

**First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024
Holy Communion**



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG – LBW 341

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,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

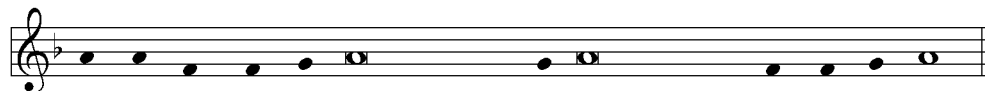
GREETING

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



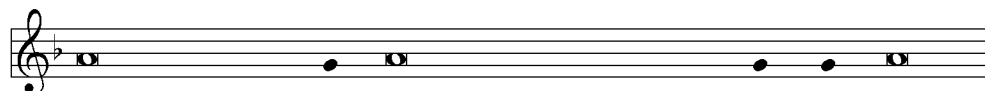
Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. ☩ Lord, have mer - cy.




Ⓐ For the peace from 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,



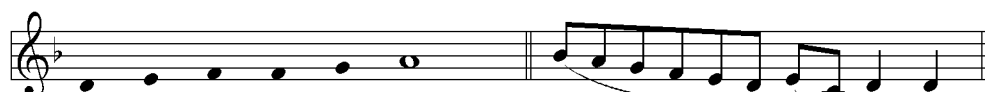
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




☩ 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

The Lord be with you / **And also with you** / Let us pray...

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE WORD

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10 (Read responsively by whole verse)

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according
to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building

of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – REV. RICK NEU

HYMN OF THE DAY – WOV 741

Thy Holy Wings

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.

and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.

Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,

and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

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 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

Let us humbly beseech God for his mercy upon the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Thank you, dear Father, for the example of Abraham and the gift of Jesus. Thank you for their steadfast faith. Thank you for the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, who kindles our faith and strengthens us in the trials and temptations we endure.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify your holy Church. When it is tempted by power, success, or convenience, turn its eyes to the Cross of your Christ. By the power of your Spirit, keep it faithful in its proclamation of repentance, forgiveness, and the close approach of your Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify and strengthen your persecuted people. Shield them from the temptation to forsake your Word. Keep them steadfast in faith and gentle in spirit. Help us, in our own times of trial, to go and do likewise. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Purify and guide the people of this congregation. Constantly turn our eyes to Christ. Give us grace to prefer nothing whatsoever to him. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify and defend our youth. Strengthen them to resist our culture's crazy agendas. Help them step away from anything that tempts them to stop loving and trusting you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify and heal our sin-shadowed world. Let us not be seduced by promises or policies that do not proceed from your holy will. Teach our leaders that neither they nor we can live on the bread of this world alone. Feed us all with the living Word that proceeds from you, the Lord of all nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify everyone charged with aiding and protecting life and liberty. Turn their eyes to you: their strength and their redeemer. Keep them competent and honorable in all they do. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Purify and heal all who suffer and cry to you for help, including those we name before you either silently or aloud... When they are tempted to despair, turn their eyes to the Cross, on which was hung the life and salvation of the whole world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Most holy Father, we commend into your keeping the lives of all who died trusting in your mercy. When we are tempted by confusion, fear, or pleasure, fix our eyes on Jesus, our hope and heart's desire. Fill us with your Spirit. Keep us safely on the path that leads to your eternal home and welcoming embrace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For these things, and for whatever else is needful, dear Father, we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

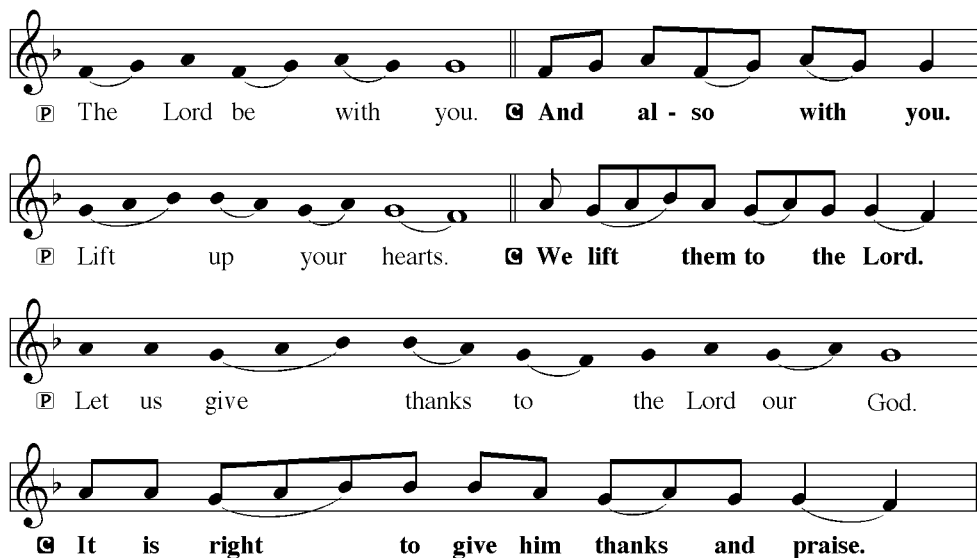
(If you choose to exchange the peace, please use hand sanitizer before you start and again when finished.)

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, 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 your 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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

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



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

FRACTION 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

(Please use hand sanitizer before coming to the Altar. Both intinction and common cup are available.)

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

COMMUNION

The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



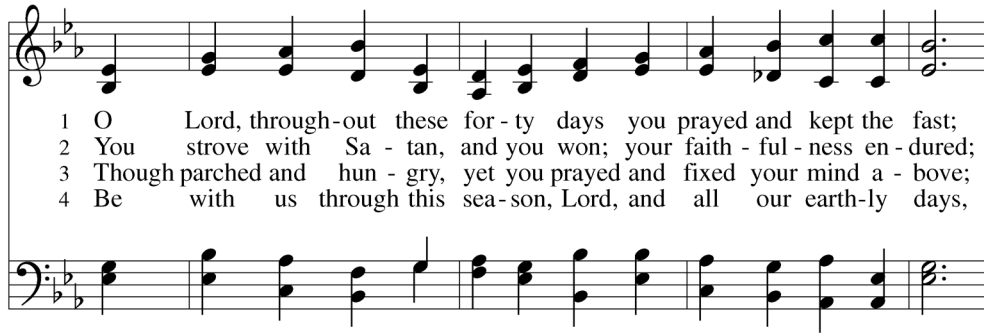
Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which
you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

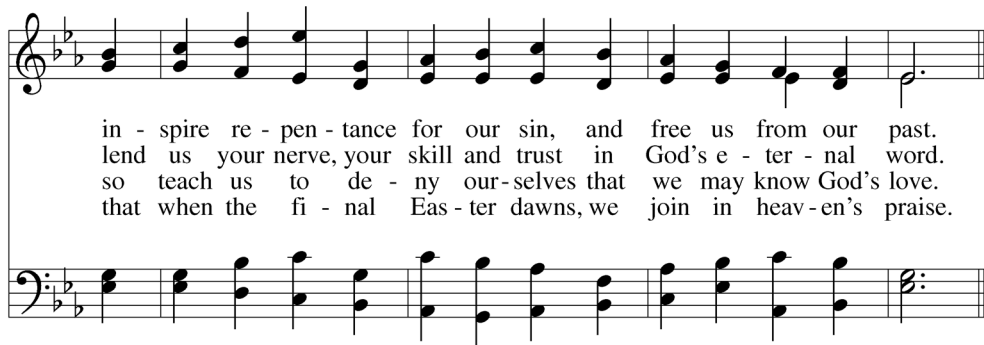
Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG – LBW 99

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through-out these for-ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our-selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav-en's praise.

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.