Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

Welcome to the Family!

In this Way God so Loved the World

March 14, 2021—The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Pastor's Greeting

✝ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✝

(Congregation stands)

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Lenten Reflection on the Commandments

P: *The Fifth Commandment*: You shall not murder.

P: *What does this mean?*

C: We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need.

P: *The Sixth Commandment*: You shall not commit adultery.

P: *What does this mean?*

C: We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

EXHORTATION

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Moment of silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

ABSOLUTION

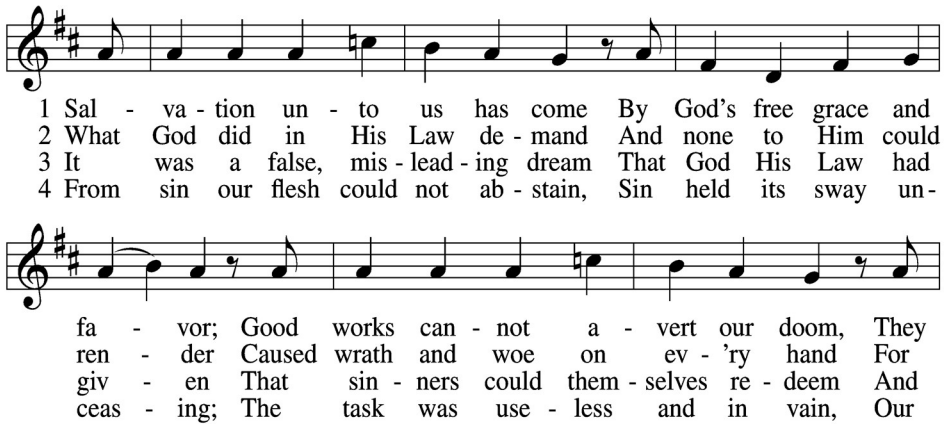
John 20:19-23

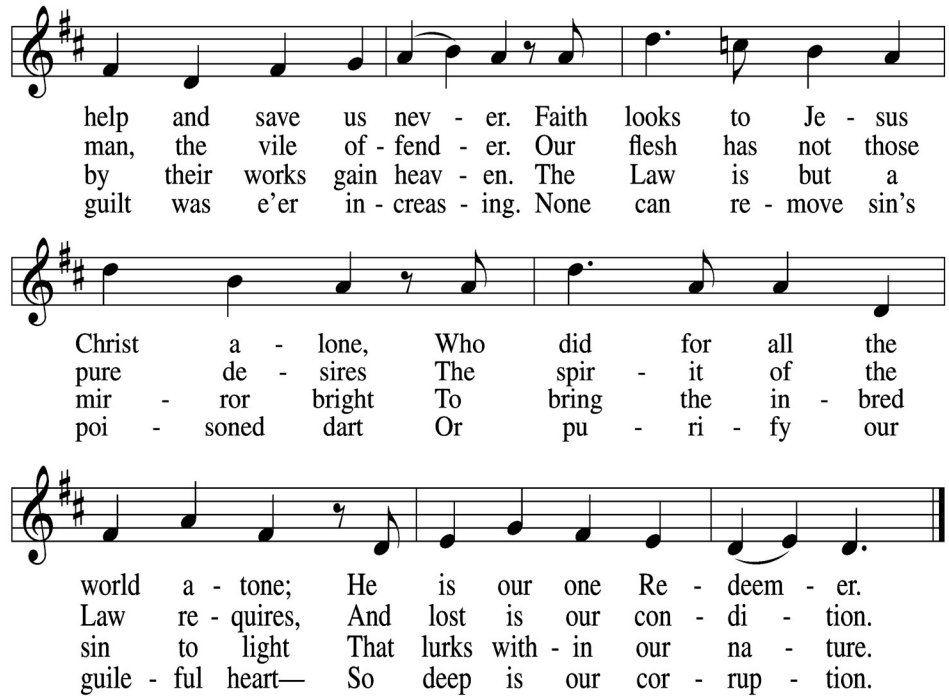
P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(Congregation Remains Standing)

ENTRANCE HYMN "SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME" *LSB 555; STS.1-4*





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✝ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✝

INTROIT

Psalm 27:3–5; antiphon: v.1

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

P: One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

C: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble; He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Congregation sits)

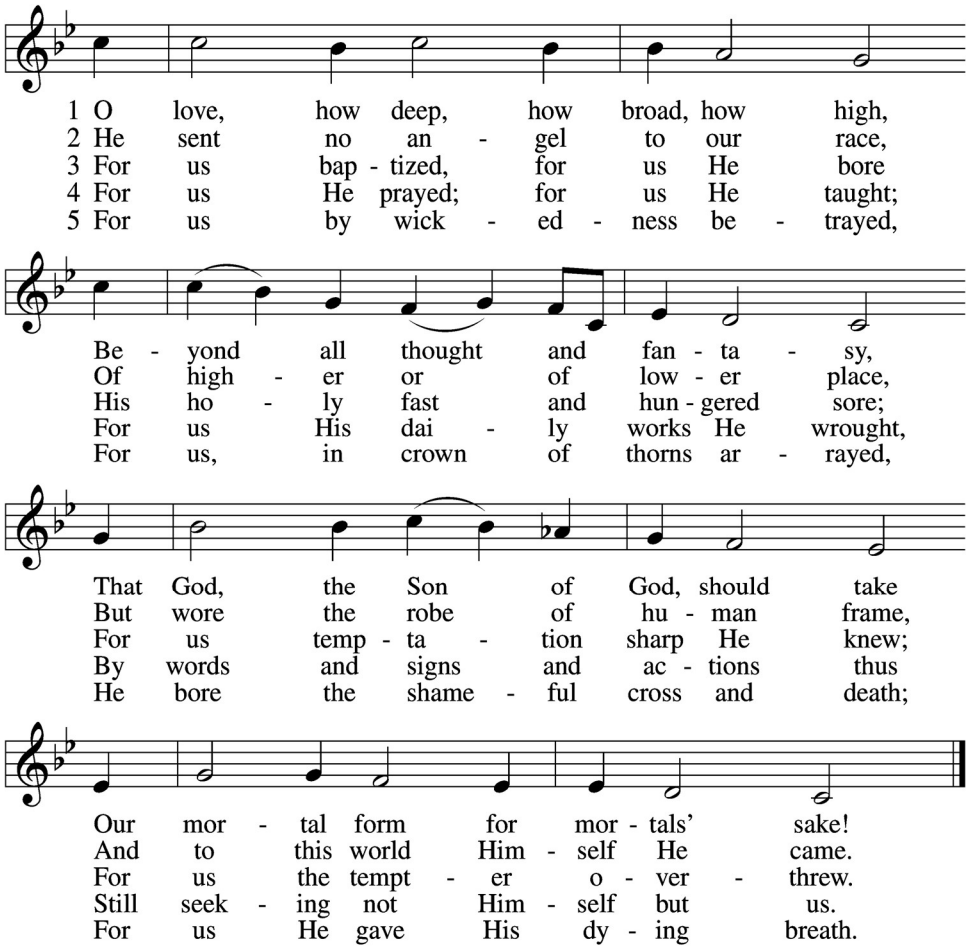
The Old Testament Reading

P: The Old Testament reading is from the book of Numbers 21:4-9

P: From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the 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 loathe this worthless food." Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that He take away the serpents from us." So, Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when He sees it, shall live." So, Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day "O Love, How Deep" *LSB 544; sts.1-5*

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The Gradual *Hebrews 12:2*

P: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: The founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

The Epistle Reading

P: The Epistle Reading is from Ephesians 2:1–10

P: And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace, you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

(Congregation stands)

The Verse *John 3:16*

All: For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The Holy Gospel

P: A Reading of The Holy Gospel according to St. John 3:14-21

C: Glory to You O Lord!

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

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were

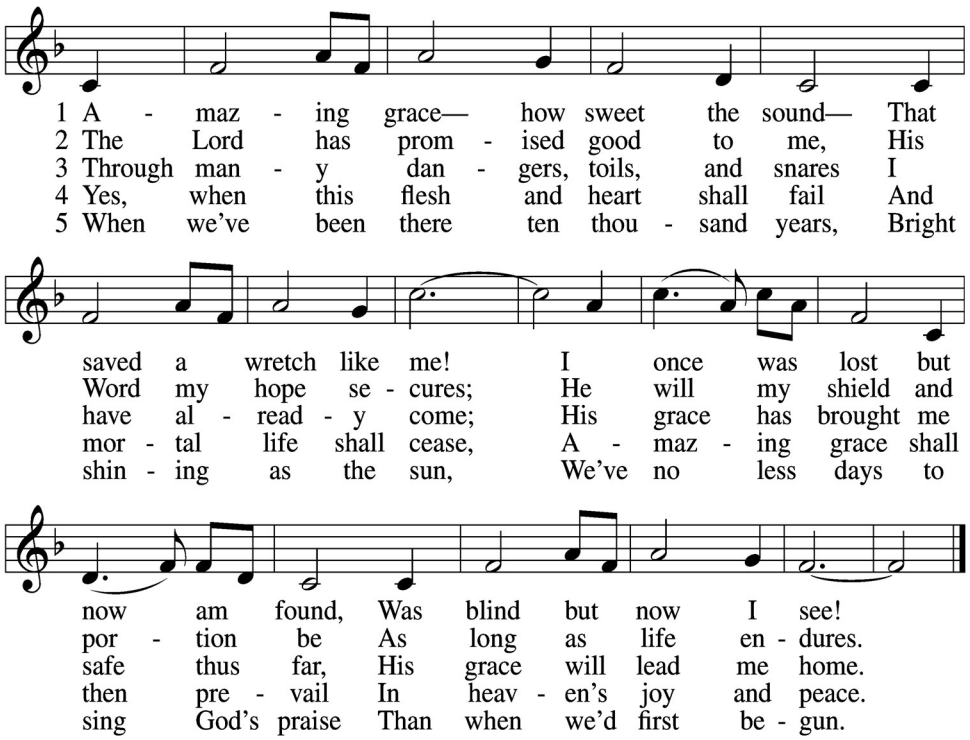
evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been carried out in God."

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!

C: Praise to You O Christ!

(Congregation sits)

SERMON HYMN "AMAZING GRACE" *LSB 744*



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SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That God would draw us into His light, exposing where we, like His people of old, have thought, spoken and acted against Him; and that in repentance we might look to His Son lifted up on the cross for our salvation and be saved from His righteous wrath, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: That the Lord who by the straightway of faith led the saints to reach His heavenly city would also lead us to our heavenly home to join in eternal thanksgiving for His steadfast love and wondrous works to the children of men, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Church, that the God who loved the world by giving His only Son would bless her and the work of those called to preach the Gospel; and that His Spirit would create and sustain saving faith within us and all who hear this Word, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For us and all Christians, that God, who made us alive in Christ though we were dead in our sins, would cause His Spirit to be at work within us; that we would not carry out the sinful desires of our bodies and minds but be His workmanship in Christ Jesus; and that we would walk in the good works He has prepared for us to do in Him, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the authorities God has set over us for our good, we pray for our President Joseph Biden, Governor Doug Ducey, our Congress and all who make and administer our laws, that God would bless and sustain them with all they need to govern us wisely and in accord with His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all who suffer in body, mind or soul *especially*_____; that they would be hid in the shelter of Christ, our light and salvation; and that God would keep them from falling into faithless fear in their day of trouble, upholding them in His peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all communicants, that our good Lord would feed our hungering and thirsting souls from His enduring love, that they may not faint within us but be satisfied with the good things of His Son's body and blood to abide in His eternal peace now and forever, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

C: Amen.

✝ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✝

(Congregation stands)

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

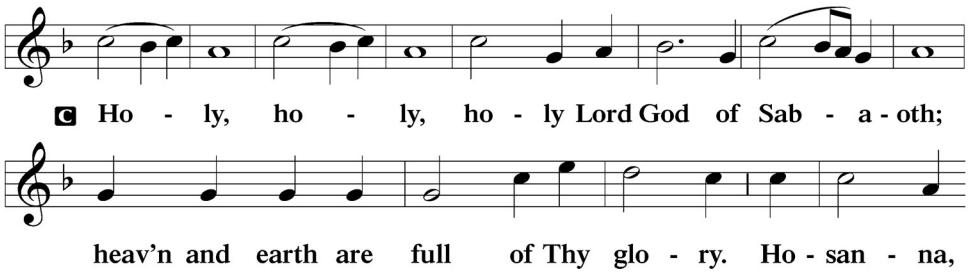
C: We lift them to the Lord.

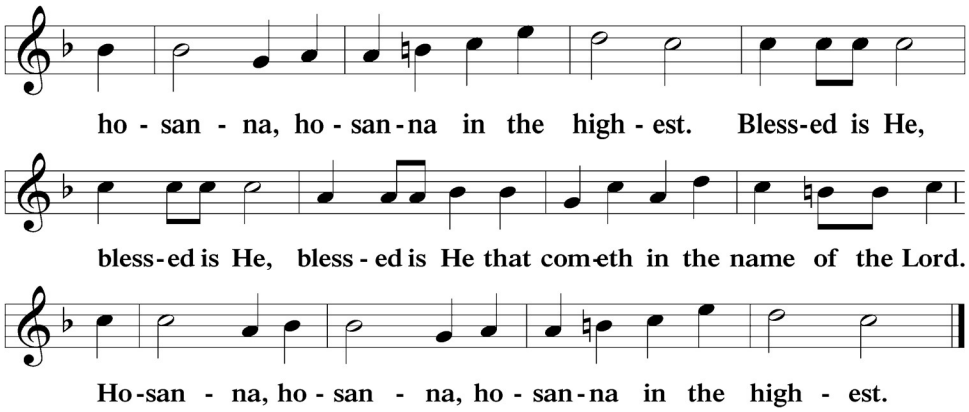
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 158*





THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

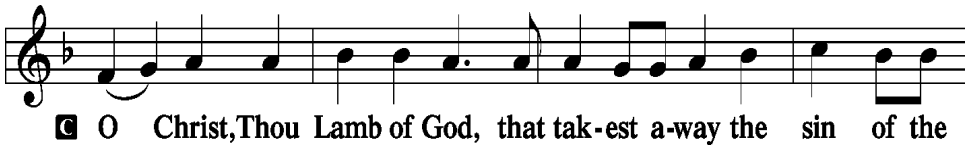
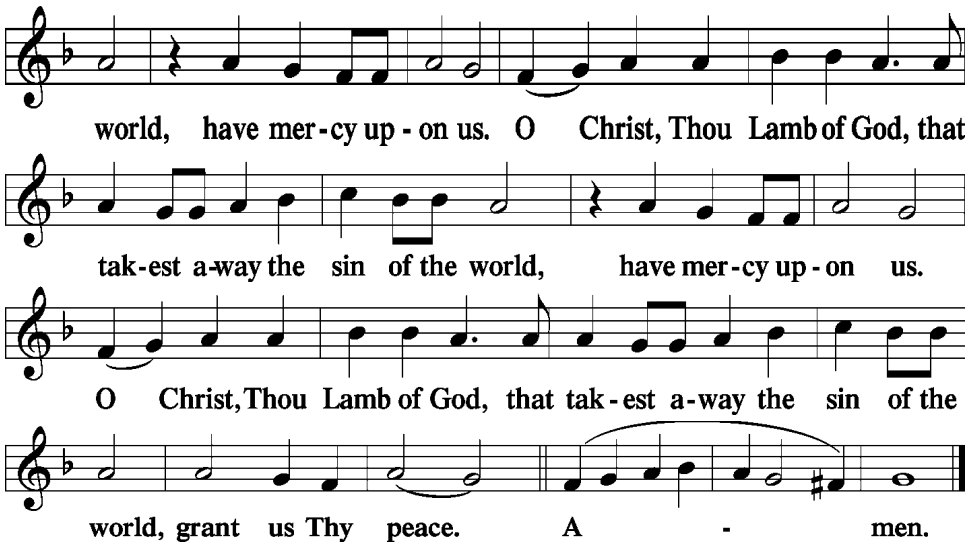
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

PAX DOMINI

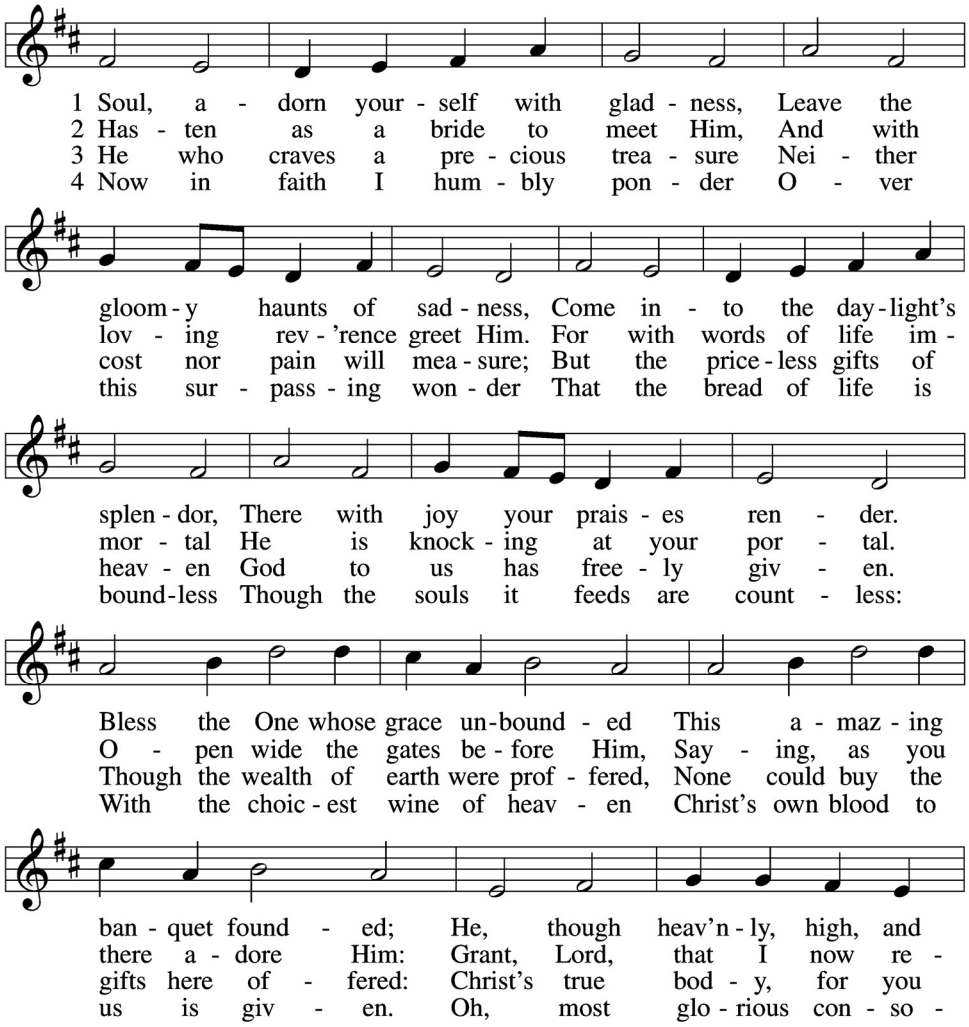
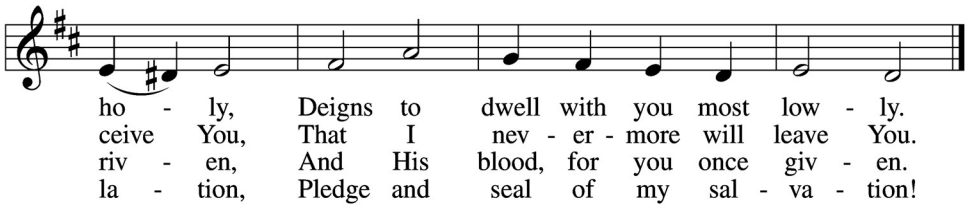
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And with your spirit.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD) *LSB 198*



(Congregation sits)

DISTRIBUTION *(please see our Communion policy on the back page)*

COMMUNION HYMN **"SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS"** ***LSB 636; STS.1-4***



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(Congregation stands)

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: and His mercy endures forever.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: *Let us pray*. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

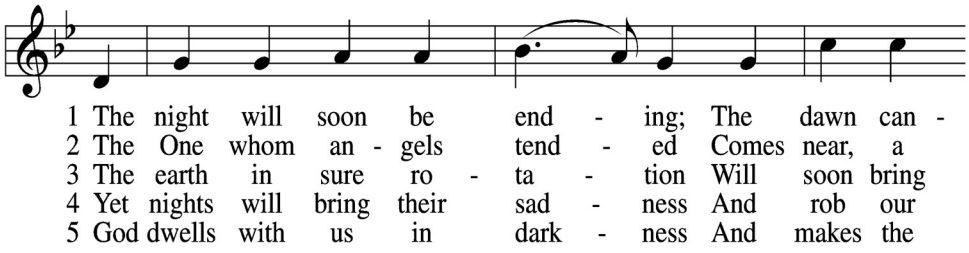
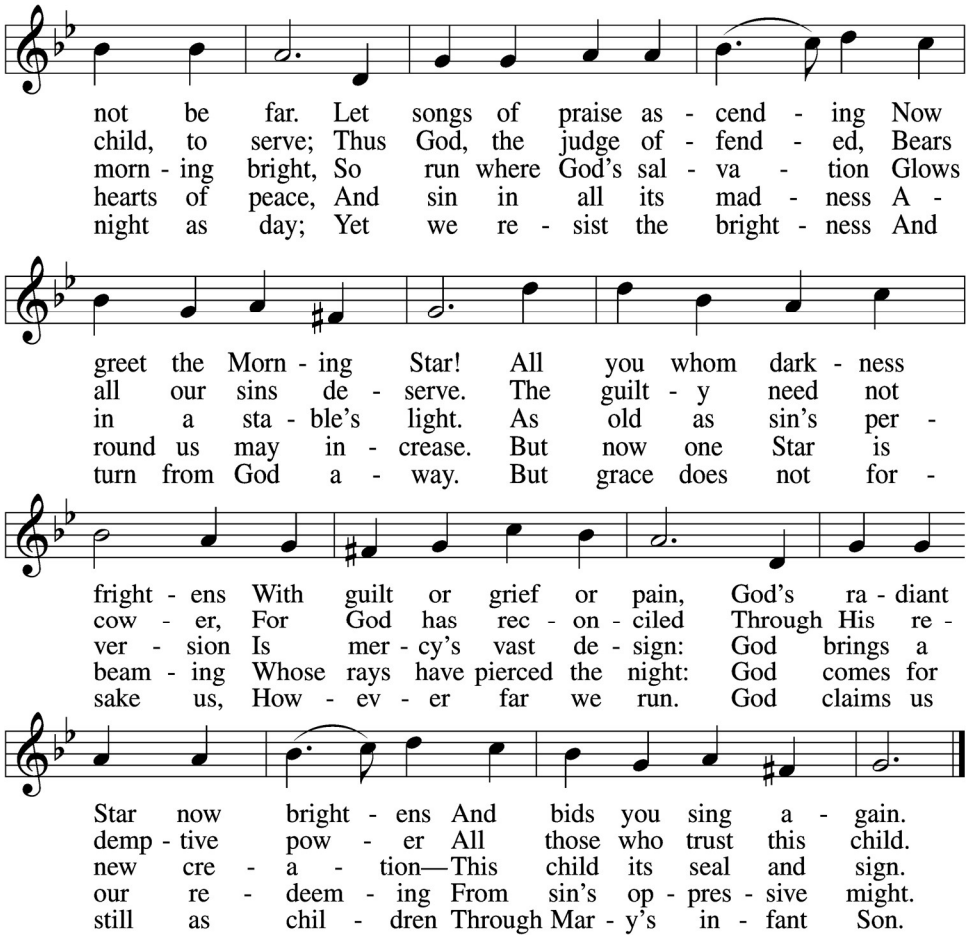
C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C: Amen.

DEPARTING HYMN "THE NIGHT WILL SOON BE ENDING" *LSB 337*



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Join us for Mid-week Lenten services
reflecting on Martin Luther's Hymn
"Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice"

Wednesdays during Lent at 6pm
In Person and On-line (via Zoom Invite)

Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

3501 E Chandler Blvd; Phoenix, AZ 85048

480-759-4047

www.FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Serving at Family of Christ

Pastor

Reverend Fred H Gerlach

Pastor@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Cell: 609-751-2546

Music Director

Inessa Leip

Music@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Church Office Administrator

Admin@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Prayer Requests

Prayer@FamilyOfChristLutheranAZ.org

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:

familyofchristaz@gmail.com

This Week at Family of Christ

3/14– 3/21

Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship *(with communion)*;

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Wednesday

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

Thursday

5:30PM Confirmation Class at the Church

Friday

6:30AM Men's Bible Study in Leviticus

Next Sunday

9:30AM Divine Worship

11:00AM Bible Study on Large Catechism

Wednesday (March 14)

6:00PM Mid-week Lenten Service

PLEASE NOTE: *Church Services and Bible Studies are currently offered in person and via Zoom. In-person meetings follow all CDC-recommended protocols and procedures.*

Pastor is available upon request for: *(call the Church office or Pastor's cell to schedule)*

- ✝ Individual Confession and Absolution
- ✝ Home, hospital or nursing home visits
- ✝ Communion
- ✝ Prayer

Our Communion Policy

Family of Christ Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the ***Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod***. We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord gives into your mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.