

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024
Holy Communion**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

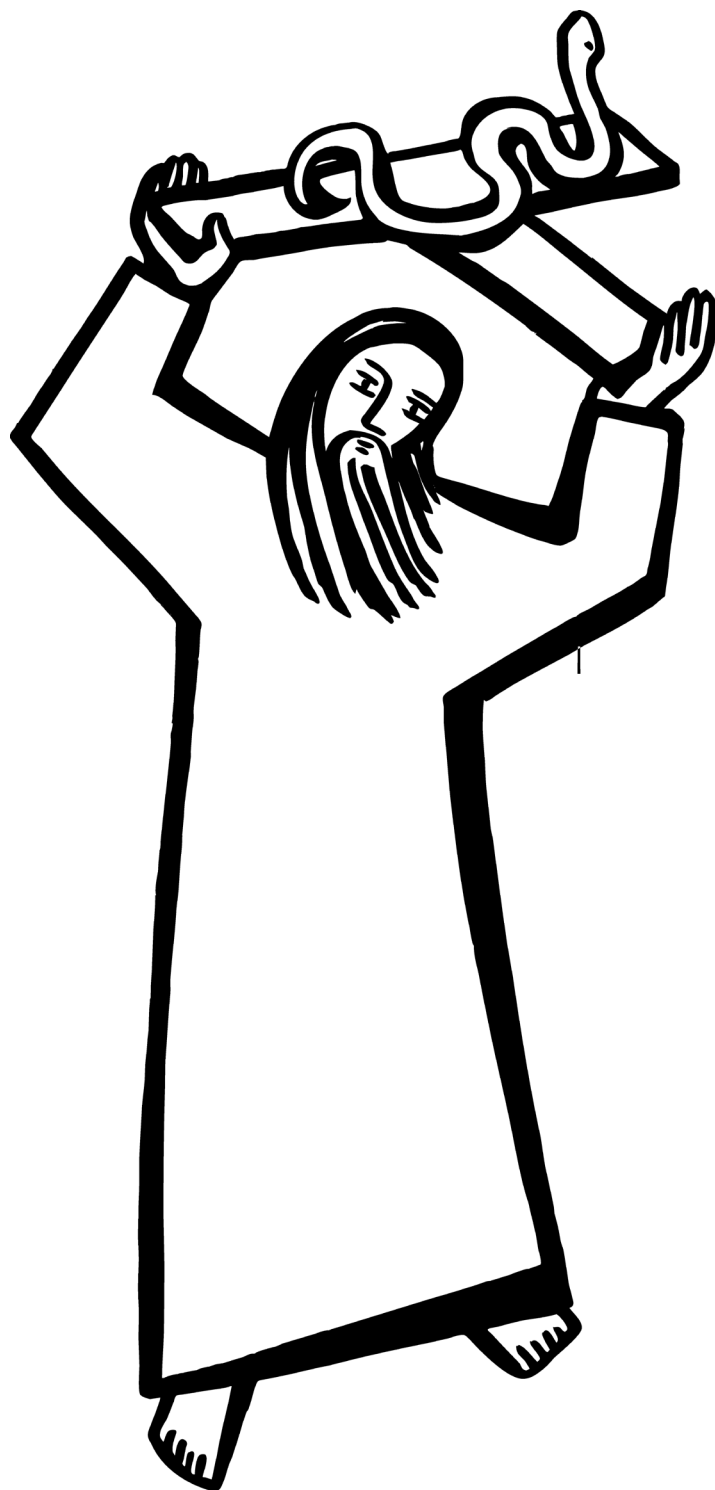
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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 520

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways; won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

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...

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (Read responsively by whole verse)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him

and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

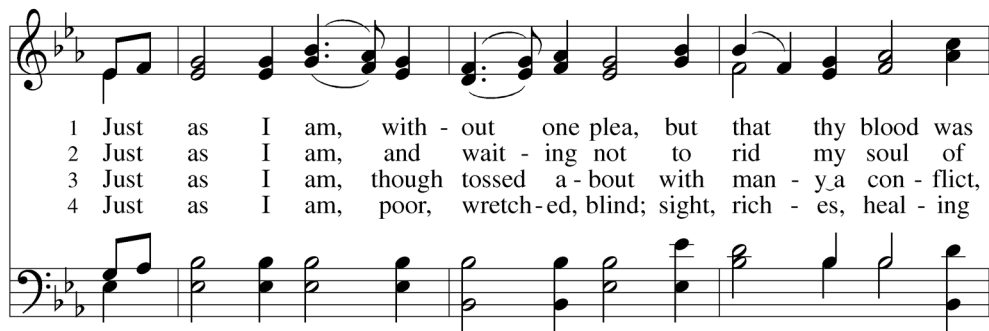
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

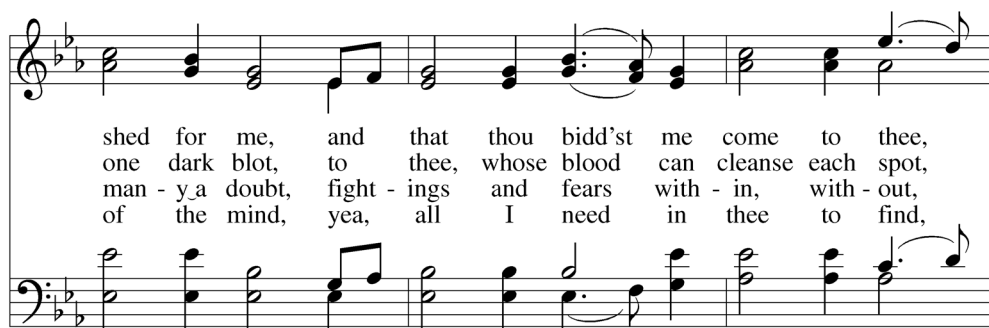
SERMON – REV. RICK NEU

HYMN OF THE DAY – LBW 296

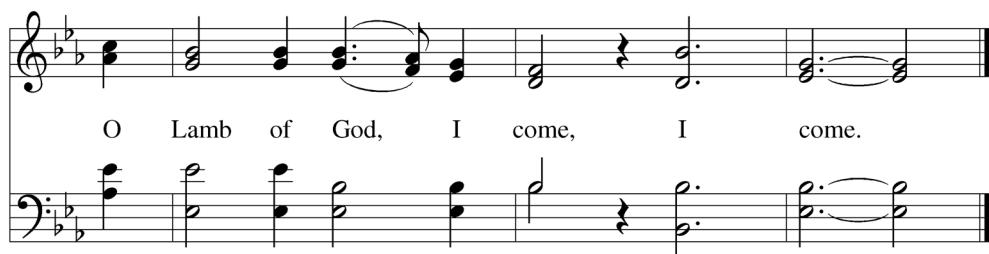
Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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

Dear Father, we know the words by heart: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son." Kindle your Holy Spirit in us, so these words burn bright and pure therein. Let them shine through all our thoughts, words, and deeds.

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

Form the Church into the perfect image of your beloved Son. Through its witness, let all people know of your great love for them. Lead them to believe in you and receive everlasting life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lift up your faithful persecuted Church as a sign of your saving love in a sin-darkened world. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Bless the people of this congregation. Center our hearts in your love, given to us in Jesus. Help us to show his love others. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We fervently pray that you will raise up pastors, teachers, missionaries, and evangelists whose hearts burn with the desire to share the Gospel with those who do not know you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the Israelites looked upon the bronze serpent and were healed, grant that all who suffer may look upon the Cross of Christ and find healing, forgiveness, and life. Today we pray for those we name either silently or aloud.... Restore them to our fellowship. Bestow upon us all the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you, Father, for receiving into eternal life those who loved Jesus in their mortal life. Keep our minds and hearts firmly fixed on him, too. Let us journey safely through the wilderness of this world into the blessedness and joy of your Promised Land. 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.)

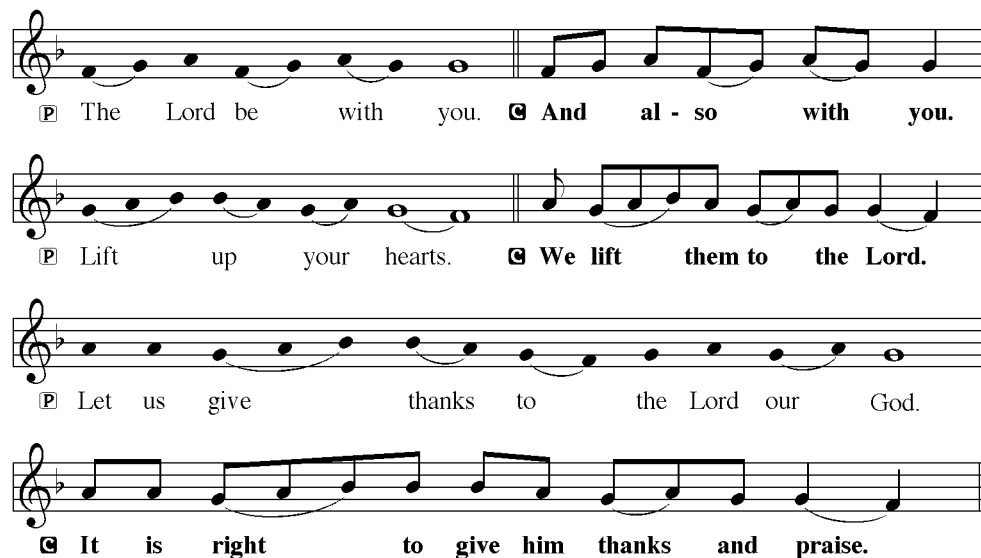


What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the
pres - ence of 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.**

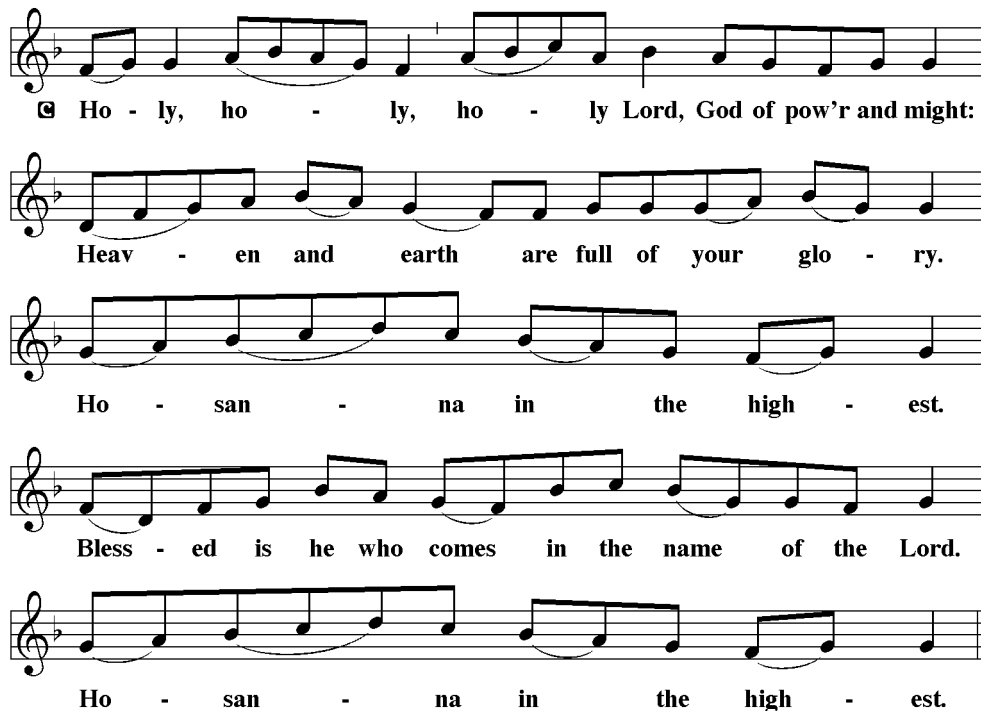
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 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 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



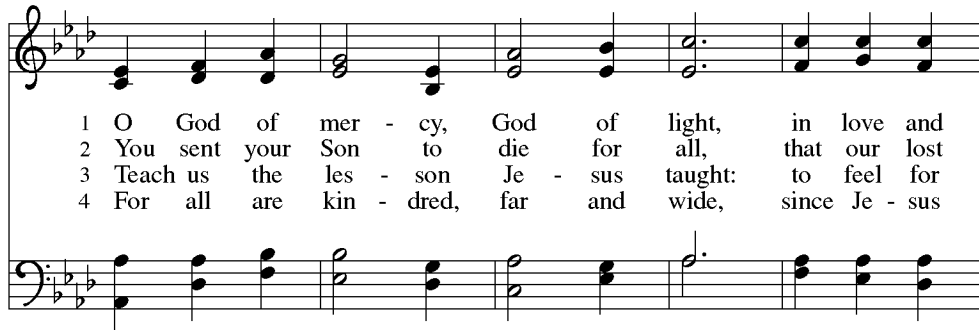
Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which
you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, 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 425

O God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

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.