹ secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion¹ over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a¹ great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable¹ in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and¹ my redeemer.**



Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

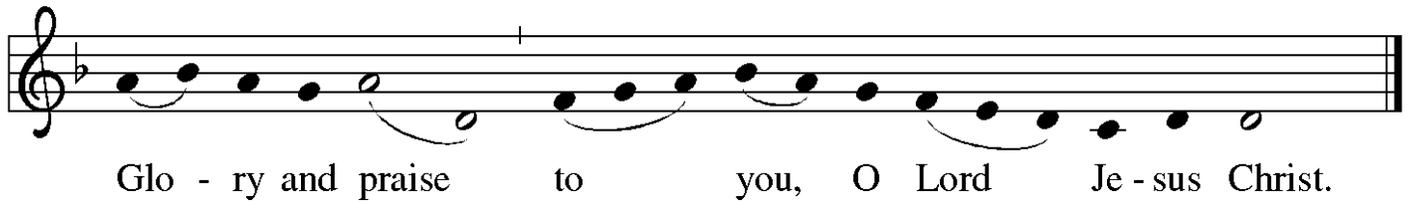
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

P. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation



P. The holy gospel according to John, chapter two.

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you O Christ.



Sermon

"Foolish Wisdom"

Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

Hymn of the Day

Beloved, God's Chosen

ELW 648

Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession

P. Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

C. **Your mercy is great.**

P. We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. **Amen.**

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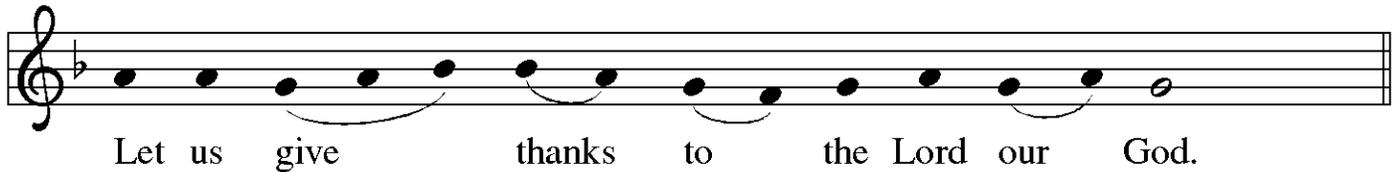
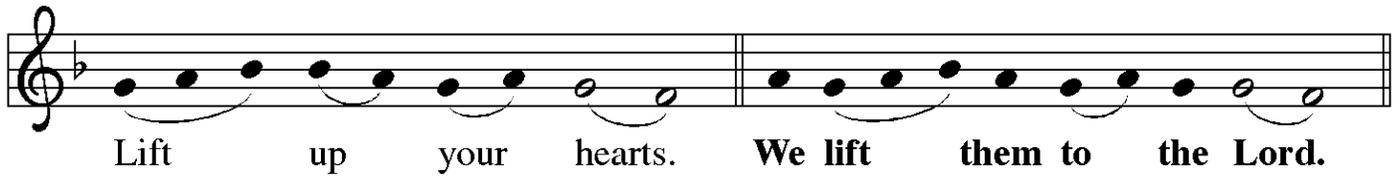
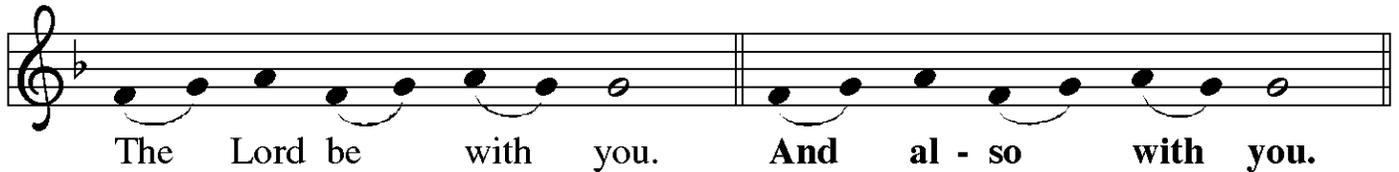
your
be troubled,

The Peace

P. Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled.
May His peace be with you always.

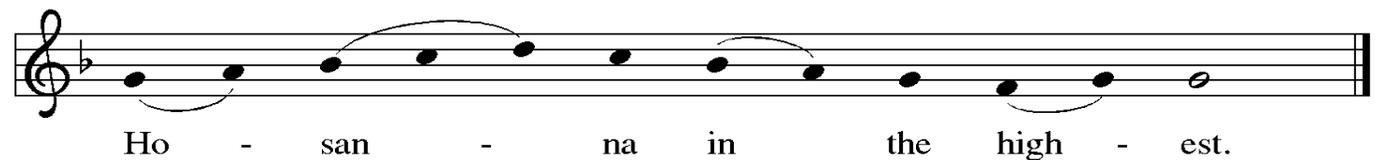
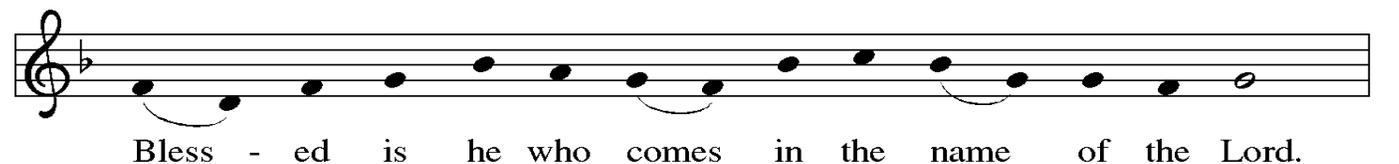
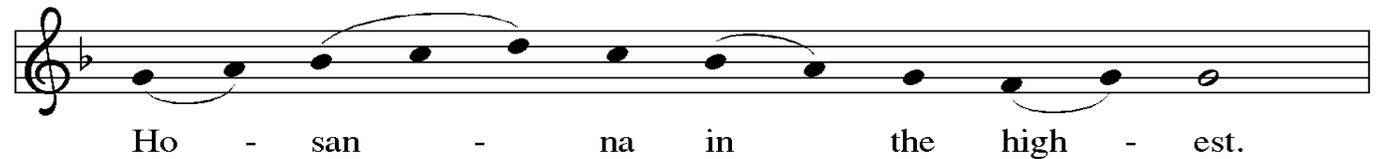
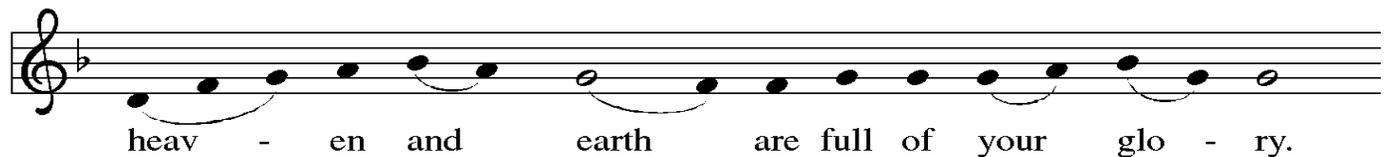
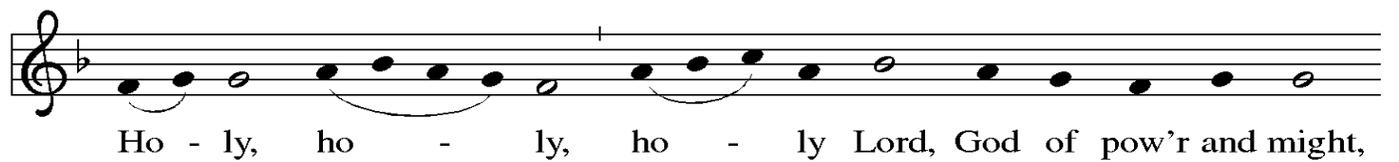
C. **And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

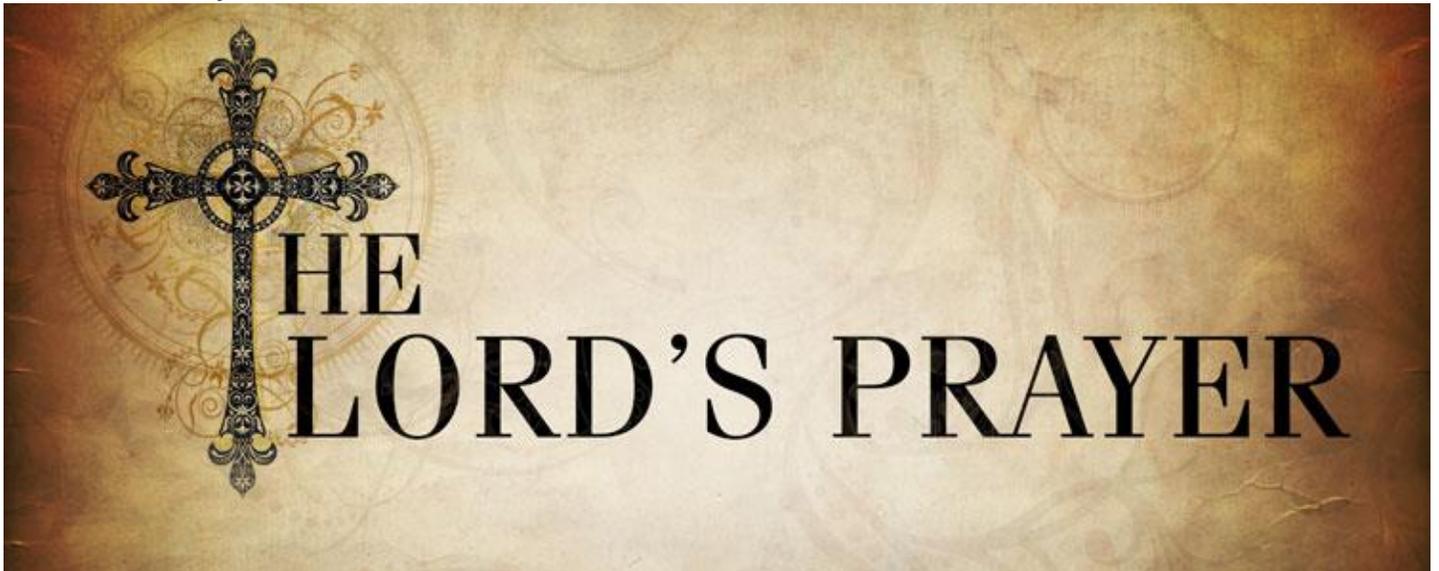


P. It is indeed.....

The Sanctus



Eucharistic Prayer



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

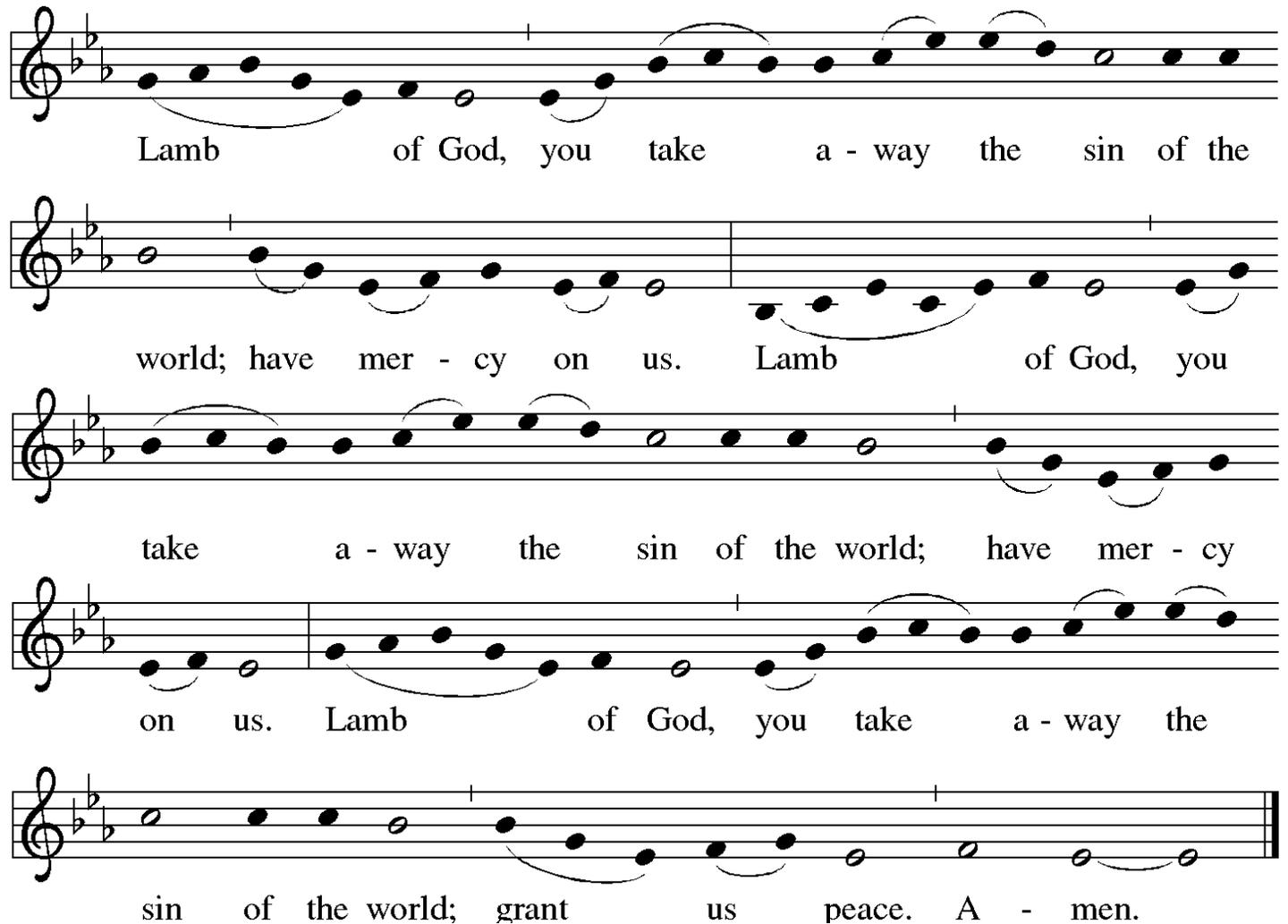
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Invitation to Communion

P. Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

C. Amen.

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. A - men.

Communion Hymn

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW 489

Post Communion Blessing and Canticle

P. God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen

Come with Us, O Blessed Jesus

Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.

And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!

Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;

but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

The Blessing

P. You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you † that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

God Loved the World

ELW 323

Dismissal

P. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Brad Hunnicutt



**Candles in the church this month are given by Rebecca Swanson
in loving memory of John Swanson.**