



**MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026 – 10:30 AM**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY**

## A SPECIAL WELCOME AS WE CELEBRATE THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

[All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader. Please speak the **bolded** words if you desire.]

\* \* \* \* \*

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

**WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE** with cameras showing everything along the altar space (including the rail) as well as the front pews.

**BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER:** We invite you to try one of our listening devices for those who need hearing assistance. Please speak to a worship leader if you need one.

**YELLOW PRAYER CARDS:** You may write names for prayer on a yellow card from the pew rack in and place on the altar rail. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

**COLORING AND ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS:** We know it's not easy sitting during worship. Behind the back pew are two baskets full of red and blue activity bags. Inside are coloring sheets, books, puzzles, and more. Feel free to grab one and then return once our worship is over.

**NURSERY AND PLAYROOM:** There is a self-serve Nursery and Playroom for young children accompanied by their parents. The Nursery contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway through the side door of the sanctuary.

**NEED AN OFFERING ENVELOPE?** We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. Offerings may also be paid via checking account online at [www.clc4u.com/give](http://www.clc4u.com/give), scan the QR cord, or mail to the church.



**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** Stay up to date with everything happening at CLC and in our local community by signing up to our weekly newsletter at [www.clc4u.com/Newsletter](http://www.clc4u.com/Newsletter).

## **PRELUDE, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[The congregation stands as able.]

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

*Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.*

[Silence is kept for reflection.]

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:*

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:*

*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For failing to recognize your coming reign,*

*and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,*

*and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For disregarding voices from the margin,*

*and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:*

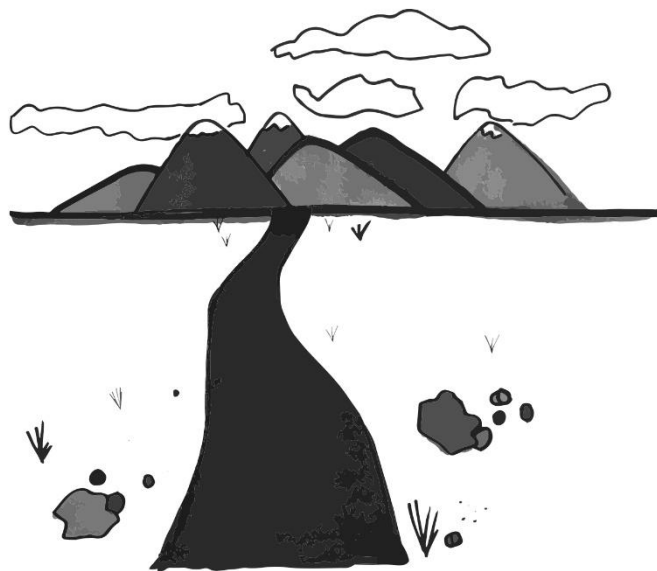
*Gracious God,*

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,  
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.***

*God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.  
Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.  
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead  
dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts,  
and gives you life and peace.  
**Amen.***

[Please remain standing as you are able.]



## GATHERING SONG – “Oh, love, how deep” [ELW 322]



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

[Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text and Music: Public Domain. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense: A-715430.]

### THE APOSTOLIC 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

*O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

[The congregation may sit.]

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

[Kids are invited to come sit with Pastor Marc on the steps of the altar.]



### **FIRST READING FROM THE BIBLE: GENESIS 12:1-4A**

*<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

*<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING FROM THE BIBLE: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17**

*<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.*

*<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.*

*<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.*

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand as you are able.]

## **GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 3:1-17**

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For 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.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

### **Praise to You, O Christ.**

[You may be seated.]

## **THE SERMON – “More than One Verse.” Rev. Marc A. Stutzel**

[Please stand as you are able.]

**HYMN OF THE DAY – “Lift High the Cross” [ELW 660]**

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

[Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense: A-715430.]

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*Let us confess our faith in the words of The Apostles' 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.**

[The congregation may be seated.]

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.*

[A brief silence.]

*Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give our bishops, Yehiel and Christa, and your entire church the means to praise your beauty today.*

*Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders especially Donald the President, Mikie, NJ's governor, Cory, Andy, Josh, our federal representatives to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.*  
**Your mercy is great.**

*Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss especially ...*

**Dolores Albert, Jason, Harry, David and Doris Crouse, Jackson Fehr,  
Faye Rekosik, Vivian, Chris Quesada, Miriam Valder, Lauren,  
George & Chris Yasenchock, Luanne McHale, Jan O'Leary,  
Nancy Kerber, Gary Skutnik, Karen Bentsen, Cian Dankin, Felipe Santos,  
Maryanne Koeppel & Kylie Everhart.**

*Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.*  
**Amen.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Use the gifts we've placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, donated online, as well as the love we've shown through acts of service and mercy. May the bread and drink at this table draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.***

## PEACE

*I invite you to take a look at everyone who surrounds you in your sacred space. Let us send a blessing to one another via the peace sign, wishing that the peace of Christ may be with them.*



*Let us now think about all who are worshiping in the sanctuary, online, via conference call, or at a different time than right now. In our hearts, let's send to your entire faith community a blessing and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.*

*Finally, let the blessing we offer each other go out to our families, friends, neighbors, and the entire world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us embody the peace of Christ after we leave worship today.*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

[This is the Lord's Table. You are welcome and invited to it. **The Communion Assistant can come to the altar to help serve.** Please stand as you are able.]

### THE DIALOGUE

[Sung responsively.]

The dialogue is written on four staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes, which are connected by slurs. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has two measures.

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

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

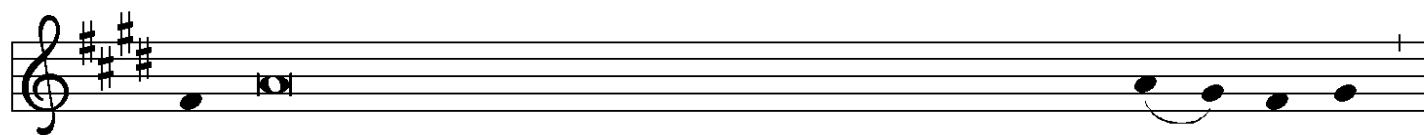
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

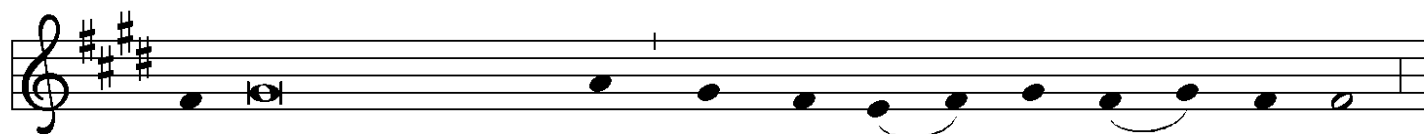
## THE PREFACE



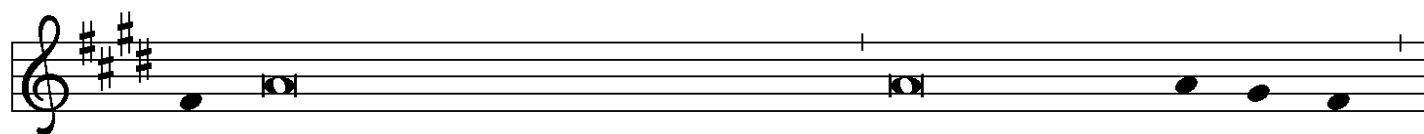
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



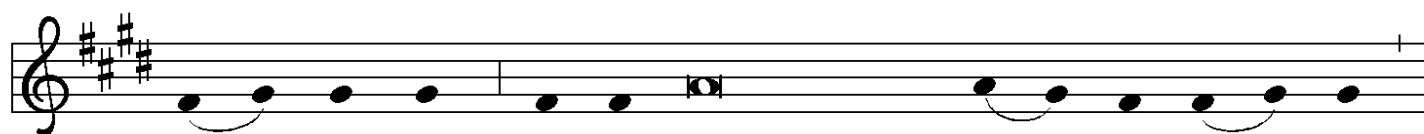
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



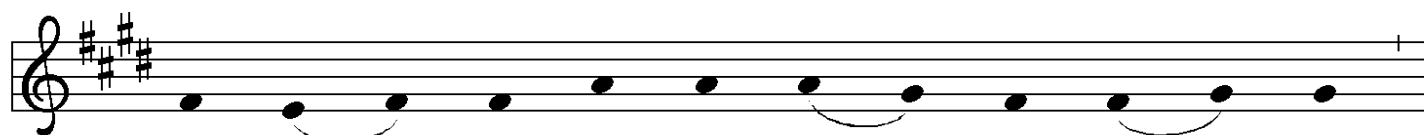
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



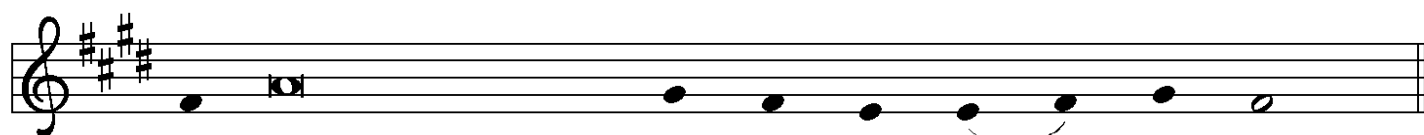
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

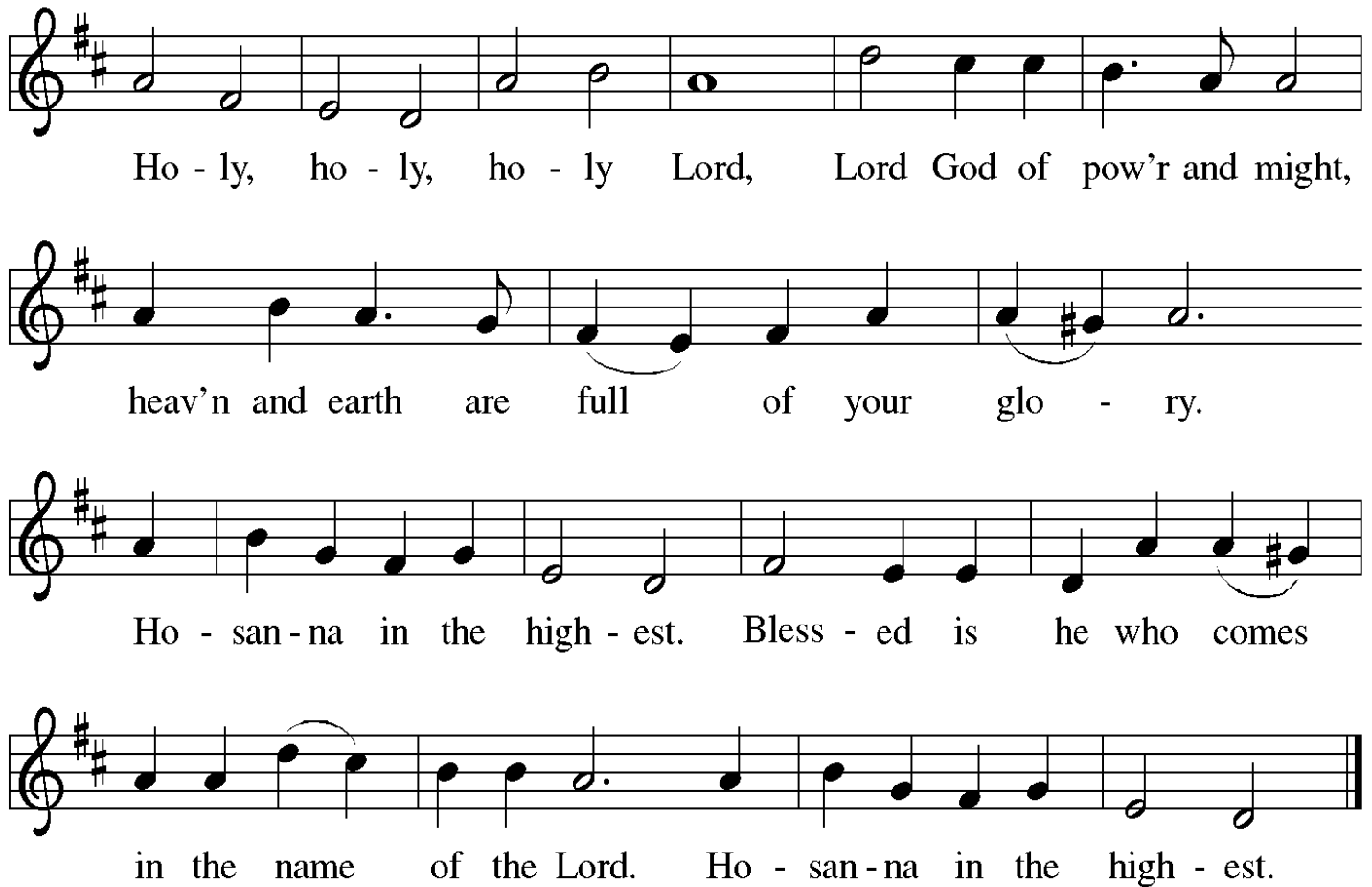


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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

*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.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, present here and connecting across space and time itself – 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*You are here, not because you are perfect, but because, through Christ Jesus, you are welcomed and loved.*

[The congregation may sit.]

**HOLY COMMUNION**

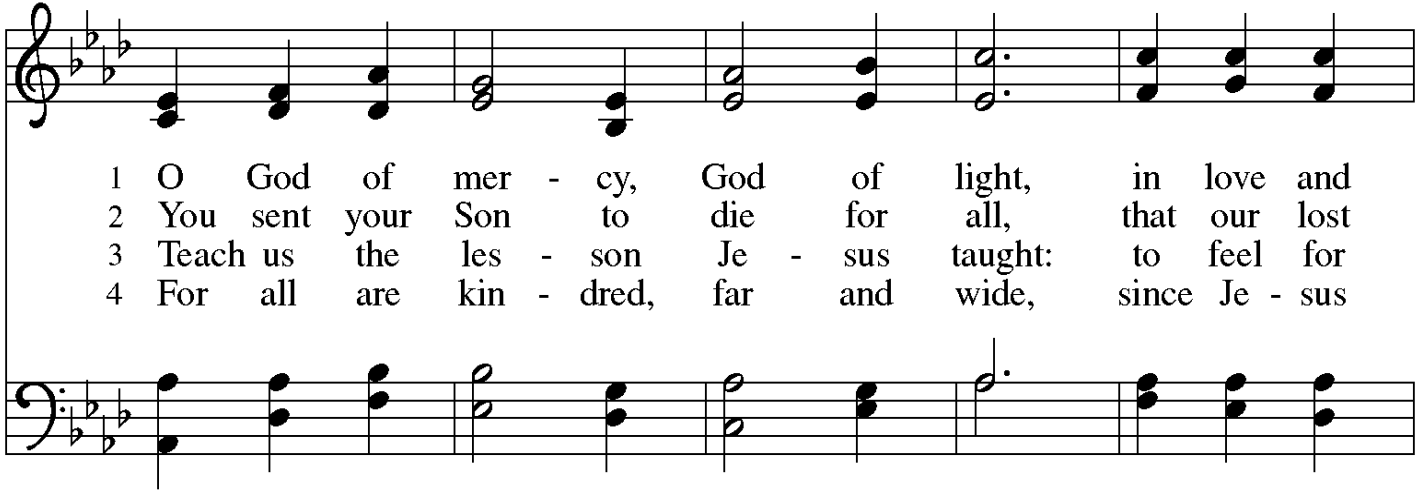
[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.  
When space is available at the rail, please come forward to kneel or stand.  
Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),  
followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.  
Children and all who have not received First Communion can request a blessing.  
For those joining at home or in your seats, we invite you to commune yourself  
when Pastor Marc is served at the end.]

*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

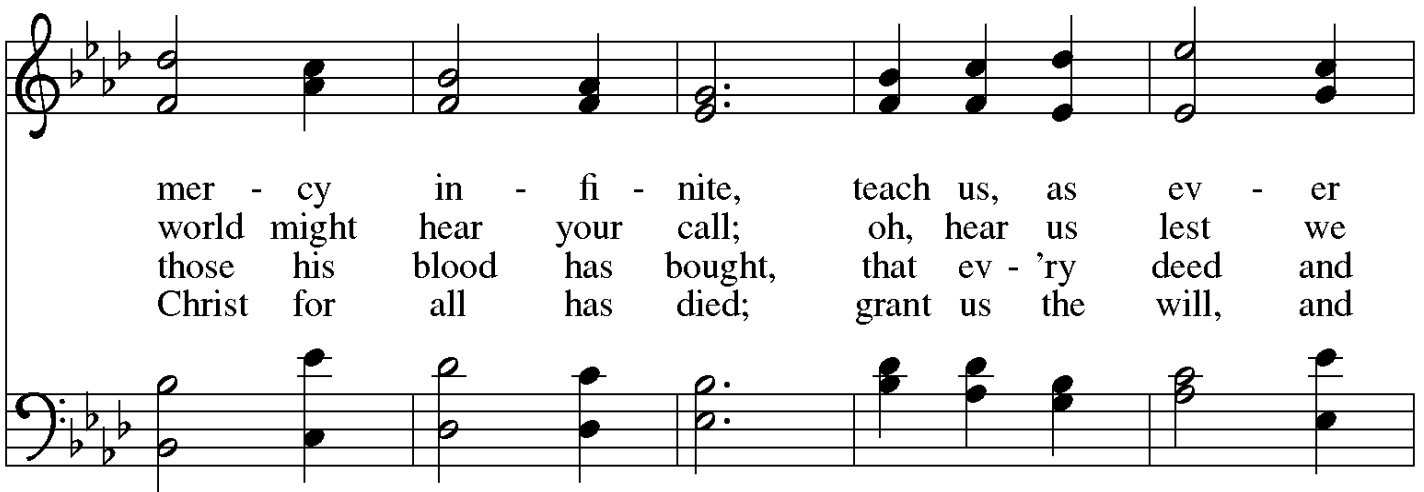
[The following song is sung by the congregation during the distribution of Holy Communion.]



**COMMUNION SONG – “O God of mercy, God of light” [ELW 714]**



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.

[Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Text and Music: Public Domain. All rights reserved. Used by permission. OneLicense: A-715430.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

*May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**Amen.**

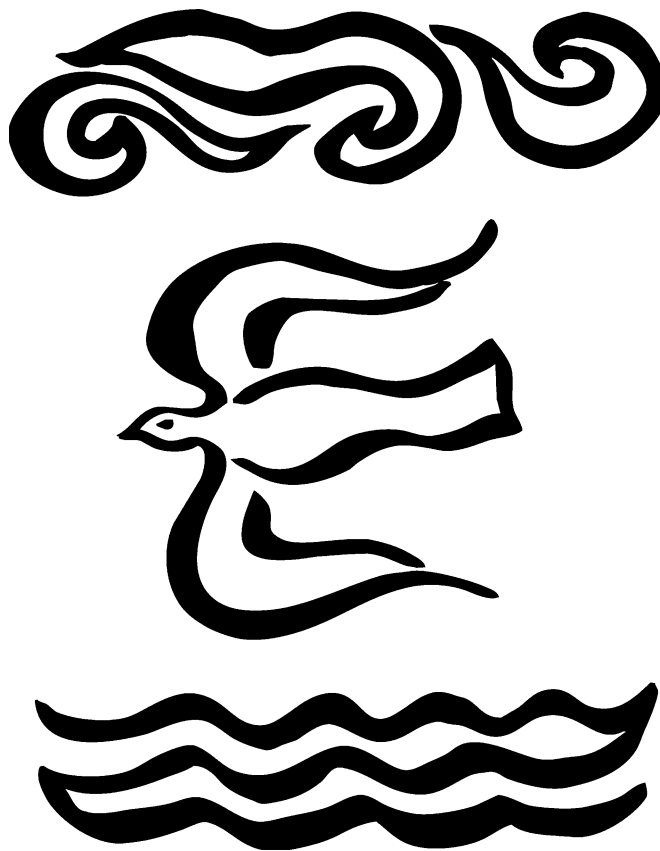
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*God of our salvation,*

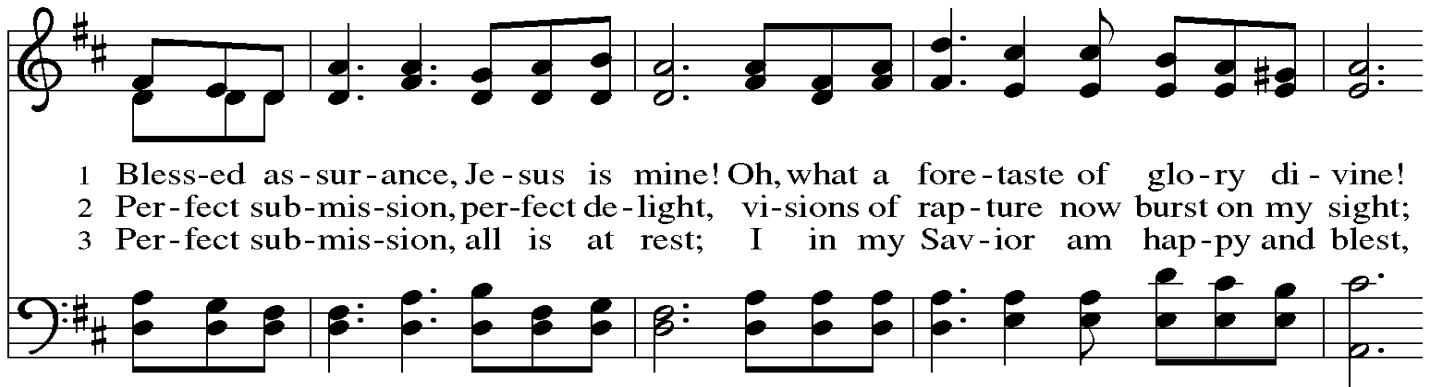
*we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.*

*Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

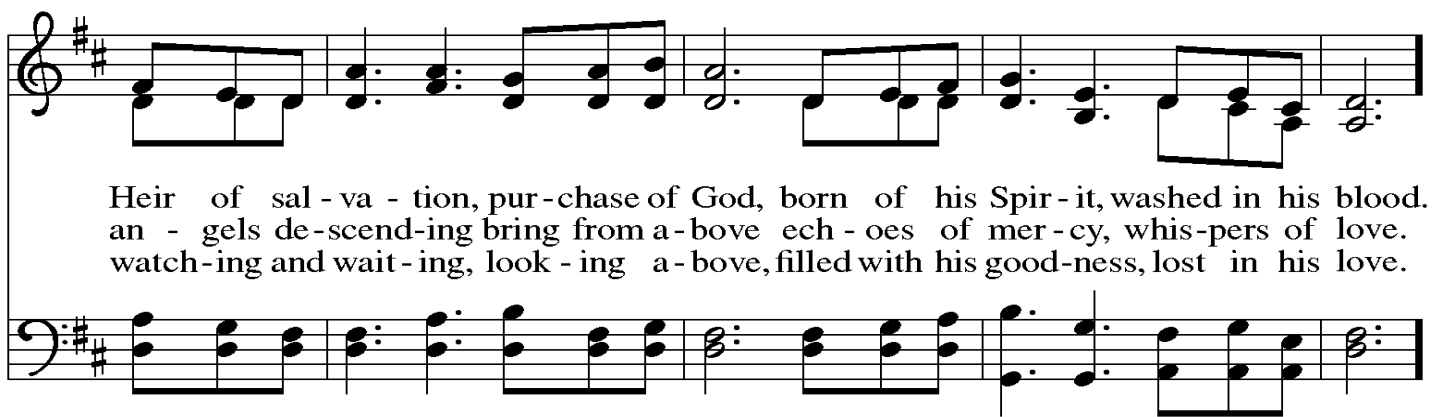
**Amen.**



**SENDING SONG – “Blessed assurance” [ELW 638]**



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## **BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

*[By Rev. Roddy Hamilton.]*

*May we find the road that leads to life;  
may we take the turns that brings right relationships;  
may we pause to accompany others on the way;  
and may we journey with ✠ Christ through Lent,  
and long for the horizon and dawn.*

*Go in peace. Believe the good news.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A SPECIAL HELLO TO EVERYONE ATTENDING CLC TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME.** We are blessed by your presence and pray you will be blessed in this space. If you wish, fill out the orange card ("We're glad you're here!") in the back of the pew in front of you. And if you need to talk to Pastor Marc, please reach out!

**AED:** If a medical emergency occurs and an AED is needed, one is located on top of the church mailboxes next to the church office and choir room.

**ENRICH YOUR WORK WEEK AND ENHANCE YOUR PRAYERS:** read these appointed selections in preparation for the Third Sunday in Lent, Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>: *First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11, Gospel: John 4:5-42.*

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Today's flowers are given by **Diane Lintner in loving memory of Doris Lintner.** If you would like to sponsor flowers for future weeks (\$60 per Sun. through our florist or you can bring two bouquets of your own) in honor or memory of loved ones, sign your name on the flower chart in the narthex.

**HOW DO LUTHERANS INTERPRET THE BIBLE:** On Tuesday, March 3rd at 7 pm, join Pastor Marc online for a Lenten series on how Lutherans read the bible. Using a resources from Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, we'll explore how grace, God's activity, and the Cross shape how we experience God's story. Let Pastor Marc know if you'll be attending and he'll send you the Zoom link. If you'd like to meet in person for the study, let him know and we'll create a hybrid event.

**LENTEN HUNGER APPEAL:** Our Care Committee will be sponsoring coffee hours during Lent. Bagels and other treats will be available. Money raised through the coffee hours will support ELCA World Hunger and the Tri-Boro Food Pantry.

**TRASH AND TREASURE PLANNING MEETING:** Please join us for a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, March 15 at 11:30 am in the Sonshine Room to help us get ready for our Trash and Treasure sale. If you have never been involved in the sale and are curious how it works or you are a seasoned volunteer, you are invited and appreciated! *Donations for the sale will be accepted starting on Sunday, April 12. Sale on Saturday, May 2.*

**THE CAREGIVER COFFEE BREAK:** Our Alzheimer's Support Group will next meet on Saturday, March 14th, at 10 am. This group is for caregivers who have been taking care of a loved one for years or just started or are learning what life is like once caregiving changes. Let the church office know if you are planning to attend.

**EASTER FLOWERS:** It's time to sponsor flowers to decorate our altar on Easter Sunday. Envelopes in the Narthex are available for your order. 6" Lilies are \$11 each, 6" Tulips \$8, and 6" Daffodils \$8. Orders must be received by Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**ASSISTING MINISTERS TODAY:**

**10:30 am**

**Musician** – Argine Safari

**Lector** – John Carbaugh

**Altar Guild** - Jane Conboy and Mary Zeigler

**Communion** - Mary Zeigler

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**

Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am

**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

SCA Fencing Club, 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Knit One, Crochet Too, 10:00 am

Interpret the Bible Zoom, 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Worship Committee, 10:00 am

Bible Study, 11:00 am

Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 4:45 pm

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Sunday School and Confirmation Class 9:45 am

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

Parish Admin: Evie Salerno

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Contemporary Music: David Scance

32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

201-391-4224 office@clc4u.com

Join online at [clc4u.com](http://clc4u.com)

[facebook.com/clc4u](https://facebook.com/clc4u)

[instagram.com/clc4u](https://instagram.com/clc4u)

Worship on Sundays:

9 am & 10:30 am