

# Fifth Sunday in Lent Holy Communion



March 17, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1479 Morse Road + Columbus, OH 43229

"Our mission is to welcome all people in learning, living, and sharing God's grace."

## A few notes about worship:

- Ascension strives to be a welcoming and safe place for all. Masks are optional: anyone may choose to wear a mask for any reason. Masks may be found on the back table in the sanctuary.
- Unchanged is our commitment to an excellent virtual worship experience. If you are unable to join in the sanctuary, worship services are streamed live on Facebook. Instructions on how to participate or view later the on-line (with or without a Facebook account) is on our website.
- **There are now three different options for receiving Holy Communion.** You may come forward and receive communion at the front in a continuous fashion (instructions will be given). Or, you may pick up communion elements on the back table as you arrive to commune yourself in the pew at the appropriate time. Or, you may remain in your pew, and communion will be brought to you (please inform the usher).

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate to Pastor this preference as you come forward.

Grape juice is available: The white cups on the tray are grape juice; the red cups are wine.

- We are glad to have children in worship. We also know that children sometimes need to move and express themselves in ways that the pews don't accommodate. There is a family break room; and you are free to use it as needed. It is located in the back of the sanctuary.

ELW – indicates Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal – in the pew.

ACS – indicates All Creation Sings

W&P – indicates Worship & Praise

WOV – indicates With One Voice – in the pew

**Bold** print indicates Congregation.

Please rise as you are able at the titles marked with a plus sign - +.

At places where the cross ✝ appears, it is customary to make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.

## **Worship Notes:**

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.



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[www.ascension-columbus.org](http://www.ascension-columbus.org)

Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AscensionLutheranChurch>

## ✠ Gathering ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

Prelude Music

*On the Way to Jerusalem*

~ J. H. Maunder/arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

### Call to Worship

*The congregation speaks the parts in **bold print**.*

A: People of God,  
we gather for worship to practice joy:  
not because our lives are perfect,  
but because joy is resilient,  
God's gift for every season  
and the wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy,

**we practice joy.**

When floods rise and fall,

**we practice joy.**

When hope surprises us,

**we practice joy.**

When God sets people free,

**we practice joy.**

When Jesus heals us,

**we practice joy.**

When we are called,

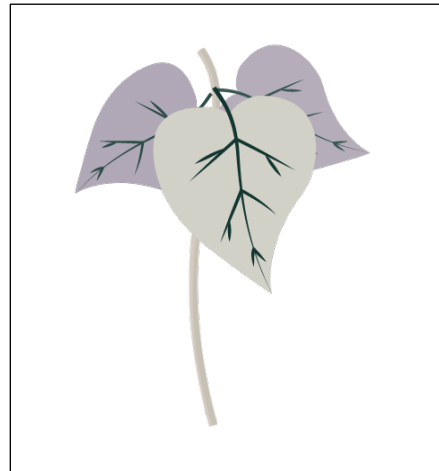
**we practice joy.**

When we endure,

**we practice joy.**

We practice joy together,

**and God is with us.**



Choral Introit

*As the Seed of Joy*

~M. Haugen/Arr. Duling

*As the Seed of Joy, implanted in each heart,  
Wells up in each of us to show forth Christ's love.  
So may each believer throughout these forty days  
Show joy in being one through Him.*

*Let this be a foretaste of joy eternally,  
When all creation shares this feast with you*

*As the Seed of Joy, implanted in each heart,  
Springs up in each of us to show forth Christ's  
love.*

*So may each believer throughout these forty  
days  
Show joy in being one in Him.*

## Call to Confession

P: People of God,  
the Merciful One already knows everything we confess.  
By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness,  
we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another.  
Let's bring before God what we have done wrong  
and what we've failed to do,  
trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

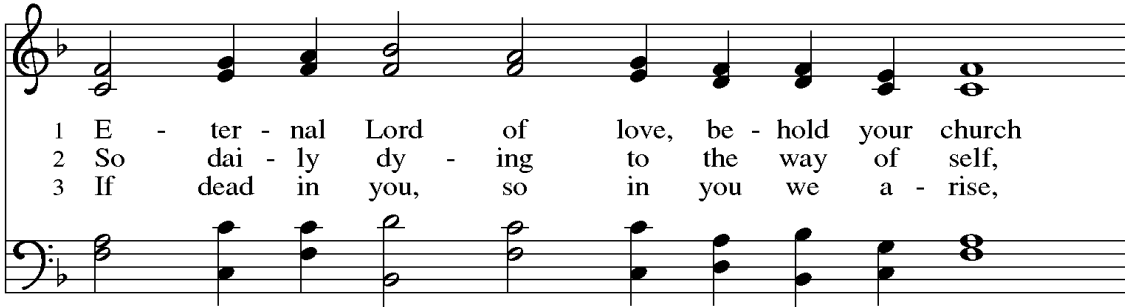
*Brief silence for reflection.*

## Prayer of Confession

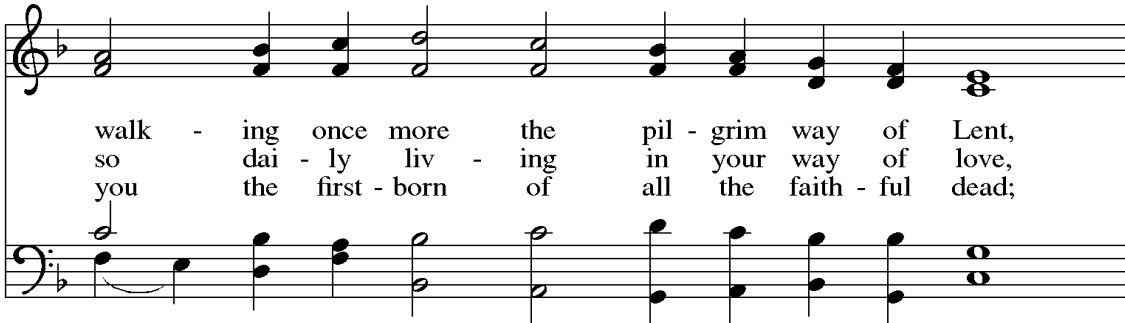
P: God of abundant goodness,  
C: **we have hurt those we love,  
those far from us,  
ourselves,  
and your creation  
by what we do and by what we neglect.  
We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures  
and refuse to enjoy what you give.  
We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship  
plague our neighbors.  
We ignore the gift of your presence  
in times both tragic and triumphant.  
Forgive us for what we have done  
and for what we have failed to do.  
Pour out on us the joy of your presence  
and heal what we have harmed.**

## Assurance of Forgiveness

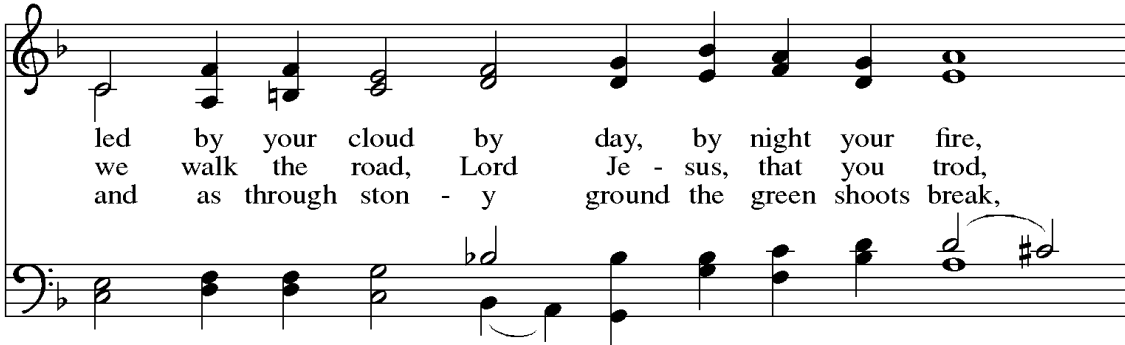
P: Friends, receive these joyful words:  
You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.  
You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.  
You are released to live out God's love  
in a world that needs such joy.  
C: **Amen.**



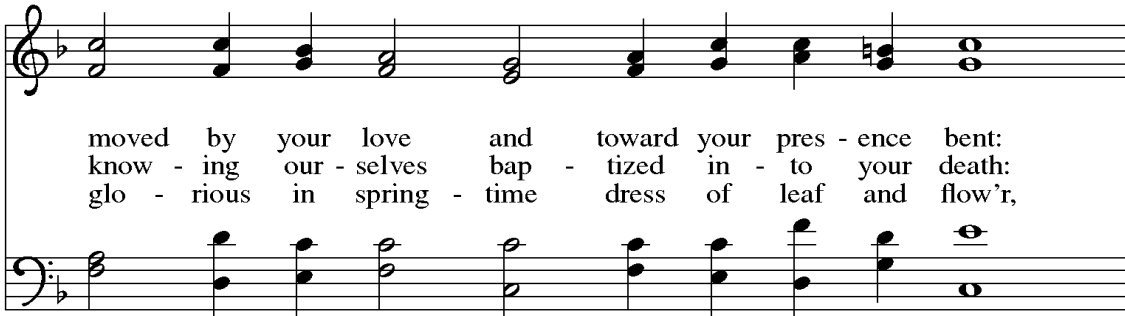
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

## +Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Holy Voice, your call resonates in the depth of our being, urging us toward places where others need help. Give us the courage to say *yes* to you today. Pour joy into the places where our gifts meet your invitation. **C:**  
**Amen.** *Please be seated.*

## Welcome

### ✠ Word ✠

*God speaks to us in scriptures reading, preaching, and song.*

#### First Lesson

*A new covenant written on the heart*

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A: A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was married to them, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

#### The Psalmody

*Create in me a clean heart, O God. (Ps. 51:10)*

Psalms 51:1-12

*The congregation speaks the parts in **bold print**.*

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Chancel Choir Anthem     *Before the Cross of Christ I Stand*     ~Mary Kay Beall/John Carter

Second Lesson     *Through suffering Christ becomes the source of salvation*     Hebrews 5:5-10

A: A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

<sup>6</sup>as God says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

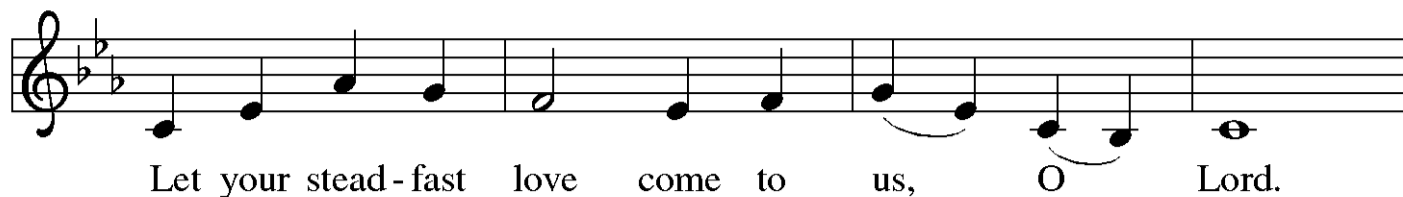
<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(The organist will play through once before the acclamation is sung by the congregation).

### +Gospel Acclamation



### +Holy Gospel

*The grain of wheat dying in the earth*

John 12:20-33

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the twelfth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son-of-Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say —; 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

### Sermon



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
 he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

## +Profession Of Faith

A: With the whole Church, we confess our faith:

C: **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

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, particularly we lift up our prayer ministry and Saints and Shepherds. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill; especially those on our hearts and on our prayer list. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## +Sharing of Christ's Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please share with one another Christ's peace, and then be seated.*

## Offering

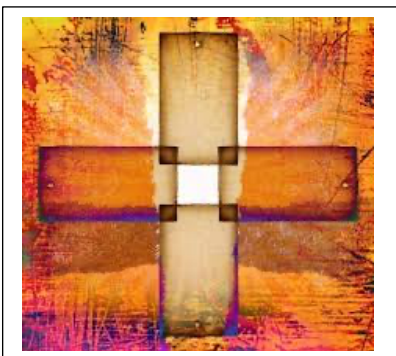
*An offering will be taken up today and the ushers will come to you; or you may go to [www.ascension-columbus.org](http://www.ascension-columbus.org). to give electronically. We give thanks to you for your generosity of spirit.*

## Offertory

Ah, Holy Jesus

~J. Herrmann/J. Cruger/arr. Arnold Sherman

Ascending Tones Bell Choir



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

## Offering Prayer

A: God of mercy and grace,  
you give us so much:  
our days, our loved ones,  
our passions and talents,  
the food we eat, the homes we know,  
a place to worship.  
God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.  
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.  
Bless them and bless us,  
that we will give generously,  
love boldly, and share widely,  
our offering reflecting your joyful gift.

C: **Amen.**

## ✠ Meal ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Thanksgiving at the Table

### +Dialog

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 our thanks and praise.**

### +Eucharistic Prayer / Words of Institution

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you sustain us in the wilderness.

When we ate from the forbidden tree, you brought us clothing to cover us.  
When we wandered in the wilderness, you rained down bread from heaven.  
When your prophets were in parched places, you sustained them with bread and oil.

And in these last days, you have given us your Son Jesus, who clothes us in his  
righteousness and gives himself as the bread of heaven.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying: Take and eat; this 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your servants, and on these gifts of bread and wine,  
that we might sustain others in the wilderness.

And all God's people said...

**C: Amen.**

#### +Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*Please be seated.*

#### Sharing of the Bread and Cup

*All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Please see the "Worship Notes" at the front of the bulletin regarding the options to receive communion, plus the options (gluten-free, grape juice...) for communion elements.*



Communion Hymns - "God Welcomes All" (*sung three times*)

ACS 978

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW 465

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were

gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from

all the ends of earth be gath - ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,

2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## Blessing at the Table

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

A: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## ✠ Sending ✠

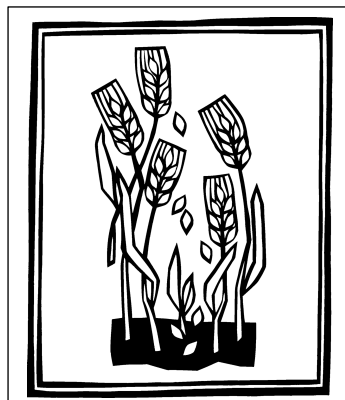
*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Ministry Announcements

### +Benediction

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**



+Sending Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

ELW 545



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.  
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.  
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.  
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

+Dismissal

A: Practice joy.

As you leave this place,

go with the joy that fills life with meaning.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

~ Lani Smith

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## Serving in Worship

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Presider and Preacher: Pastor Karen Asmus-Alsnauer

Assisting Minister: Oscar Kamazima

Organist and Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Ed Duling

CWS Band: Tom Martin (Director and bass), Ed Hinton (drums), Von Smith (guitar), Chris Young (piano).

Ascending Tones Bell Choir: Jan Dahlstrom, Director

Altar Guild: Jan Dahlstrom, Brenda Noe, Peggy Dlusky, Pam Kratzer

Ushers: Alan Dahlstrom, Mike Fitak

Tech Crew: Oscar Kamazima, Joel Kratzer, Dave Holtzapple

Librarian: Martha Gostely

Hospitality: Allan and Cindy Hiscox, Robin Kern, Joyce Heft, Karen Lashley, Sandra Stohr, Sandy Baker, Sara Smith, and Myron Miller.

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**Music Notes:** Today, we continue the “Seed of Joy” theme in our introit and in the anthem, by long-time Columbus lyricist/composer couple, Mary Kay Beall, and John Carter, foreshadowing our rapidly-approaching Holy Week and reminding us of Christ as the principal “Seed of Joy” – dying, only to sprout again in His resurrection. The offertory melody is by Lutheran composer, Johann Crüger; lyrics (see ELW #349) are by Lutheran preacher and poet, Johann Heermann, and are thought to reflect Herrmann’s actual suffering, mostly during the 30-Years War. The prelude is likewise an anticipation of Jesus’ setting his face toward Jerusalem, and the postlude an original forethought of the triumphal entry. The organ selection to end communion is one of the best known of Irish hymns – *apropos* the day! ~Ed

### **Before the Cross of Christ I Stand** (Chancel Choir Anthem)

Before the cross of Christ I stand,  
Beneath a shadowed sky,  
To look upon that lonely place  
Where He was sent to die.  
To look upon that lonely place,  
Three crosses side by side,  
Where Christ, the Lamb, the Son of God  
Was led and crucified.

Before the cross of Christ I stand  
To wonder at such grace,  
That He, a spotless, tender Lamb,  
Would take a sinner’s place.  
I see Him now upon that cross,  
I hear His anguished cry.  
I feel the love that held Him there,  
That led Him there to die.

Before the cross of Christ I stand,  
Where love and sorrow meet;  
Where all who come are welcomed in,  
Where grace is made complete.  
‘Twas here He gave Himself for me,  
‘Twas here He bled and died,  
That I might claim the gift of life,  
From Christ, the Crucified . . .  
From Christ, the Crucified.

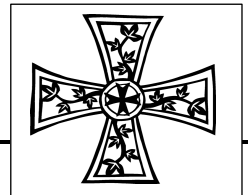
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Today's Commemoration

**Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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*"As the Grains of Wheat"*. One License #740756

*"Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing"*. Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, sts. 1-2, alt.; Godfrey Thing, 1823-1903, st. 3, alt.. Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent. PUBLIC DOMAIN.