Luther Memorial Lutheran Church
13047 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133
Worship for Sunday, 15 March 2026
+ Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year A

Actively Sharing Christ's Love in Community

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness *Please Stand*

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn #614 *There is a Balm in Gilead*

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Apostolic Greeting

P: 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:

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

C: Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

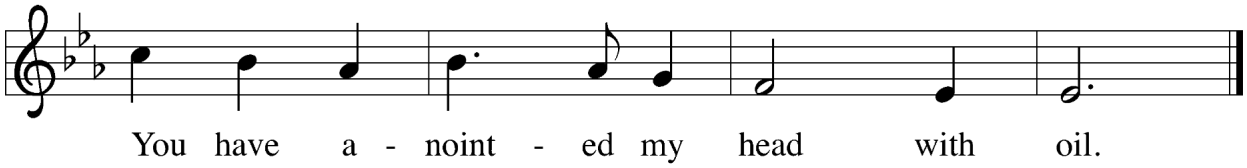
The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will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

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." Jesse sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was

handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23 ***Sung Congregational Refrain***



The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Refrain**
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **Refrain**

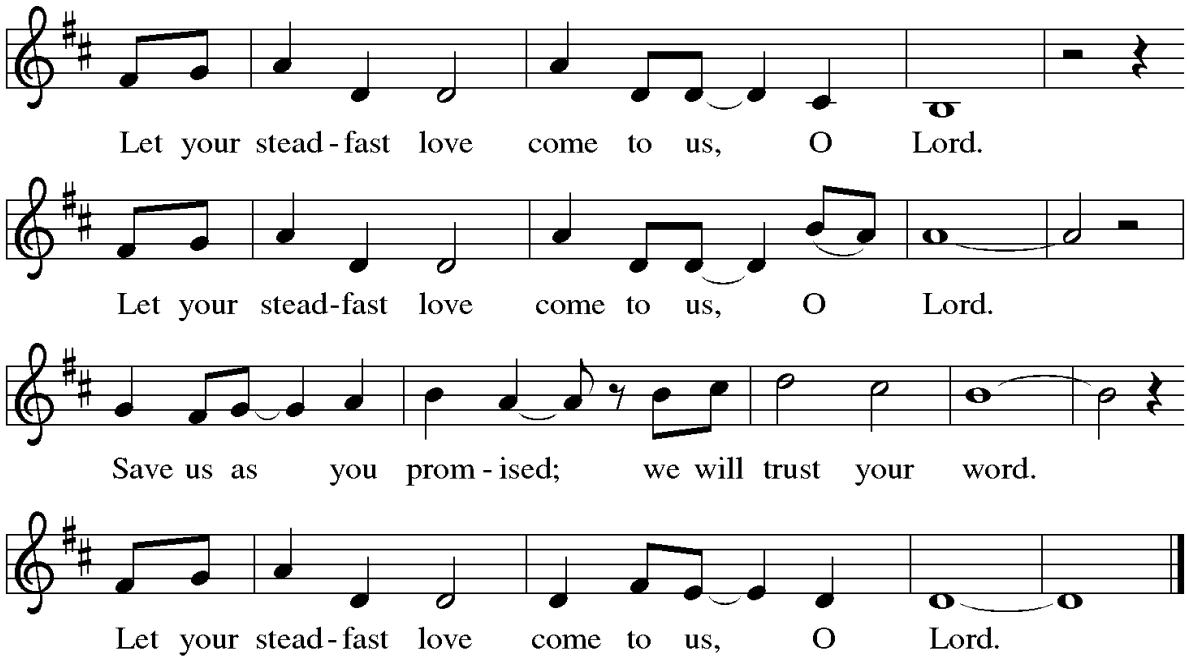
Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

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

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Please Stand*



Holy Gospel John 9:1-41

P: The holy Gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the

sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

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

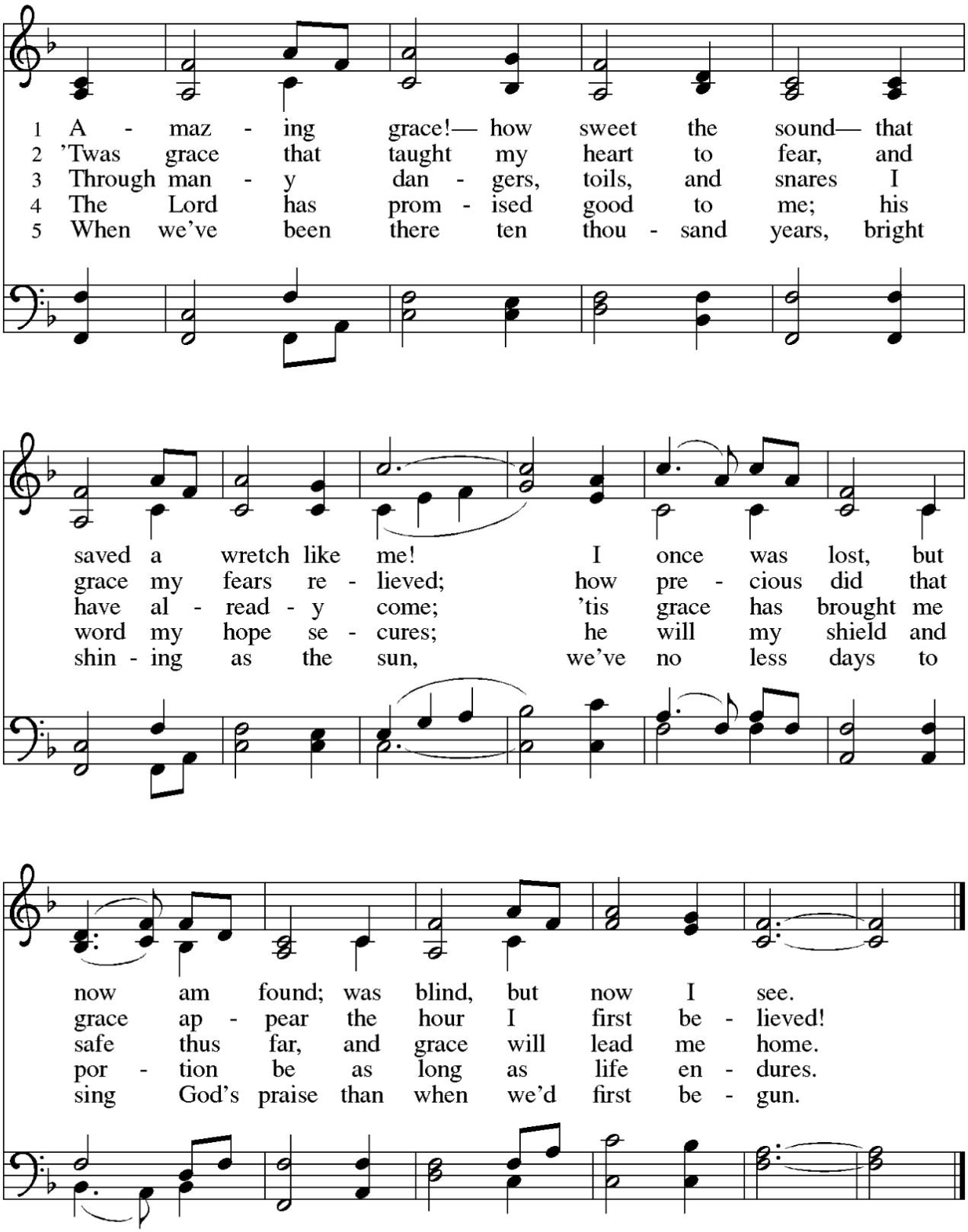
So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did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

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

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day #779 *Amazing Grace*



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

Prayers and Peace

P: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

From your place in the congregation, feel free to share a sign of peace with other members of the assembly.

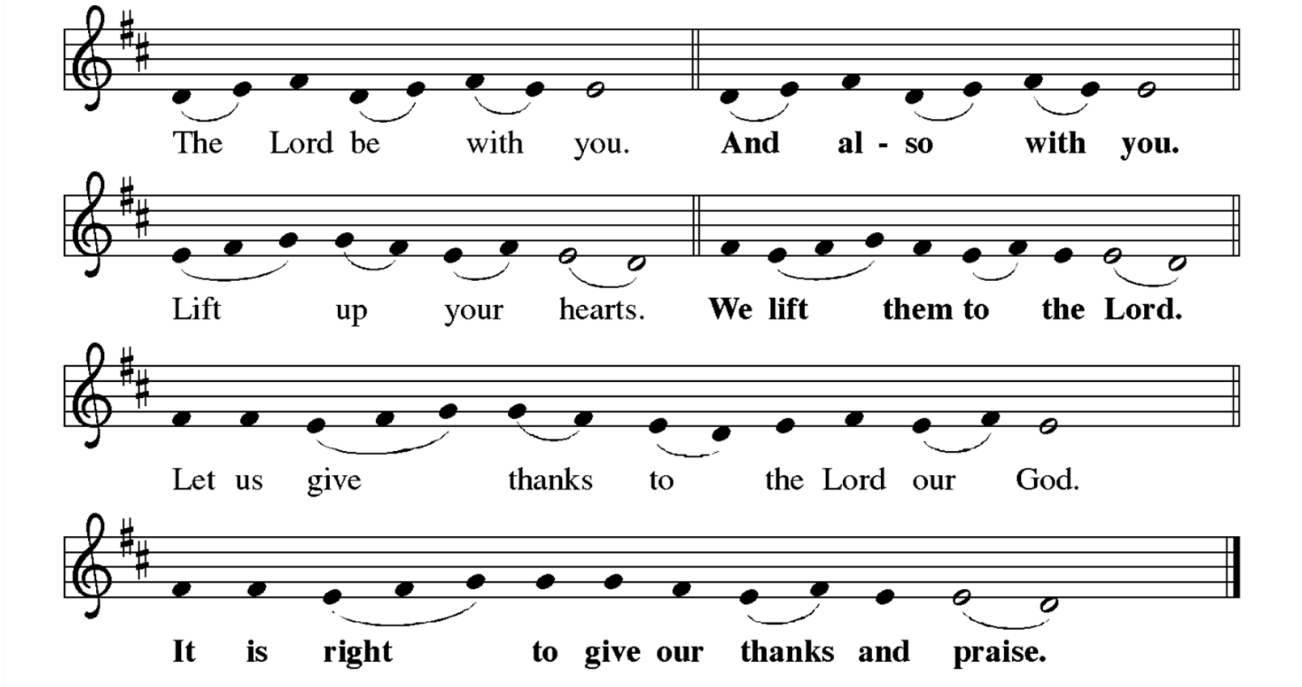
Offering

Offertory Anthem

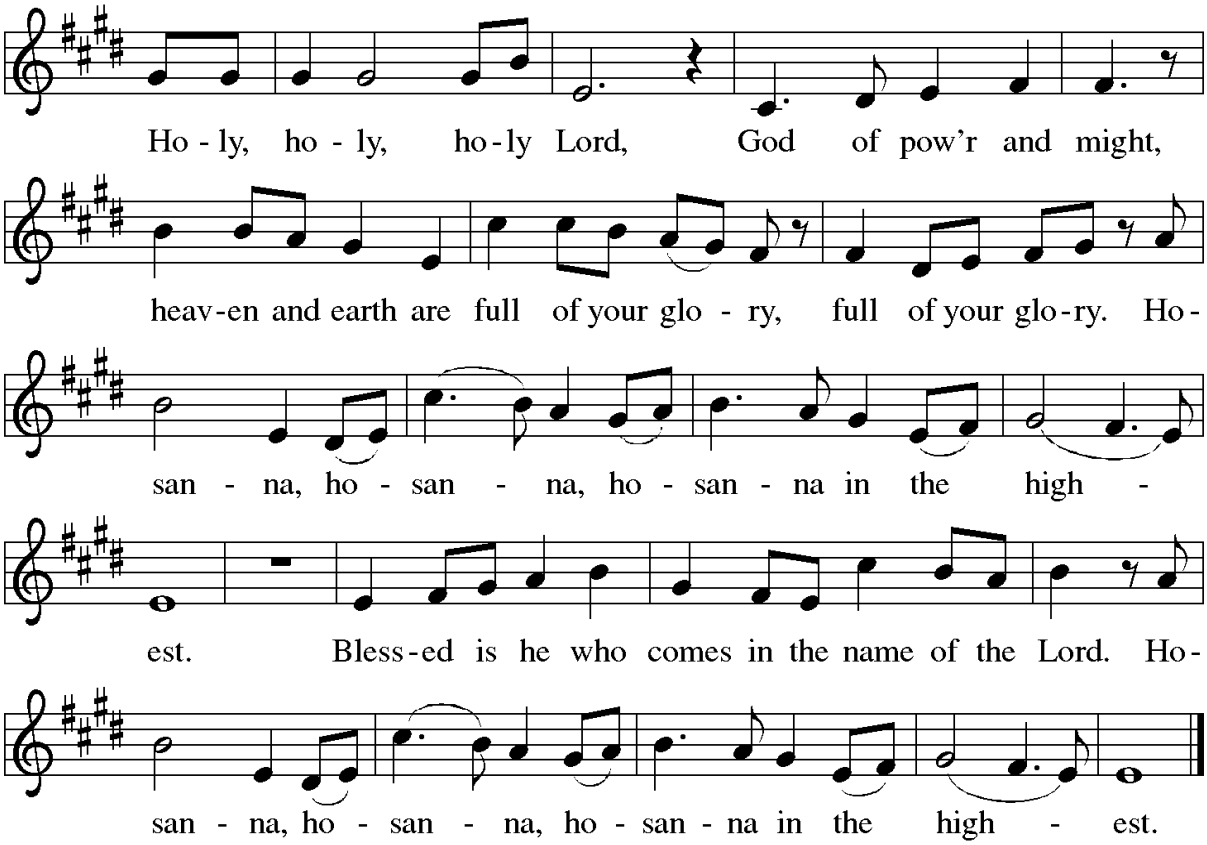
Offertory Prayer *Please stand*

P: 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.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
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.
C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Liturgy

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

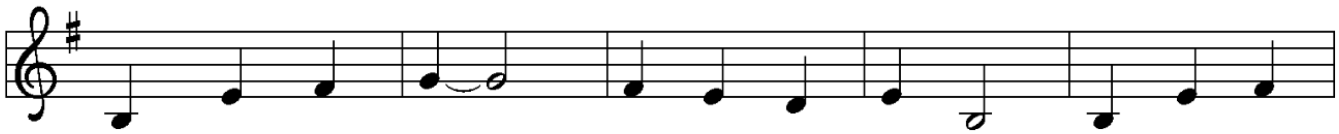
With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

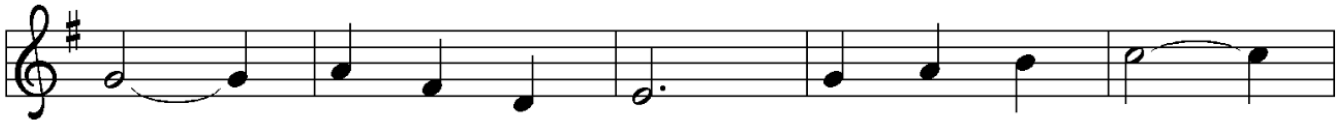
Distribution of Holy Communion *You may be seated*

Please proceed up the center aisle to pick up a piece of bread from the Presiding minister. You will then take an already filled glass of either wine or grape juice from the tray the assisting minister is holding.
There will be baskets off to the side where you can dispose of your used cups. The communion bread is all gluten free, but does contain honey. All are welcome to receive from Christ's table.
You may also come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.

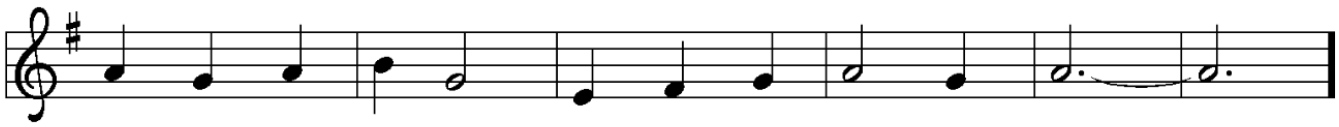
Communion Hymn #715 *Christ Be Our Light*



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

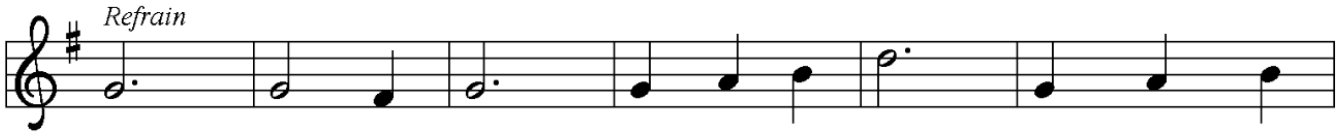


truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

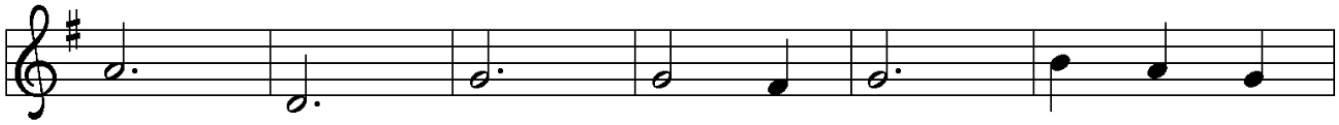


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

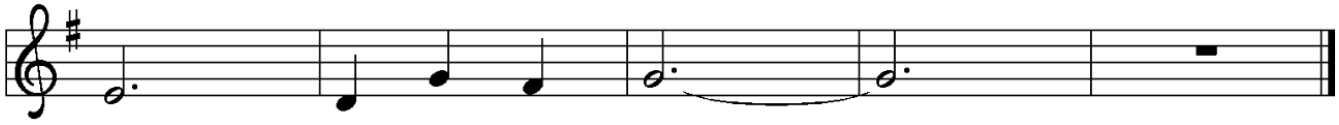
Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
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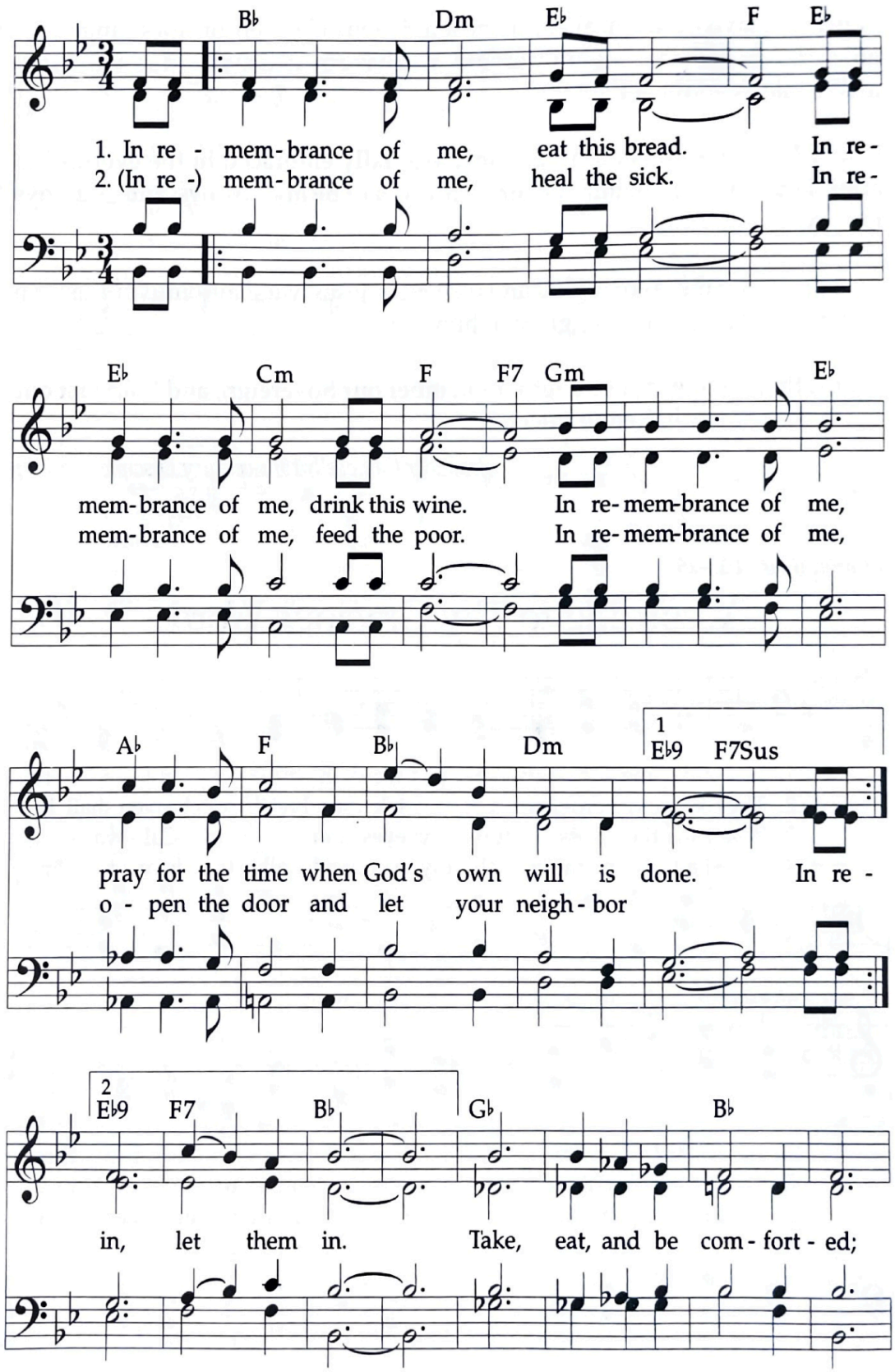
Communion Hymn Chalice #403 *In Remembrance of Me*



WORDS: Ragan Courtney, 1972 RED
MUSIC: Buryl Red, 1972; arr. Robert F. Douglas Irr.

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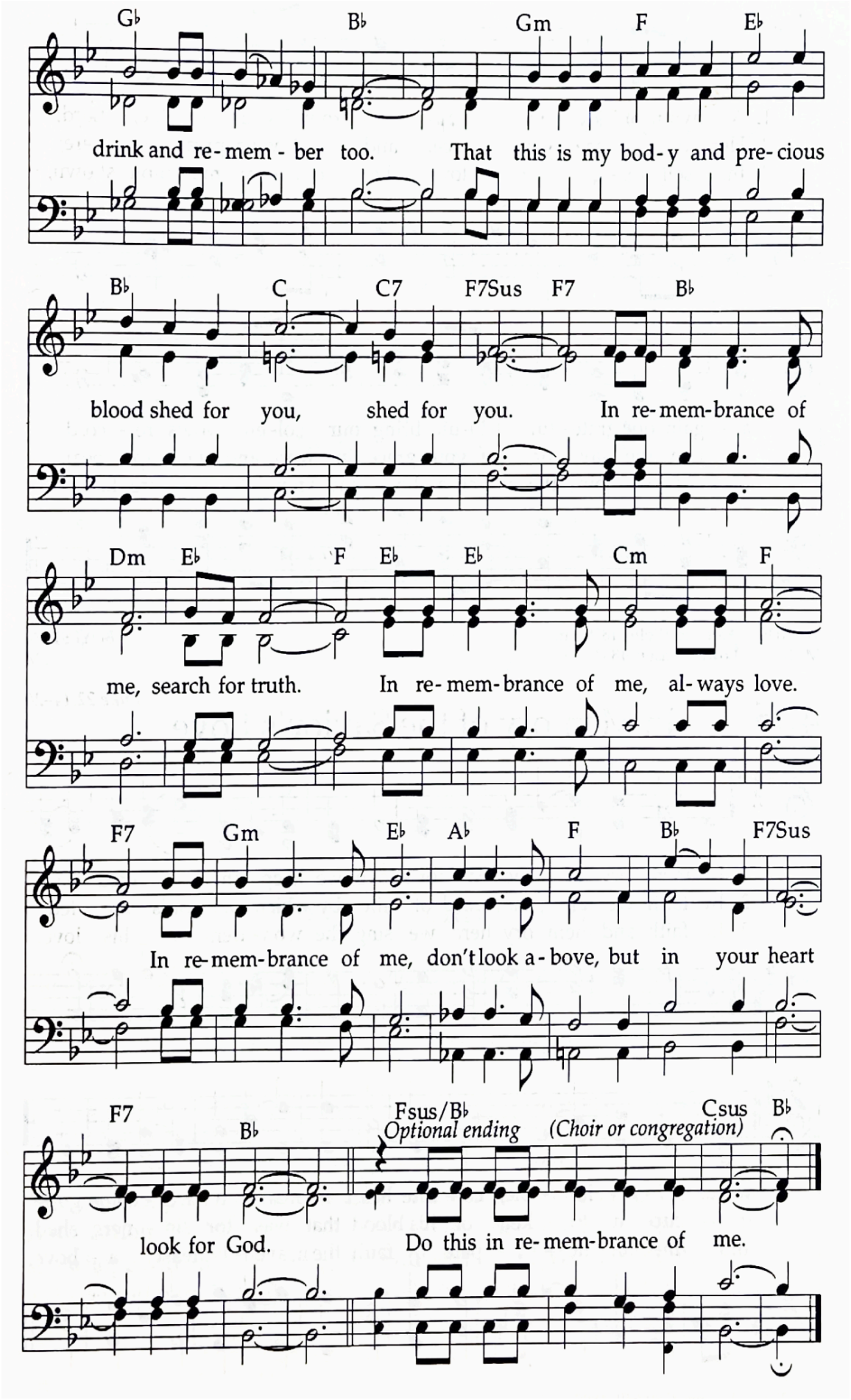

G♭ B♭ Gm F E♭
drink and re-mem-ber too. That this is my bod-y and pre-cious
B♭ C C7 F7Sus F7 B♭
blood shed for you, shed for you. In re-mem-brance of
Dm E♭ F E♭ E♭ Cm F
me, search for truth. In re-mem-brance of me, al-ways love.
F7 Gm E♭ A♭ F B♭ F7Sus
In re-mem-brance of me, don't look a-bove, but in your heart
F7 B♭ Fsus/B♭ Csus B♭
Optional ending (Choir or congregation)
look for God. Do this in re-mem-brance of me.

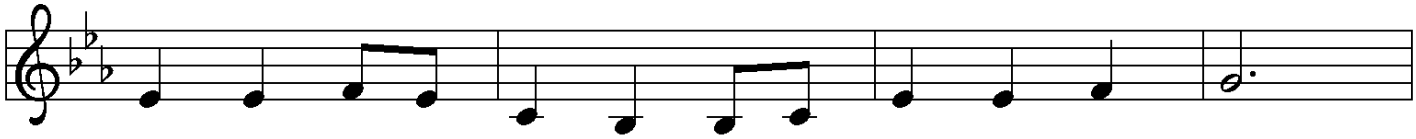
Post-communion Prayer

P: 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.
C: Amen.

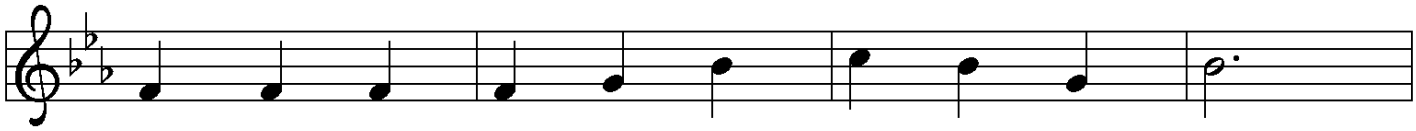
Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
C: Amen.

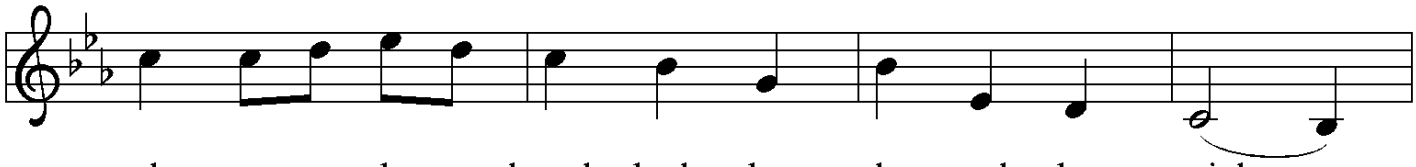
Sending Hymn #793 *Be Thou My Vision*



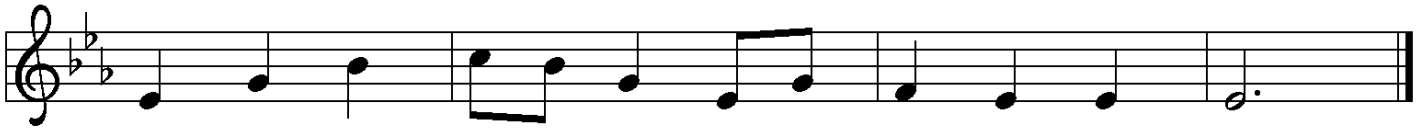
1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



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



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



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

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Postlude

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C: Thanks be to God.

Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor Sara Funkhouser	Presider/Preacher
Chrissie Goldstein	Musician
Keiko Long	Communion Assistant
Carolyn Boswell & Dave Cederberg	Ushers
Julie Moe (1st) & Chris Foss (2nd)	Lectors
Jen and Matt Smith	Broadview Transport
Chris Foss	Altar Care

Next Week's Readings

First Reading: *Ezekiel 37:1-14*
Psalm: *Psalm 130*
Second Reading: *Romans 8:6-11*
Gospel: *John 11:1-45*

Announcements:

Lenten Soup Suppers:
Soup Suppers in Lent will be every Wednesday in Lent. Supper will begin at 6:00 P.M. followed by the Holden Evening Prayer Service around 6:45 P.M. This service will be Livestreamed on our YouTube page, as well.

Maundy Thursday:
Our Maundy Thursday service will be dinner church in the Sanctuary at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 2nd.

Good Friday:
Join us for Good Friday worship in the Sanctuary at 6:30 P.M. on Friday, April 3rd.This year, Pastor Sara will also be hosting a Stations of the Cross reflection on Good Friday at noon on Zoom.

Choir Rehearsals: Our choir rehearses every Sunday (except the 1st Sunday of the month) at 9:30 A.M. All are welcome to join us as we start to look ahead at Holy Week!

Bell Choir: If you would like to join us, we will be rehearsing on Sundays after worship. No experience is necessary to join. Pastor Sara says it's a lot of fun!

Shoe Drive for Broadview-Thomson: The Broadview-Thomson PTA is seeking donations for the students. NEW shoes or socks for our students in need. All sizes needed (1, 2. 3, 4, 5, 6 7, 8, 9 and 10).

March Grief Group: Our grief group will be gathering during the following times in March. As always, if you are interested in the grief group, but are unable to attend any of these sessions, please talk to Pastor Sara.

- Tuesday, March 17th at 10:00 A.M. at Luther Memorial
- Sunday, March 29th at 1:30 P.M. on Zoom

March Food Pantry Theme: Personal Hygiene Items

This month, in addition to the fresh produce we are trying to put out more regularly, we are focusing on collecting personal hygiene products. Thank you for all of your donations, as they help support the mission of our Little Free Pantry!

Suggested Donations:

- Travel size items
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Soap any size
- Kleenex
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper (individually wrapped)
- Period products
- Apples
- Oranges
- Avocados
- Onions
- Potatoes
- Anything else you find that's a good buy!

Financial Reports

Total Gross: $ 17,303.42
Total Net: $ 15,234.57
Feeding Ministry: $650.00
Roof Fund: $ 310.00
Room Use: $ 336.00

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

Feeding Ministry

Balance January 1 2026	4104.84
Donations	
Cash	900.00
In kind (Where known)	394.89
Expenses (including 'in kind' goods)	-886.68
Balance February 28 2026	4513.05

Roof Fund

Received Jan 1 2024 – Feb 28 2026	25825.69
Giving In Kind	296.09
	26121.78
Paid from Roof Fund direct to roofing company	-8447.09
Repayment to MGF (A)	-12000.00
Giving In Kind utilized	-296.09
	-20743.18
Balance in BECU (for MGF reimbursement)	5378.60

(A) – Rather then actually transferring repayment of $12,000 to MGF and, at the same time, requesting $12,000 be transferred from MGF to LMLC as the 2nd quarter withdrawal, the same result was accomplished by a journal voucher entry. No money actually moved.

MGF Account	12000.00	
LMLC BECU Account (Roof Fund)		12000.00
Repayment to LMLC's MGF account for funds withdrawn for roof repair.		

LMLC BECU Account	12000.00	
MGF Account		12000.00
Quarterly withdrawal of funds		

Upcoming Events

15 MAR, SUN	10:30 – 11:30am	**In-Person & Live Stream Worship**	Sanctuary
	4 – 6pm	**Skandia Society Rehearsal**	Celebration Hall
16 MAR, MON	8:30 – 11:30am	**Ant Treatment**	LMLC Office
	6:45 – 7:45pm	**NA - Afterparty Group**	Celebration Hall
17 MAR, TUE	All day	**Saint Patrick's Day**	United States
	1 – 3pm	**Quilting Group - Elaine**	Celebration Hall
	7 – 8pm	**Church Council Meeting**	Zoom
19 MAR, THU	6 – 9:30pm	**Sound Harmony**	Sanctuary
20 MAR, FRI	12 – 1pm	**Pause for Prayer**	Zoom
	6:30 – 7:30pm	**NA Pink Progress Club**	Fellowship Hall

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