Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023 – 10:30 a.m. With One Voice: Holy Communion, Setting 6

Prayer of preparation:

Lord Jesus, walk with us during these 40 days of Lent. Be near to us in our struggles against temptation, and let us find our strength in you. Bless this time of worship for your Name's sake. Amen.

+ + +

Pre-Service Music

"Prelude Fantasia" (Orlando Gibbons)

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.
- **P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Gracious God,

G we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

Have mercy on us and turn us from our sinful ways.

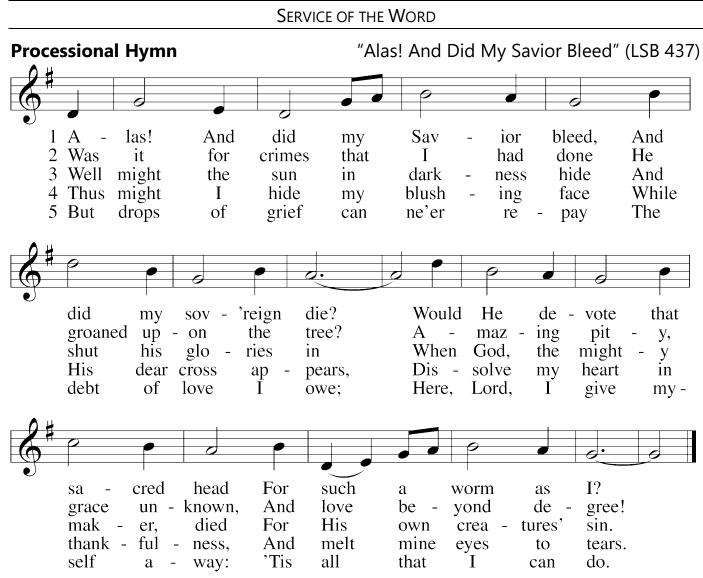
Forgive us and bring us back to you,

For we once were dead but now have life, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



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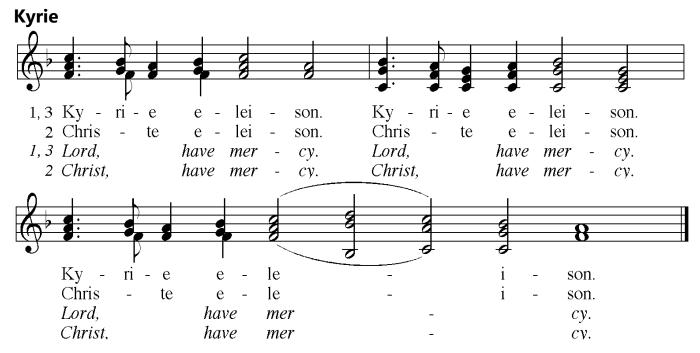
C Amen.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Tune: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824 Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

- The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **C** And also with you.



Prayer of the Day

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.

Old Testament Reading

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known I will guide them. Isaiah 42:14-21

I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷Thev are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious. **L** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God. Psalm

L With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

- I pour out my complaint before him; С I tell my trouble before him.
- When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

Look to the right and see: С there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

- I cry to you, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."
- Attend to my cry, C for I am brought very low!

Psalm 142

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

 Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

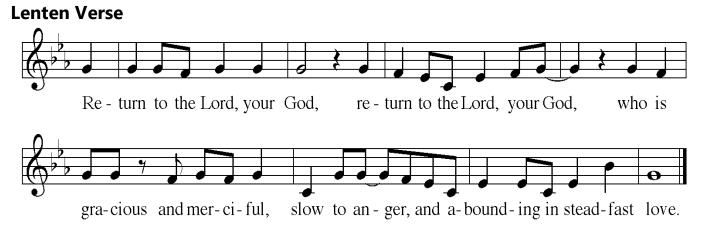
"Awake, O sleeper,

and arise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

Please join in reading aloud the highlighted portion of Scripture And consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing [...].

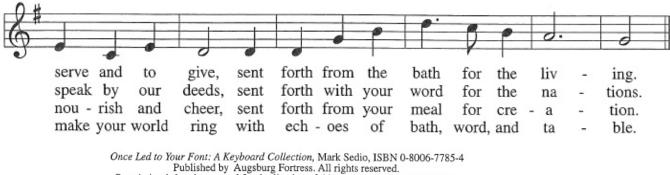
¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." [].³⁴They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P The Gospel of the Lord.Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Baptismal Song "Once Led to Your Font" (stanzas 1 and 2) 1 Once led font to your to die and to live called 2 Ad dressed by your word, caught tight and set free, re 3 Both wel-comed and fed at your ta - ble of grace, your 4 By your wash - ing made pure; by your feed-ing made by your whole; down to the wa - ter for wash God, lead us ing, 0___ out to shaped by our Sav-ior's em - brac ing, 0____ God, lead us and out, sup - per brings life and sal va tion. 0___ God, lead us out to call - ing made will-ing and а ble; 0___ God, lead us out to



Once Led to Your Font: A Keyboard Collection, Mark Sedio, ISBN 0-8006-7785-4 Published by Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission is hereby granted for duplication of this page for congregational use, but not sale, provided each copy carries this copyright notice. 2005

Holy Baptism today is given for Reese Helen Davis, child of William Davis and Jennifer Ellett. Serving as her sponsors are Travis, Angie, and Gavin Stien.

Presentation of Baptismal Candidate

R We present Reese Helen to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The Address The pastor speaks to those assembled for Baptism

In Christian love you have presented this young person for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring her to the services of God's house, and teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments. As she grows in years, you should place in her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for her instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of her Baptism and in communion with the Church, she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ. Do you promise to fulfill these obligations?

R I do.

The Thanksgiving

The pastor pours the water to be used for Holy Baptism into the font.

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Flood Prayer

This prayer, written by Martin Luther, acknowledges God's saving acts throughout history by means of water.

- Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.
- By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of

cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

- In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the slavery to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life.
- G He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom.
- **G** To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

The Renunciation

Candidates for Baptism and sponsors join together in renouncing the works of Satan.

- I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize. Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?
- R I do.

The Profession of Faith

Candidates for Baptism, their sponsors, and the congregation join together in affirming their belief in the triune God.

- **P** Do you believe in God the Father?
- **G** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- **P** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- **G** 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.

The Washing

Reese Helen, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Laying on of Hands

The pastor lays hands on the head of the baptized and prays for the Holy Spirit's work in their life:

- God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy Sacrament. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Reese Helen: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.
- **C** Amen.

The Sealing

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized with oil prepared for this purpose. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor says:

- P Reese Helen, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

A lighted candle is given to the baptized with these words:

- Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- Finally, let us pray for the parents of this young person: O God, giver of all life, look with kindness upon Reese's parents, William and Jennifer. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally the salvation you have given to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

The Welcome

Those who have been baptized turn and face the congregation as these words are spoken:

- **I** Through Baptism, God has made this young person a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear His creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, child of the same heavenly Father, and worker with us in the kingdom of God.

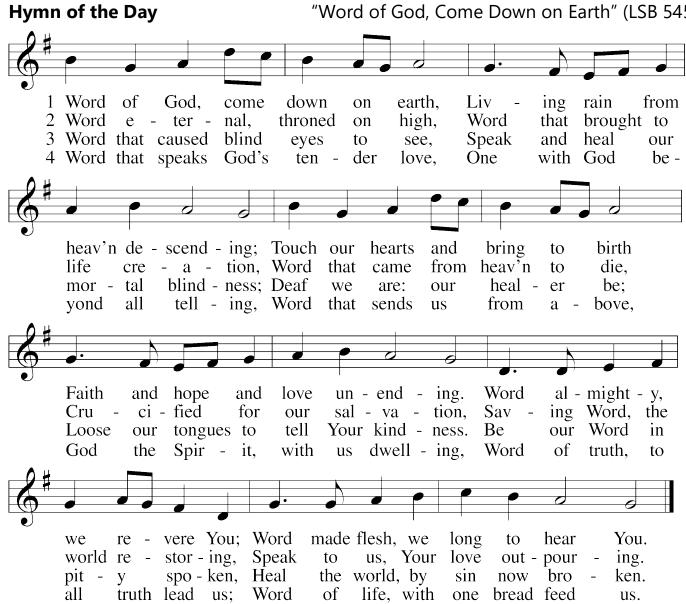
Response

"Once Led to Your Font" (stanzas 3 and 4)

Sermon

"Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (LSB 545)

"Promised Treasures: Light"



Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010 Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt. Text: © 1969 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005318 Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

P Gathered by the Spirit, let us return to the Lord our God and pray for the church, the world, and all who yearn for new life.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer. During the season of Lent each petition ends with the phrase: "Lord, in your mercy." Please respond by saying: "Hear our prayer." The prayers end with the words:

- Almighty God, you have commanded us to pray, and you promise to hear us. Hear the prayers of your people and grant us all that we need, for the sake of the One in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- **C** Amen.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

- L Let us pray. God our provider,
- **G** you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

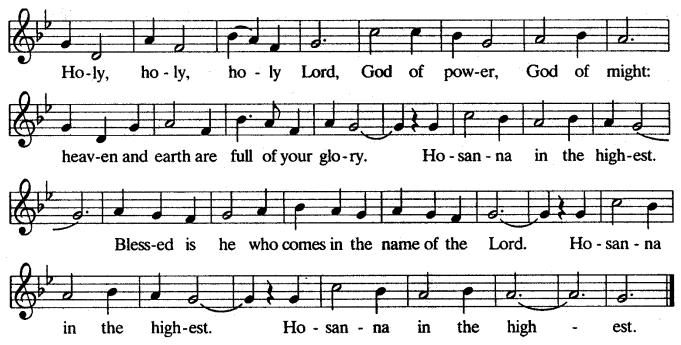
Great Thanksgiving

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them up to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **G** 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 the 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:

Sanctus

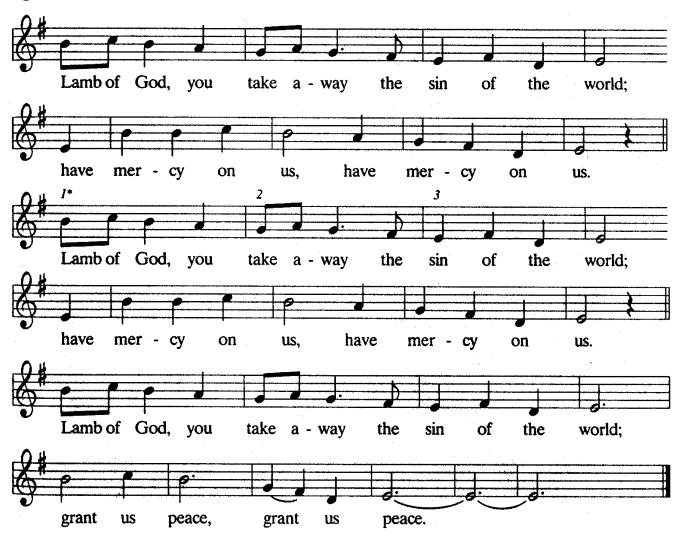


Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

- **P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- **G** 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.

Agnus Dei



Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Music at the Distribution

Choir Anthem "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" (Robert J. Powell) Choir of St. John's

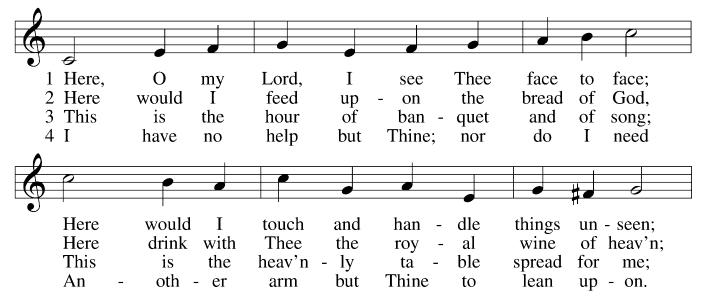
Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love the way you love, and do what you would do.

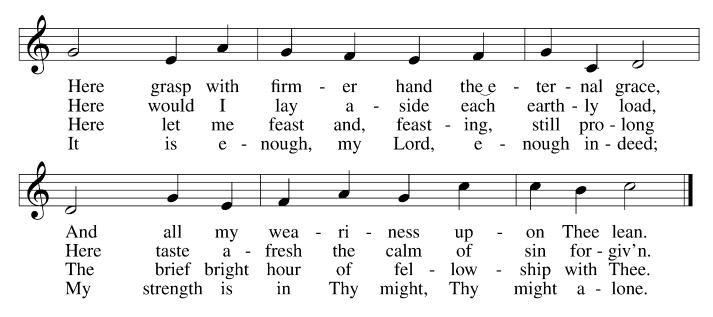
Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until my will is one with yours, to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with you the perfect life for all eternity.

"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

(LSB 631)





- 5 Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
 Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
 Thy blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord my God.
- Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
 The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
 The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
 Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.
- Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
 Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
 Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,

The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89, alt. Tune: Henry Lawes, 1595–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- L Let us pray: Merciful God,
- accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of Baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

- 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 r give you peace.
- **C** Amen.

Sending

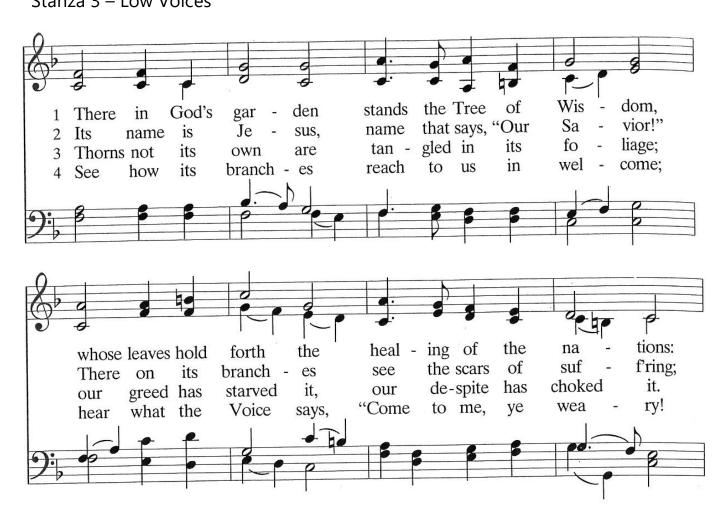
- **L** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

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"There in God's Garden" (WOV 668)
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Stanza 1 – All Sing Stanza 2 – High Voices Stanza 3 – Low Voices

Stanza 4 – Choir Stanzas 5 & 6 – All Sing





Postlude

"Invention III" (Joseph Callaerts)

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Our Ministry Of Worship

Officiant/Preacher Welcome Lay Assistant Communion Lay Assistant Organist/Pianist Acolyte Crucifer Ushers Altar Care AV Operators Welcome Host Nursery

Pastor Meehan Jennifer Hills, Director of Discipleship Steve Tracy Barbara Pate David Leahey, Director of Music Jenna Swale Michael Swale Fred Esposito Mike Waring Andrea Godwin Greg Auld Mark Gilbertson Joe Godwin Andi Hassett Janet Smith + + +

St. John's Lutheran Church - 5952 Franconia Road - Alexandria, VA 22310 703-971-2210

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