

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 19, 2023  
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 journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.  
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.  
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
as we seek to follow in your way of life.  
Amen.**

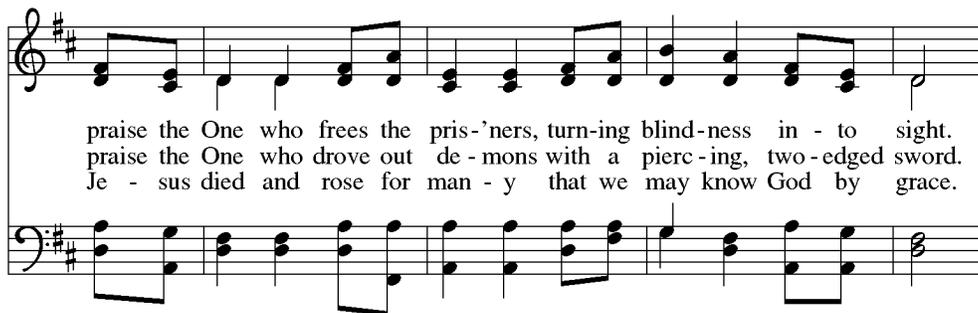
Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
† forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

## Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



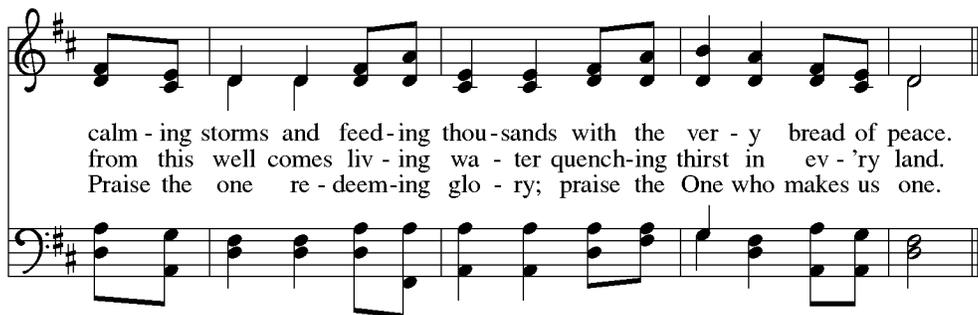
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

# 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

### **First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23 (Read responsively by whole verse)**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—  
<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out  
what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but  
instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do  
secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that  
becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

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 John the ninth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him,  
“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered,  
“Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might  
be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night  
is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the  
world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva  
and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”  
(which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The  
neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the  
man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No,  
but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him,  
“Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud,  
spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed  
and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a  
sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also  
began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my  
eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not

from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

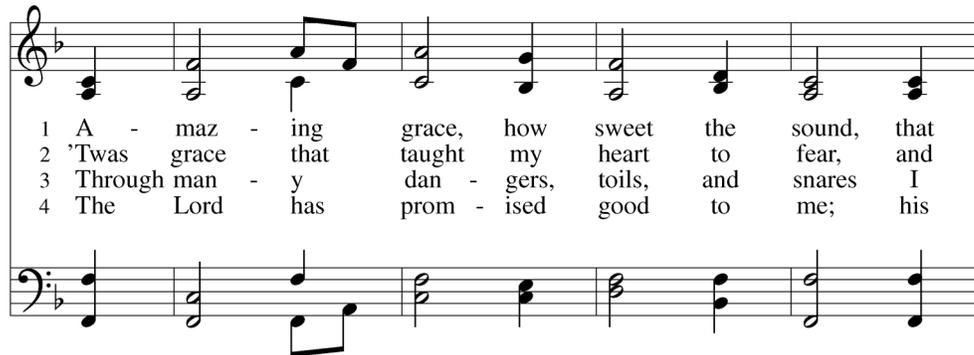
The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

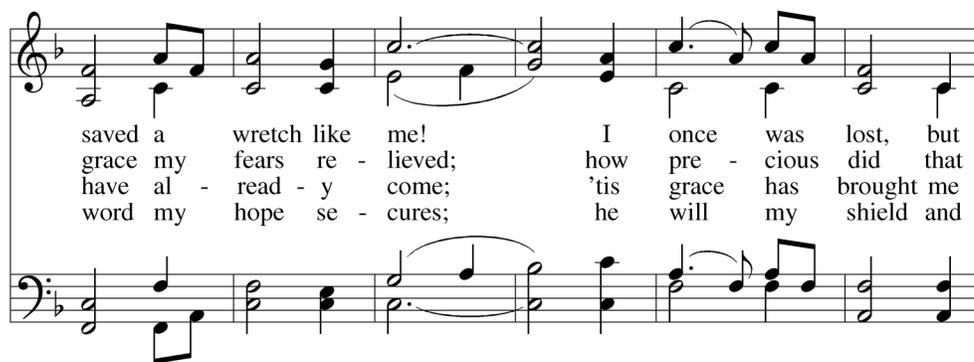
**SERMON – REV. LAURA CADMUS**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

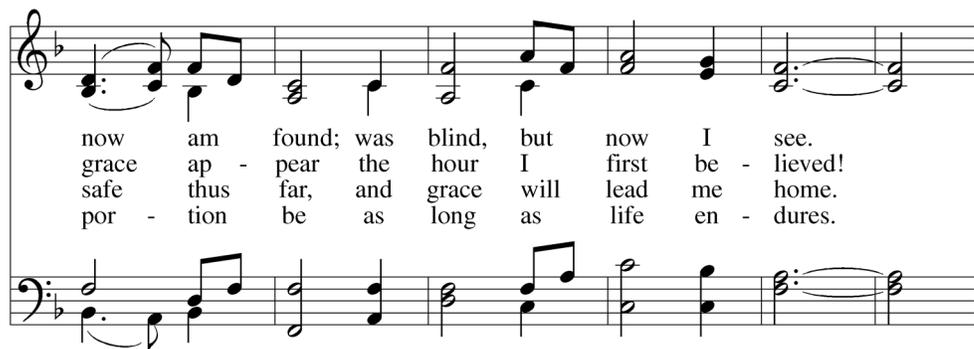
### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

## 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**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people (*especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*). We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you**

P: Lift of 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 him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
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. *(Please raise the bread)*

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. *(Please raise the cup)*  
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**

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

**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.**

## **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.)**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## 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**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,  
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.  
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,  
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors  
and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DISMISSAL:** Go in peace. Serve in Love.

**Thanks be to God.**