

10:00 AM Worship

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary 4

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Voluntary in G Major – John Stanley

- I. Largo
- II. Vivace

Pastorale on FOREST GREEN – How Blest Are Those – arr. Richard Purvis

Blessed Are – Wayne Watson

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; God has faithfully revealed
that the riches of the kingdom with their souls in Christ are sealed.*

*Blessed are the grieving, the weeping, those whose tears for others cry,
Selfless, giving, bearing sorrow will be dancing by and by.*

*Those who hunger and are thirsty, craving righteousness and life,
won't be filled by any other, satisfied by none but Christ.*

*Blessed are the meek, the gentle, no demands, no claims to rights,
In their patience, strong and mighty confidence and faith in Christ.*

*And to those of tender mercy, from them falls as gentle rain
Grace and Kindness, sweet compassion, mercy given and mercy gained.*

*Blessed are the true peacemakers with contentment for the fold.
They cling to promises of heaven, working in the field of souls.*

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL *

*As the bell is rung the assembly stands for the Welcome & Opening Hymn.
A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

WELCOME *

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN #873 *

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS *

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
+ one God,
who lifts up the lowly,
fills the hungry with good things,
and calls us into the way of peace.

Assembly: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Leader: God of justice and mercy,

Assembly: **we confess that we have not done what is right.**

**We have failed to do justice, to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with you.**

We have sought blessing for ourselves and ignored the poor in spirit.

**We have been slow to show mercy, quick to judge,
and reluctant to work for peace.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Turn us back to you,
that we may live as citizens of your reign,
following the way of Jesus.**

Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news:

God does not leave us in our sin.

In Jesus Christ, the merciful one, the reign of heaven has come near.

We are forgiven.

We are blessed.

We are made new to live justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with God.

In the name of + Jesus Christ.

Assembly: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me



1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, . . . with - out end. A - men.



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.



As it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. A - men.

Text: Paul M. Vasile, b. 1976, based on the Gloria Patri
Music: GLORY TO GOD (VASILE), Paul M. Vasile
Text and music © Paul M. Vasile, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER OF THE DAY *

Leader: Holy God,

you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly
and the pure in heart.

Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice,
and perseverance in striving for peace,
that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

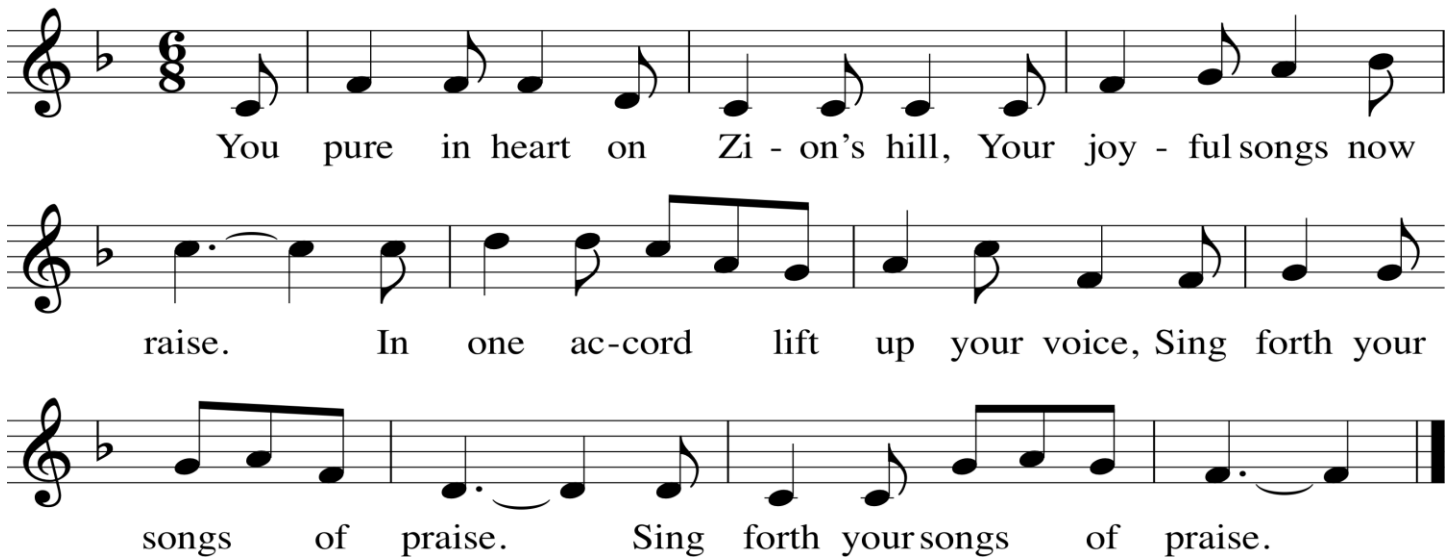
⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

*The Cantor sings the Psalm Refrain and then the Assembly joins in the refrain.
The Cantor then sings the verses and the Assembly joins in each refrain as indicated.*



¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart...*Refrain*

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown...*Refrain*

SECOND READING

I Corinthians 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation,

to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

Assembly: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *



GOSPEL LESSON *

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *(See next page) **

How Blest Are Those

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *

Leader: Today we are receiving as members:

John Lauer

Brenda Nickolas

William (Will) Ryan & Brionna (Bri) Pinto

Brian Timm

Leader: As the worshipping community of Christ Lutheran Church.
we are delighted to welcome you into our membership today.
Is it your intent to join with us in worshipping God, hearing God’s Word,
and sharing God’s meal in Holy Communion?
If so, please say: Yes, with God’s help.

New Members: Yes, with God’s help.

Leader: Is it your intent to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word
and deed, giving servant leadership to God’s people,
and striving for justice and peace in all the earth?
If so, please say: Yes, with the help of God.

New Members: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Is it your intent to involve yourself in meaningful ministry
and mission through Christ Lutheran Church
in order that all may be touched by the transforming power
of the love of God?

If so, please say: Yes, with the help of God.

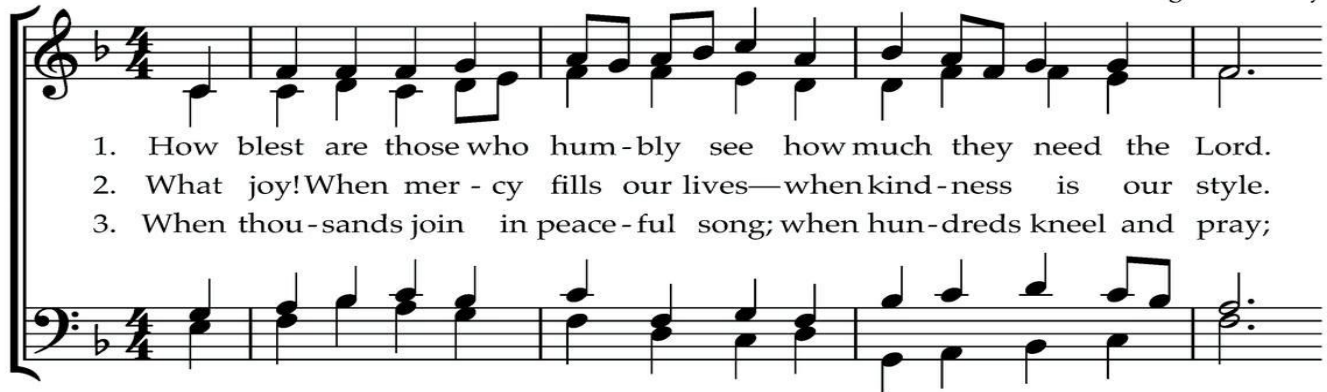
New Members: Yes, with the help of God.

How Blest Are Those

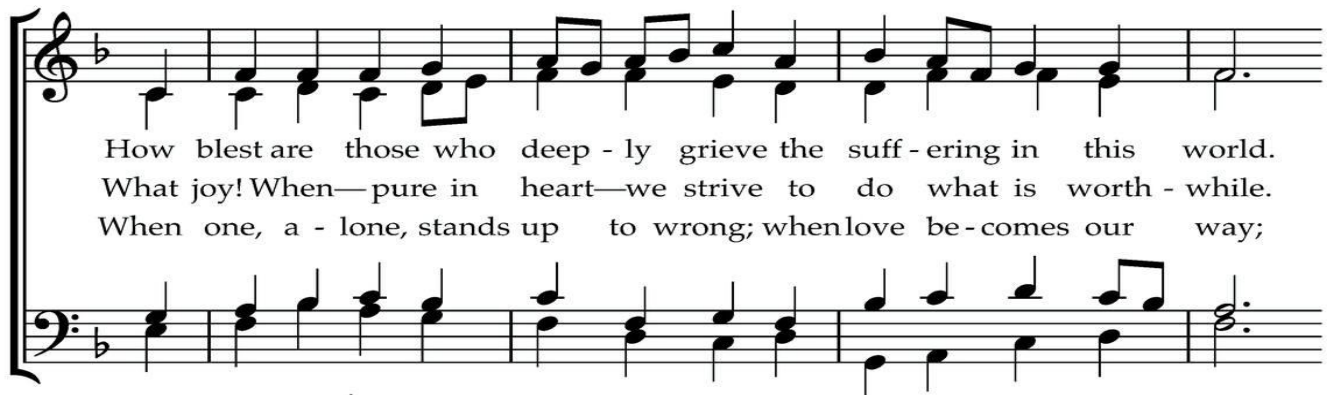
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

Forest Green

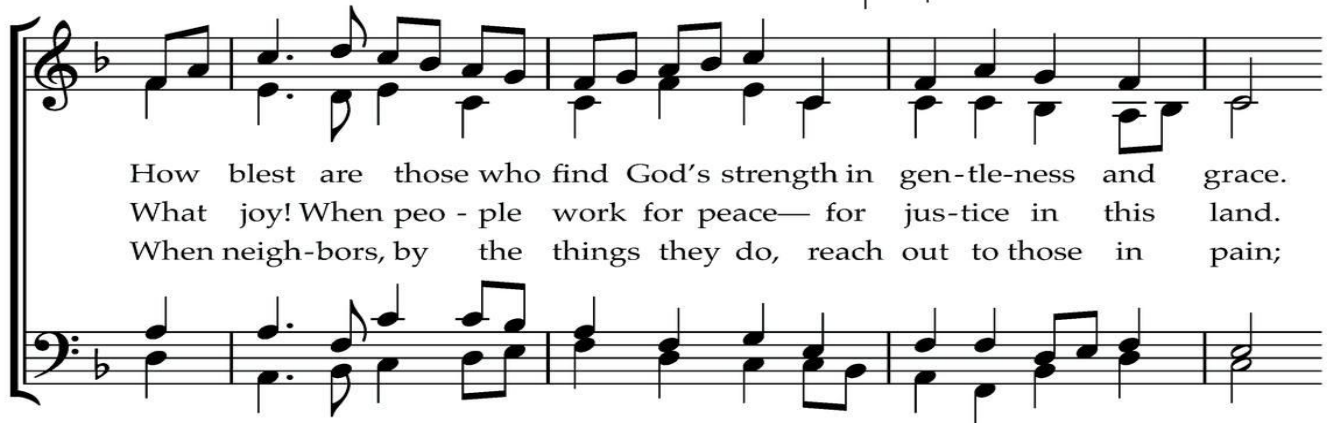
Traditional English Melody



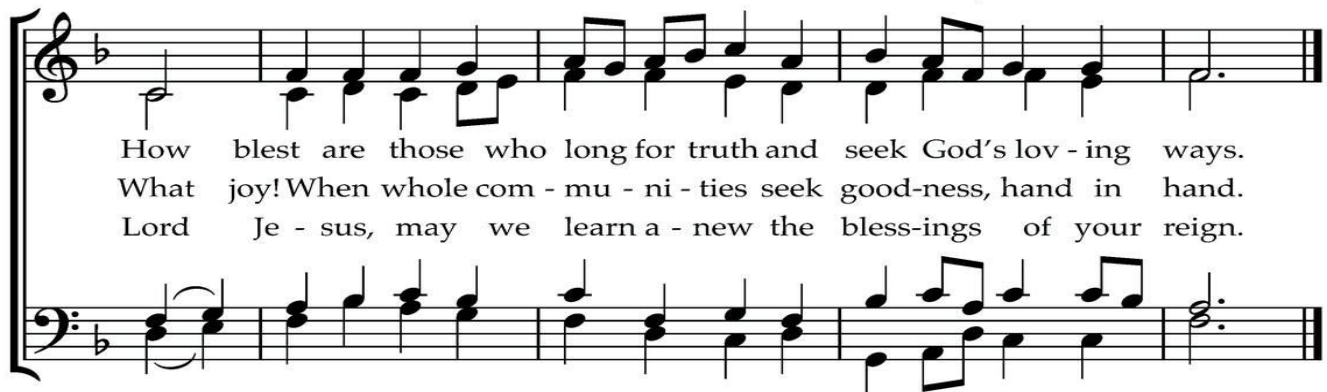
1. How blest are those who hum-bly see how much they need the Lord.
2. What joy! When mer-cy fills our lives—when kind-ness is our style.
3. When thou-sands join in peace-ful song; when hun-dreds kneel and pray;



How blest are those who deep-ly grieve the suff-ering in this world.
What joy! When—pure in heart—we strive to do what is worth-while.
When one, a-lone, stands up to wrong; when love be-comes our way;



How blest are those who find God's strength in gen-tle-ness and grace.
What joy! When peo-ple work for peace—for jus-tice in this land.
When neigh-bors, by the things they do, reach out to those in pain;



How blest are those who long for truth and seek God's lov-ing ways.
What joy! When whole com-mu-ni-ties seek good-ness, hand in hand.
Lord Je-sus, may we learn a-new the bless-ings of your reign.

Leader: And you, members of Christ Lutheran Church,
will you support these new sisters and brothers?
Will you pray for them,
and help them find a place of meaningful ministry
in the body of Christ, according to their giftedness?
Will you celebrate with them and together share in the ministry of Jesus?
If so, say: Yes, with the help of God.

Assembly: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: I ask you now to profess your faith in Christ Jesus,
and confess the faith of the Church.

Assembly: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

Leader: We give thanks to the Holy Spirit that has drawn you to our fellowship,
and we welcome you as workers with us in the Kingdom of God!

PRAYERS *

Leader: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world,
and all whom God loves.

A brief silence.

Leader: For the church:
Bless us as your church, O God, that we may do justice, love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Shape us by the words of Jesus, that we may bring good news to the poor in spirit
and hope to the weary.
God of mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the world:
Guide the leaders of nations toward justice and peace.
Protect those who suffer from violence, hunger, or the misuse of power.
Make us peacemakers in our communities and faithful neighbors to all.
God of mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Leader: For those in need:
Bless those who mourn, those who are hungry or poor,
those who are sick, lonely, or afraid.
Use us to comfort them with your presence and meet them with your mercy.
God of mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Leader: For this community:
Give us humble hearts and generous spirits.
Help us to show kindness in daily life and to seek your blessing in serving others.
Strengthen us to follow the way of Christ.
God of mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who have died:
We give thanks for all who have trusted in your promises.
Hold them in your eternal care,
and keep us faithful until we share in the fullness of your reign.
God of mercy,

Assembly: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into your hands, loving God, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
“peace be with you...and also with you.”*

*You’re invited to share God’s peace with those around you.
If you’re worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
In Christ’s body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.*

OFFERING

Offertory – John Ness Beck

*As we respond to hearing God’s Word and prepare to feast at God’s table we contemplate the
many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.*

Offering plates will be passed among the assembly by the ushers.

Gifts can also be given electronically using the QR Code.



*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?*

*Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?*

He has shown you, O man; He has shown you what is good.

*And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

OFFERTORY *

The musical score is written for a vocal part (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1:
Vocal: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise
Piano: Accompaniment for the first system.

System 2:
Vocal: him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
Piano: Accompaniment for the second system.

System 3:
Vocal: heav'n - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
Piano: Accompaniment for the third system, ending with a double bar line.

GREAT THANKSGIVING *

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

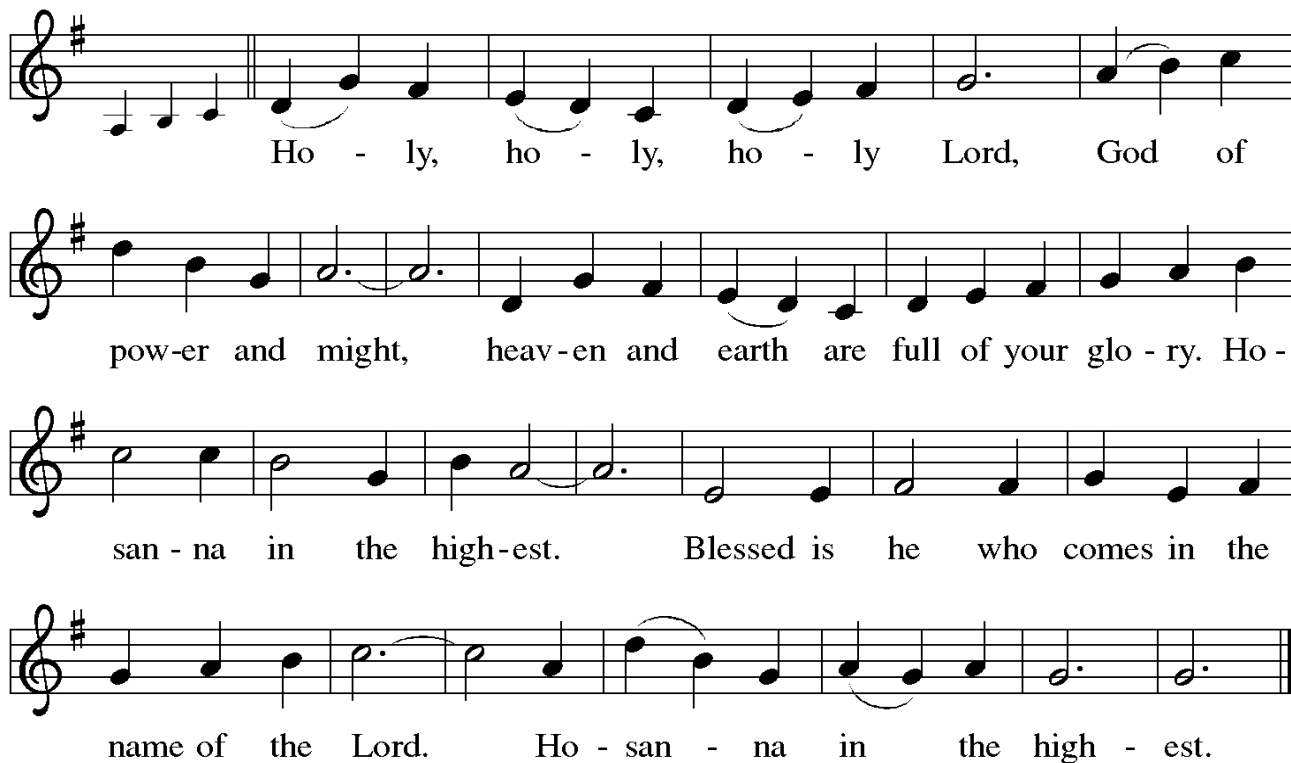
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Assembly: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Assembly: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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 have revealed your reign in Jesus, who blesses the poor in spirit,
comforts those who mourn,
and calls us into His way of justice, mercy, and peace.
By His life and teaching you show us the path of humble love,
inviting all people into the light of your kingdom.
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:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff continues: 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff continues: 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff concludes: 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

Pastor: 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.

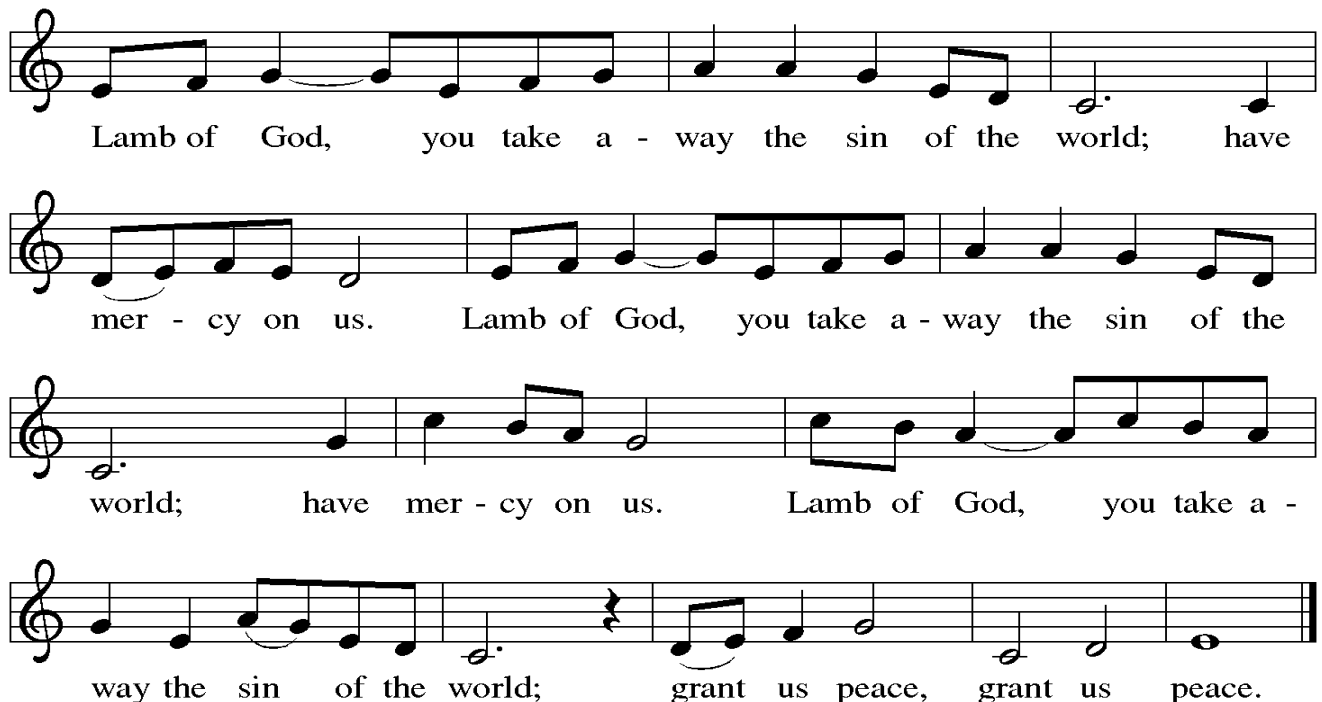
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray as our Lord has taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER *

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.

LAMB OF GOD *



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Pastor: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
 Come to the table; taste and see.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
 The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution

The Kingdom Is Yours – Wilson/Spencer/Massey/Keyes

Blessed are the ones who do not bury all the broken pieces of their heart.

Blessed are the tears of all the weary, pouring like a sky of falling stars.

Blessed are the wounded ones in mourning, brave enough to show the Lord their scars.

Blessed are the hurts that are not hidden, open to the healing touch of God.

The kingdom is yours, the kingdom is yours.

Hold on a little more this is not the end.

Hope is in the Lord; keep your eyes on Him.

Blessed are the ones who walk in kindness, even in the face of great abuse.

Blessed are the deeds that go unnoticed, serving with unguarded gratitude.

Blessed are the ones who fight for justice, longing for the coming day of peace.

Blessed is the soul that thirsts for righteousness, welcoming the last, the lost, the least.

Blessed are the ones who suffer violence and still have strength to love their enemies.

Blessed is the faith of those who persevere; though they fall they'll never know defeat.

Hymn #712 – *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Leader: Radiant God,
 we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
 that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
 and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING

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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: God, who has shown you what is good,
 + bless you to do justice, to love kindness,
 and to walk humbly with your God.

May Christ guide your steps,
 the Spirit strengthen your compassion,
 and the blessing of the holy Trinity,
 + one God,
 be upon you and remain with you always.

Assembly: Amen.

SENDING SONG #866 *

We Are Marching in the Light of God (Siyahamba)

Verse 1: We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching, we are marching, oo,
We are marching in the light of God.

Verse 2: We are dancing . . .

Verse 3: We are praying . . .

Verse 4: We are singing . . .

South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

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DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace, do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with our God.

Assembly: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *

Acclamation Fanfare – J. Wayne Kerr

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor
Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family
Jim Davis, Lector & Communion Assistant
Joe Weaver, Lector & Communion Assistant
Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music
Samuel Owens, Cantor
Jane McFadden, Chancel Choir Accompanist
Praise Team
Chancel Choir

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Paul and Ruth Stehle's February Birthdays.*

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