

## Introduction

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

## Quiet Meditation: Prayerful Preparation

### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" arr. Wilbur Held

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

### Gathering Song #756 ELW

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt.  
 Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

**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**

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 defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## Special Music

"Because He Lives"

arr. Gaither

## First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 63:1-8

<sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

<sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

<sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

<sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

<sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

<sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

<sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

<sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

**Second Reading**

1st Corinthians 10:1-13

*Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God’s faithfulness.*

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel**

Luke 13:1-9

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

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

**Sermon**

**Hymn #624 ELW**

“Jesus, Still Lead On”

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.  
 Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

**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**

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

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions, hear your response, and follow your holy direction.  
 God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.  
 God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. We pray for genuine and sustained peace among all nations.  
 God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for people in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort all people whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.  
 God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We thank you for healing that has already happened. Give to all people facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to all who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. We pray for the members of Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry, especially Mary Muckler, Marc Dovenmuehle, Bob Baer, Carol Shrider, Ameilia, Pauly Zody, Sarah Driver, Jordan Seubert, Patrick Hellman, Mary Bausano, Barbara, Kim, Sue, and Liam.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for travelling mercies for students, faculty, and staff who are on spring break.

God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.

**Amen.**

### Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**Please greet people near you with a sign of peace.**

### Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### Offering

Wishing to make a donation? This QR code will take you to [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) where we can receive gifts. Please note: a [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) account is required to give in this way but is quick to create!



### Choir Anthem

“I will Witness You”  
Premier Performance

By Daniel Sozdashov

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

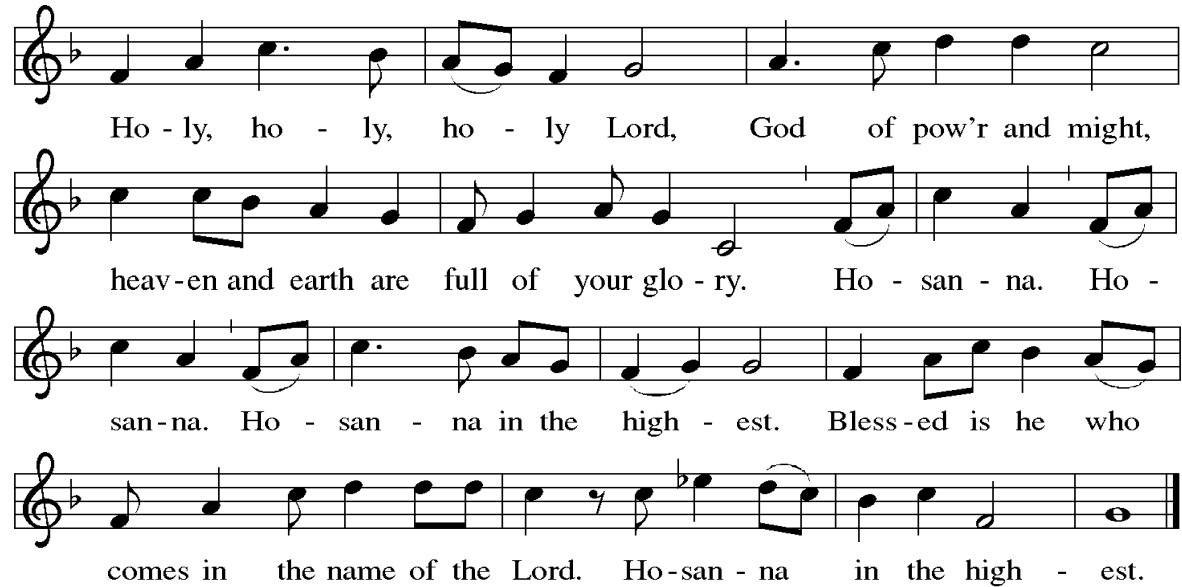
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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:



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

**Words of Institution**

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 in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**We welcome all to join in the sacrament of Holy Communion as the Holy Spirit guides and directs.**

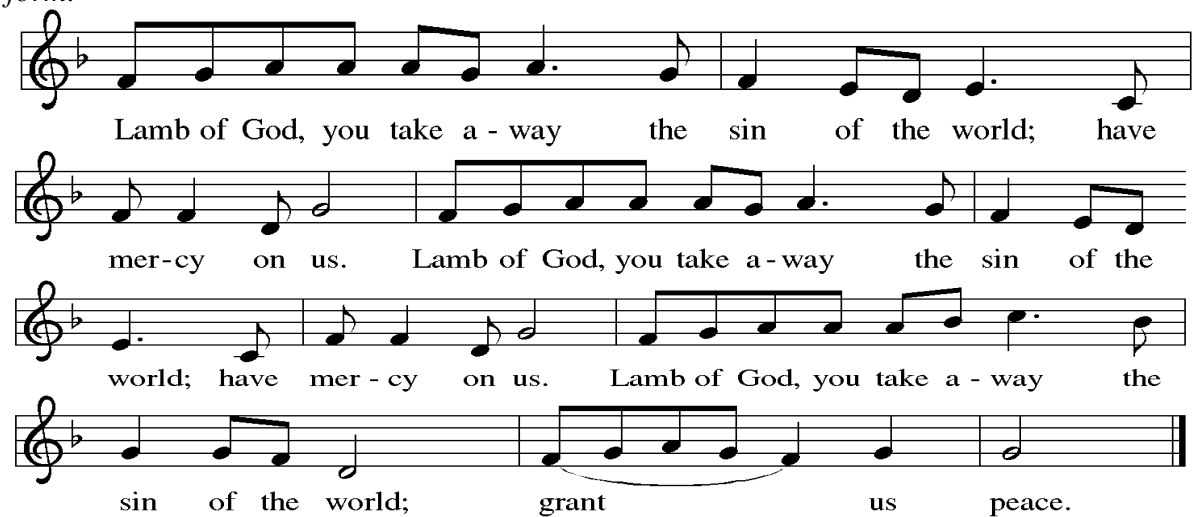
*People in worship will be invited to come forward to the altar by pew rows.*

*The pastor will distribute a wafer or gluten-free wafer, saying, "The body of Christ, given for you."*

*Each person will then move toward a volunteer holding a tray of disposable, plastic cups: the inner ring will be filled with grape juice, the other cups will be filled with wine.*

*As each person selects their cup, they will hear: "The blood of Christ, given for you." Empty cups will be placed in a tray held by another volunteer after each person has communed.*

*Pre-sealed cups are on the table in the hallway for anyone who chooses to communion in this form.*



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.

## Communion

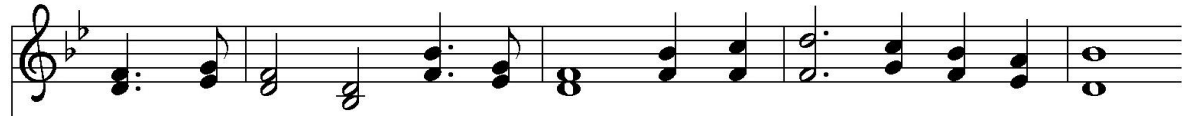
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

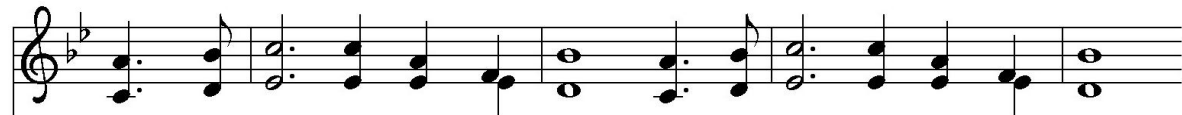
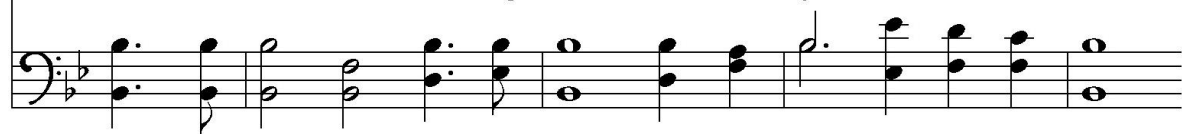
**Amen.**

### Communion Hymn # 623 ELW

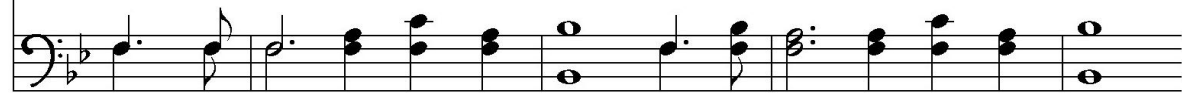
“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”



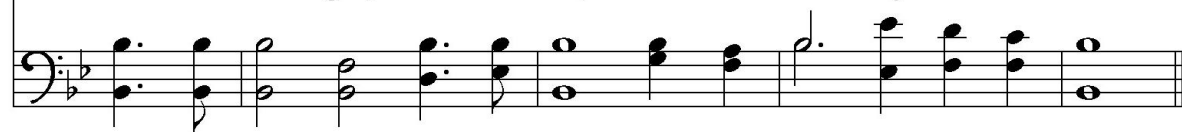
1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.



Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### Sending Song # 618 ELW

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious





bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.  
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

"If You but Trust in God to Guide You"

arr. Wilbur Held

## Announcements

**Welcome!** We welcome all visitors and guests. The sacrament of Holy Communion is an essential aspect of our worship this morning, and we invite all who are present to share in this sacrament as the Holy Spirit guides and directs you.

**Wednesdays of Lent** Each Wednesday, an email devotion will be sent to all our members and friends, containing a message written from Barbara Brown Taylor's wonderful book *Home By Another Way*. Each Wednesday's devotion will carry with it a brief message for you to read and an appropriate Lenten hymn. Watch your email! Large print copies are on the hallway table.

**MIAMI STUDENT RECITAL AT FAITH-** On Monday evening April 7<sup>th</sup>, students from the Miami Woodwind Department will present a recital at 7:30 pm at Faith Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry. Will Fleischhauer, a Masters student who attends Faith, is organizing this program with his Professor Aaron Pergram. Please plan on attending- Woodwinds sound beautiful in our Sanctuary!

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study** Join us at 8:30 am in the Korte Lounge as we continue to compare the life and Passion of Jesus in the gospels.

**Zoom Bible Study** Please join our next Zoom Bible Study. Our meetings for this study are on Wednesdays, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We are studying the Minor Prophets. Join us!

**Lutheran Disaster Response** is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod ELCA and Pacifica Synod ELCA to assess the most urgent needs for the communities that are being devastated by wildfires.

To donate, you may:

1. Click here (<https://tinyurl.com/3hbrerd7>) to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response
2. Send donations to the Southern Ohio Synod, designated for U.S. Wildfires and we will forward them to Lutheran Disaster Response on your behalf.

100% of donations designated as "U.S. Wildfires" will go directly to serve these communities. We continue to pray for the communities impacted.

**Church Office** This week, our church office is staffed Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 12 noon. Email our office admin at [FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com](mailto:FaithLutheranOxford@gmail.com) or phone 513.523.3808 for any concerns. Please let our admin Kim know whenever you come into the building.