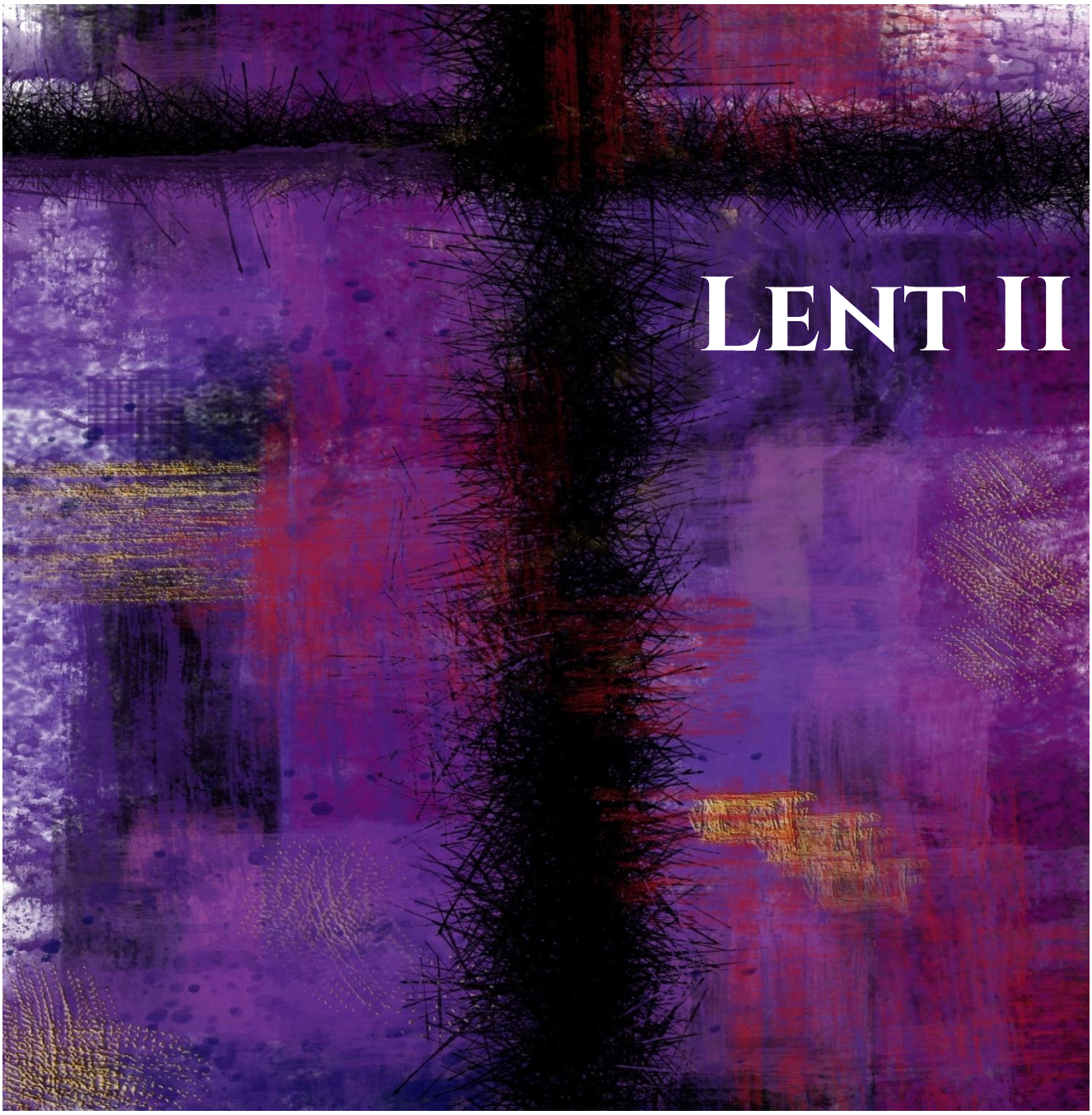
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

8:00 & 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, March 16, 2025 | Second Sunday in Lent



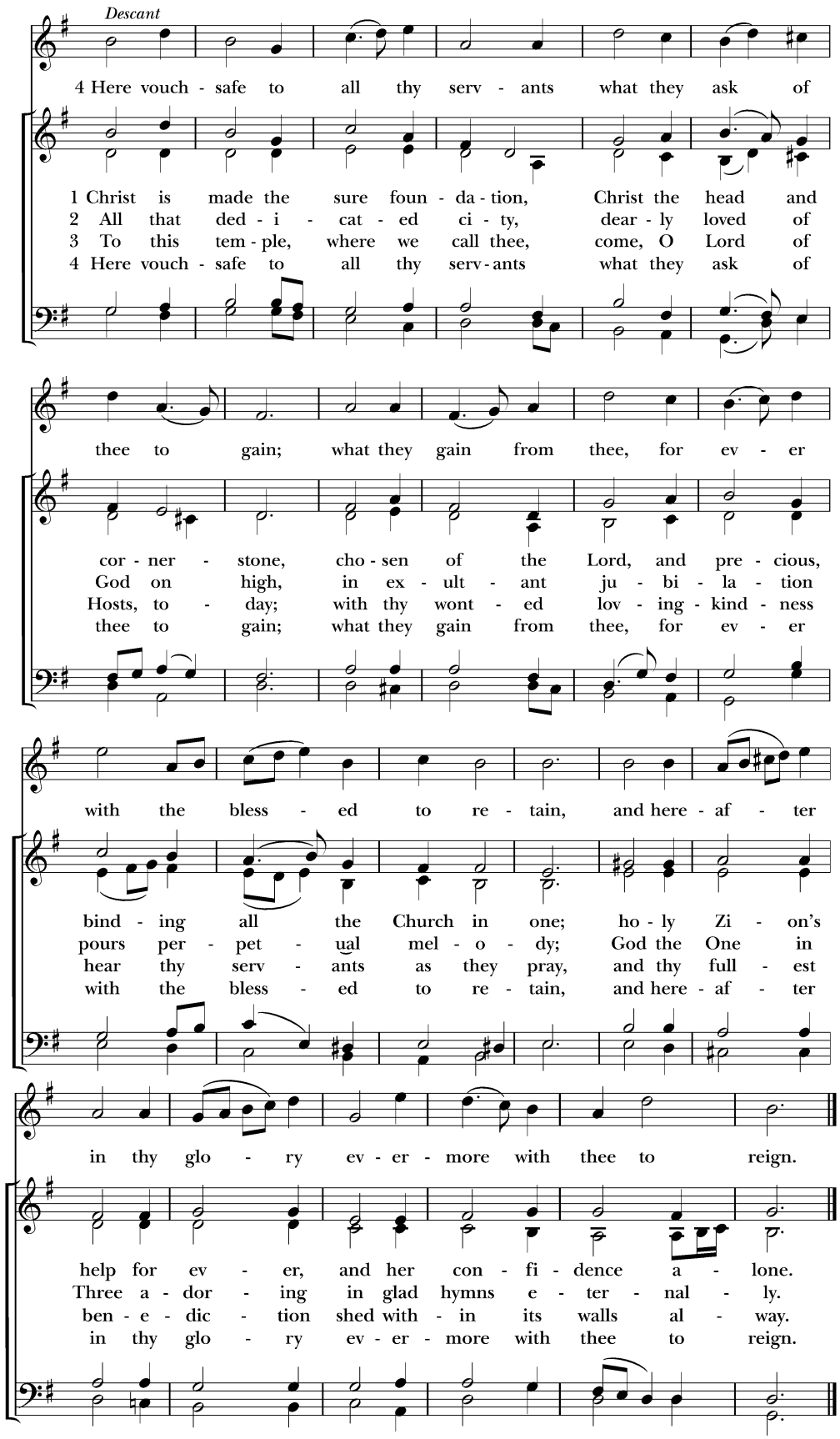
WELCOME HOME!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: www.christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time.

We are delighted you're here – welcome home!

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN 518 | Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation *Westminster Abbey*



OPENING ACCLAMATION|

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins;
People: **His mercy endureth forever.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY|

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY|

Celebrant: The Lord be with you
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.
Celebrant: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Genesis 15:1-12,17-18

Reader: *A reading from Genesis.*

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

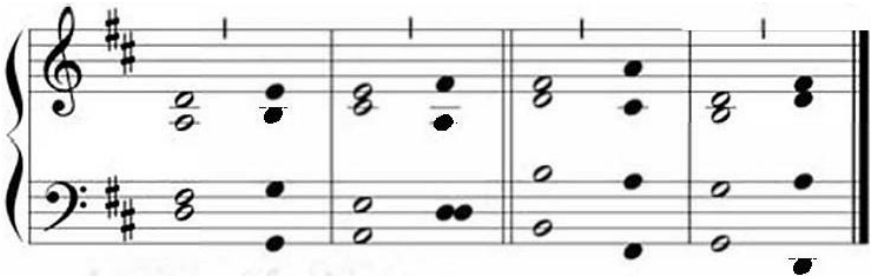
As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader: *The word of the Lord.*
People: ***Thanks be to God.***

The following psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

THE PSALM |
Psalm 27: 9-17 | *(In God's company there is no fear)*



1 The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom then shall I fear? *
the Lord is the strength of my life;
of whom then shall I be afraid?
2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who
stumbled and fell.
3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
5 One thing have I asked of the Lord;
one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord *
and to seek him in his temple.
7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe
in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
and set me high upon a rock.
8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the Lord.
10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, Lord, will I seek.
12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
13 You have been my helper;
cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
15 Show me your way, O Lord; *

lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me,
and also those who speak malice.
17 What if I had not believed
that I should see the goodness of the Lord *
in the land of the living!
18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure;
be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the Lord.

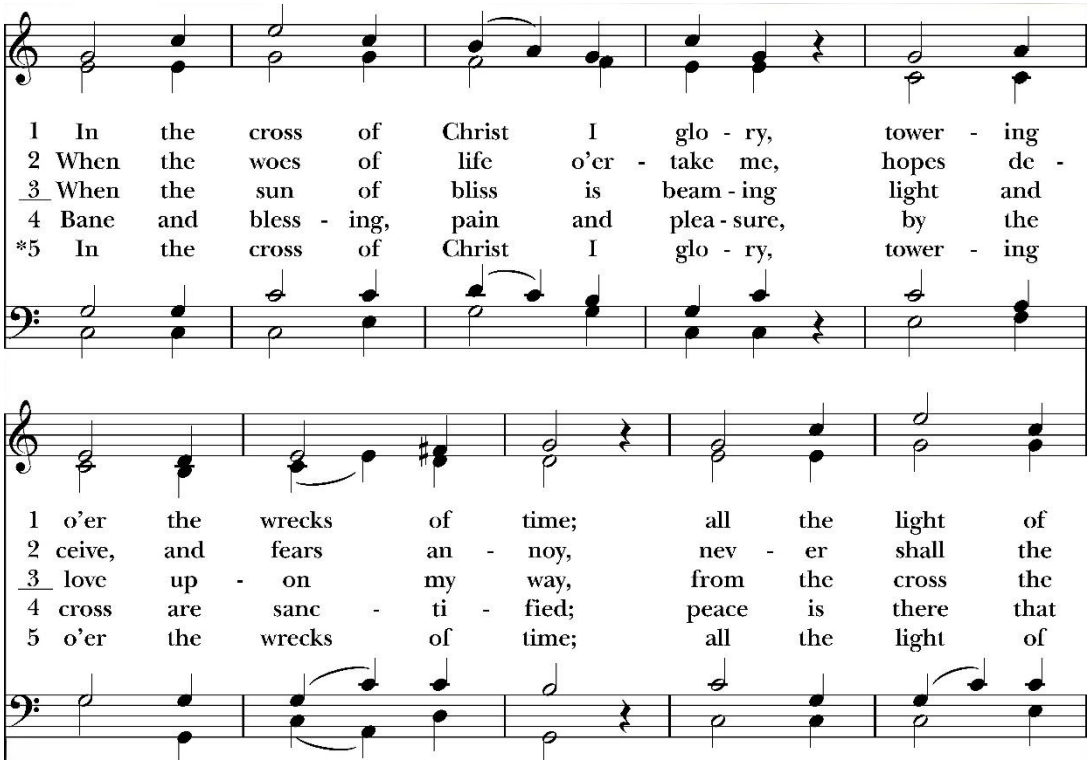
THE EPISTLE | Philippians 3:17-4:1
Reader: *A reading from Philippians*

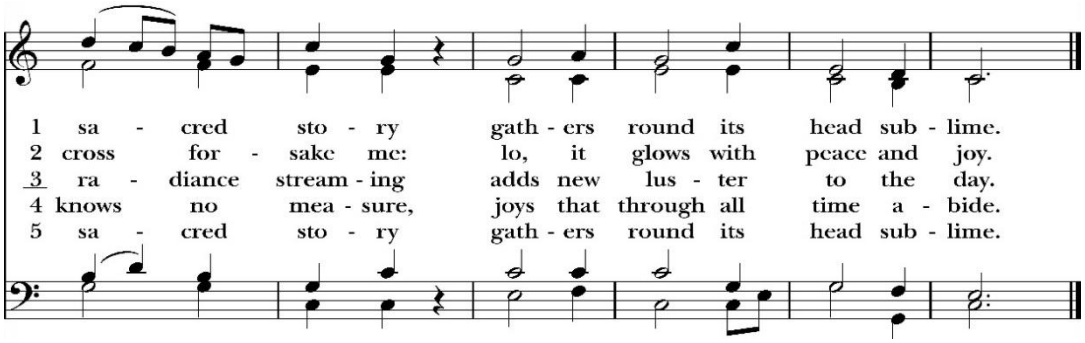
Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

SEQUENCE HYMN 441| In the Cross of Christ I Glory *Rathburn*





THE GOSPEL | Luke 13:31-35

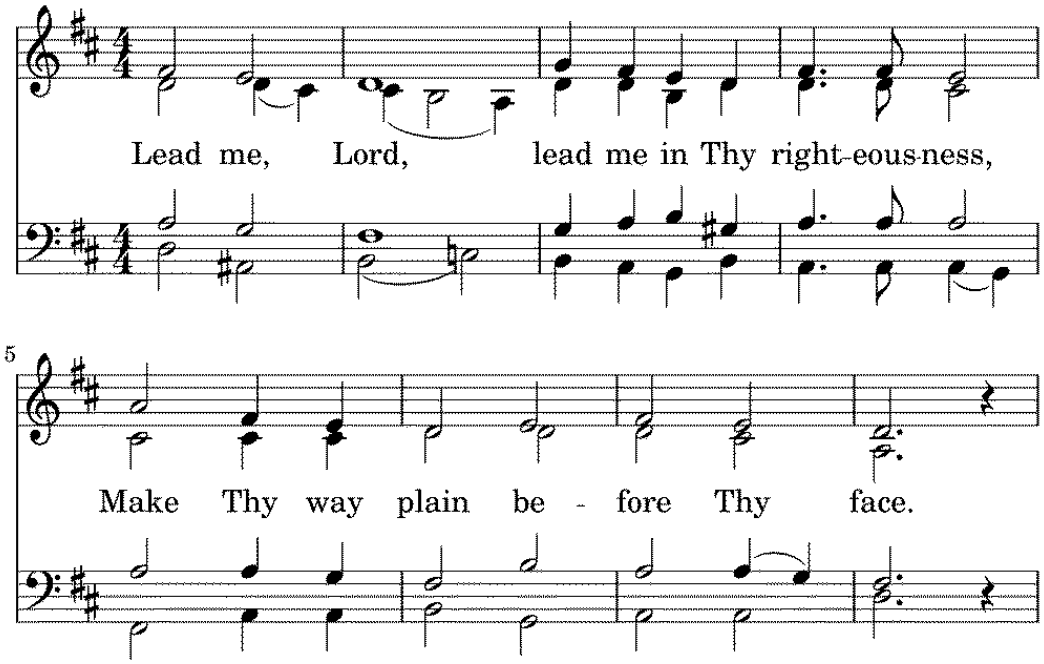
All standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

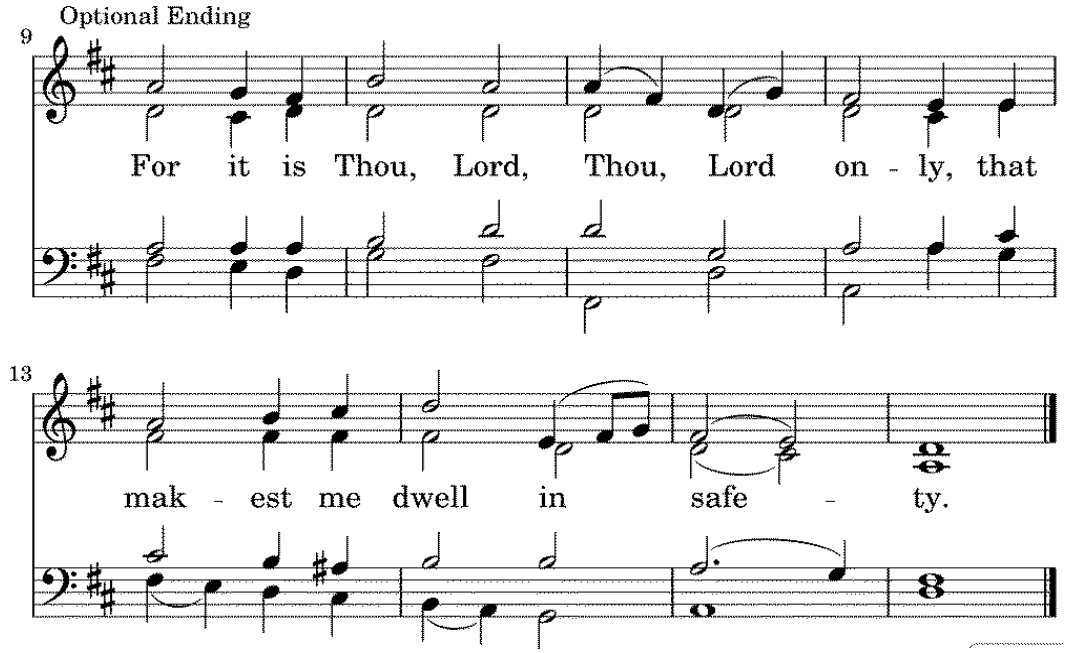
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People: **Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.**

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.**

HYMN | Lead Me, Lord *Samuel Sebastian Wesley*





THE SERMON | Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED |

All: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE |

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.
Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Carrie, our Diocesan Bishop, Emmanuel, our Rector, Kiona, our Deacon, Marcia, our Associate Priest, Rebecca, our Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate, and Mike our Postulant; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Donald, our President: Wes, our Governor; and Calvin, our County Executive; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Kerry, Molly, Lucy, Jan, Ed, Chuck, Wha-Ja, Sharon, Joseph, Kaci, Sam, Tori, Trish, Marcy, Darice, Carlos, Victoria, Pat, John, Claudia, Constance, Jim, Wayne, Ronald, Rachan, Kim, Sabrina, Jim, Tim, Cindy, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred & Nell, and those who care for them.

The People may add additional petitions and thanksgivings.

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially those you now name, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN |

You may step forward to the altar for a blessing from the Celebrant.

Deacon : Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
All: **Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

THE PEACE |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior arr. *Jacob B Weber*
Handbell Choir

Please scan to give.

DOXOLOGY HYMN 380 (V.1) | *Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER I |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**

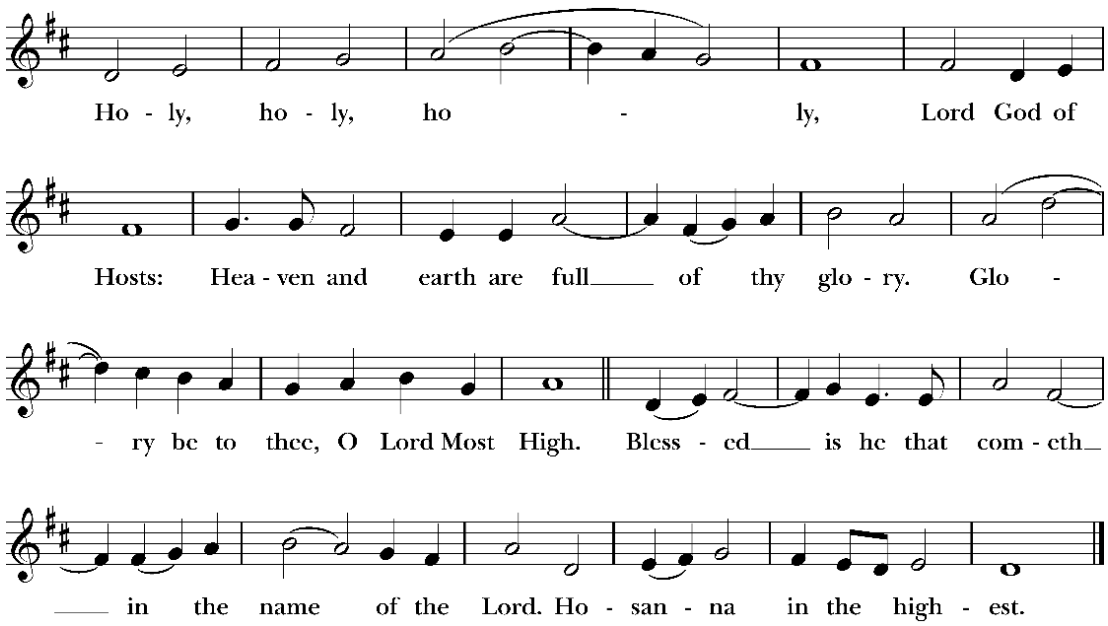
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord our God.
People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was in every way tempted as we are, yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Celebrant: Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

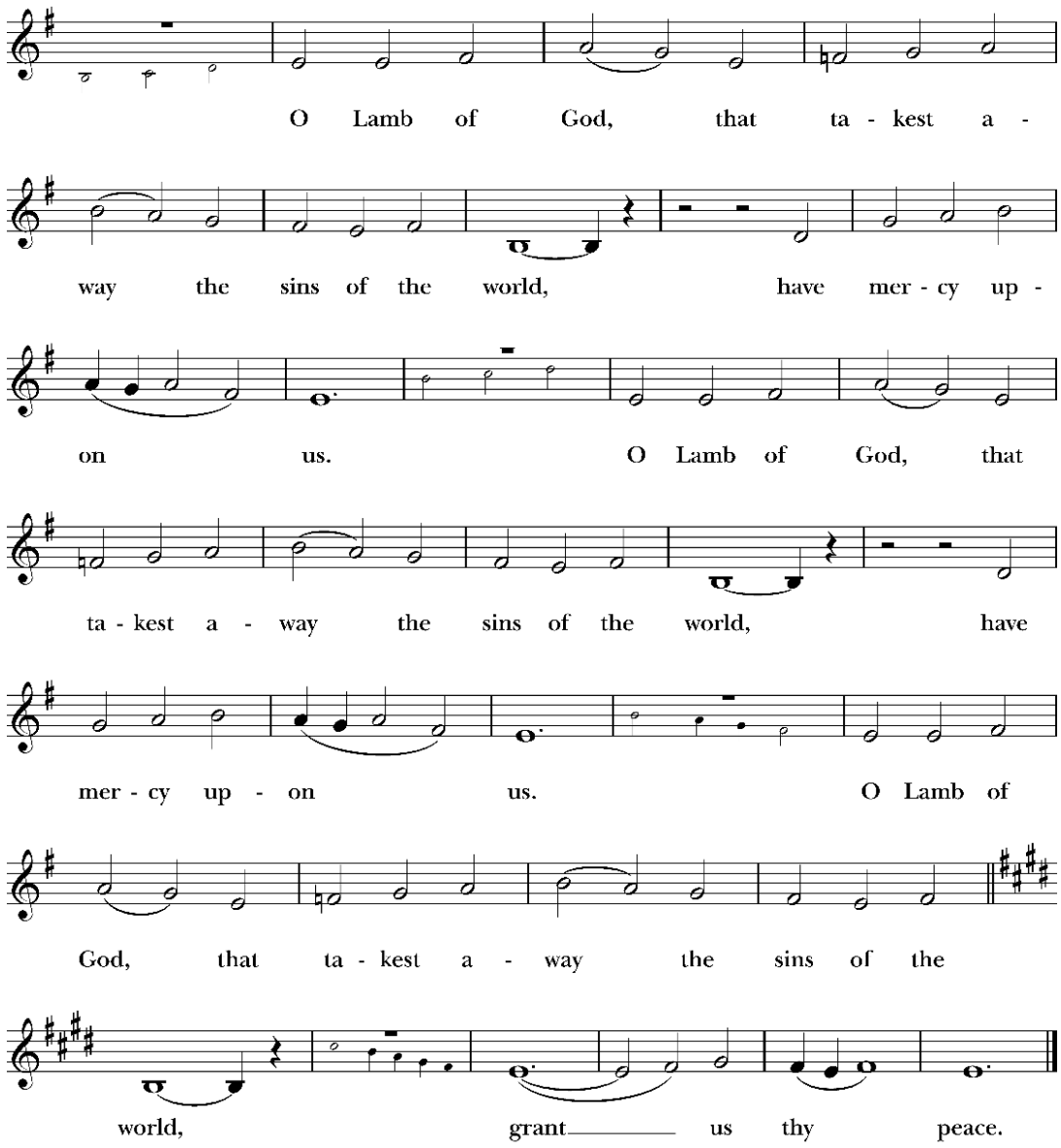
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD |

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

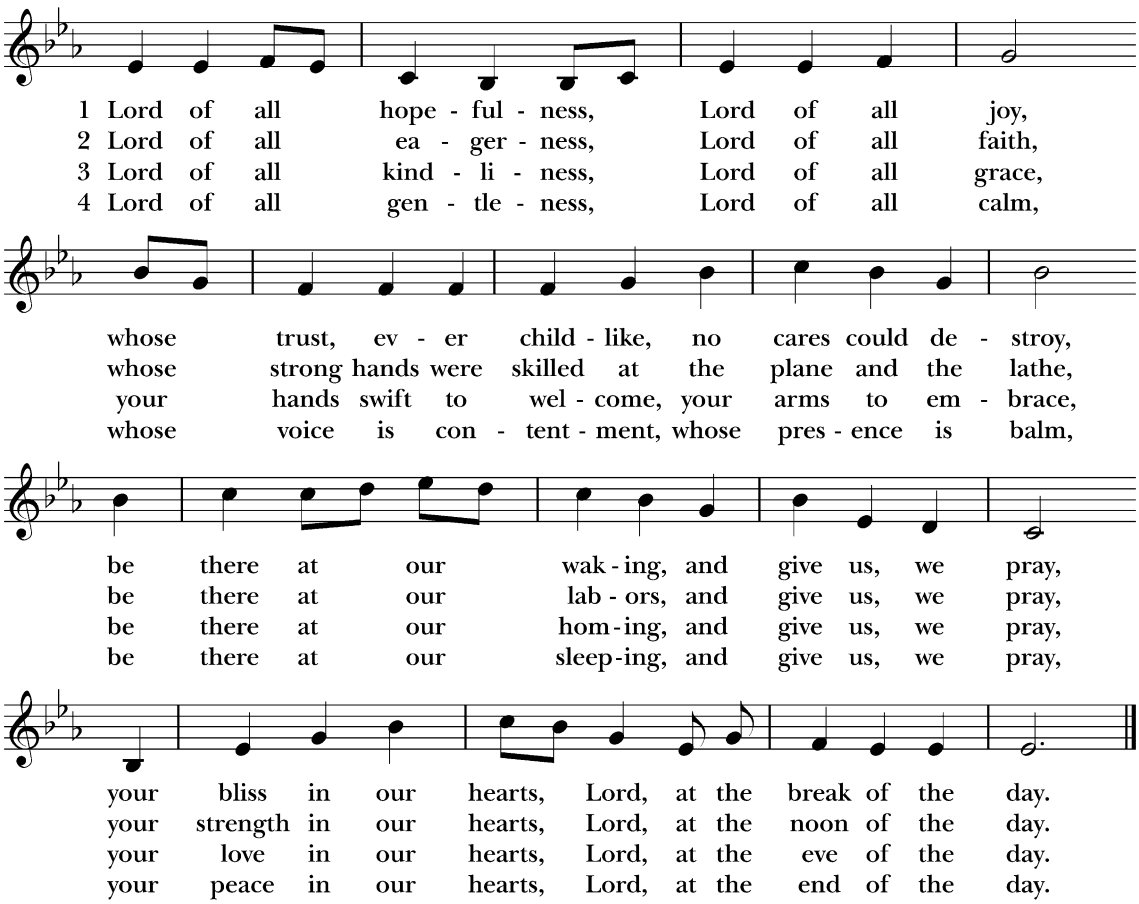
FRACTION ANTHEM S 158 | O Lamb of God, *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena* *Healey Willan*



PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS |

All: **We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN 482 | Lord of All Hopefulness *Slane*



POST COMMUNION PRAYER |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER | *10:30 a.m. service*

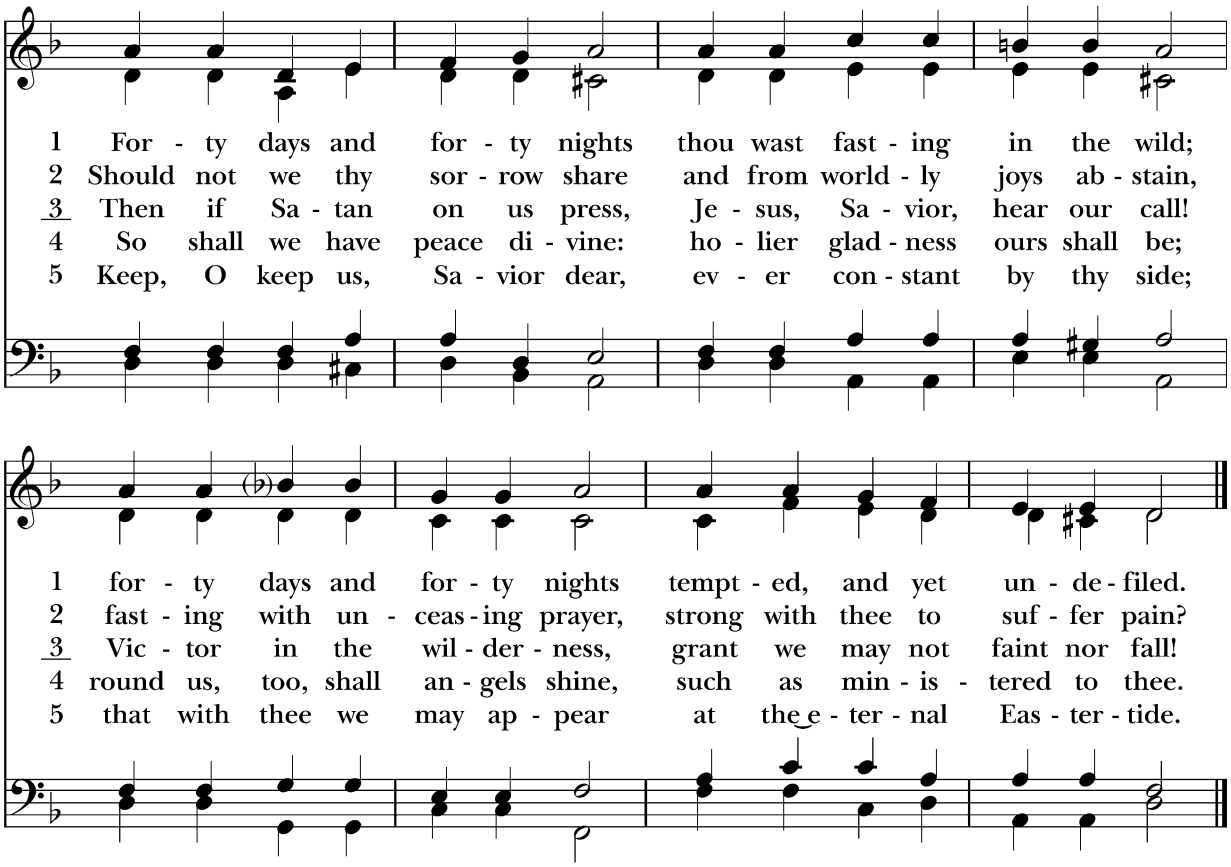
Celebrant: **In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.**

People: **We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.**

THE BLESSING |

The Celebrant offers a blessing, and the People respond ***Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN 150 | Forty Days and Forty Nights *Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*



THE DISMISSAL |

The Celebrant dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God!

(The Alleluias are omitted in Lent)

POSTLUDE |

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1928 & 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain | Music/texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 | Holy, Holy, Holy, from *A Mass for a Soulful People*, Grayson Warren Brown

Assisting in Worship Today

8:00 a.m. in Old Brick

Lector: Ron Baran

Usher: Jo Emily Knox

Chalicist: Joan Harvey

10:30 a.m. in New Brick

Lector: Greg Schuckman

Chalicist: Mary Vail

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Cherry Williams, Jane Adams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah

Crucifer & Acolytes: Mikailu Sheriff, Ava Fox, James Mercer

Altar Guild: Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente, Sarah Mugo

Tellers: Jenny Cecil, Maggie Thompson

PARISH CALENDAR

March 16 - 22, 2025

Sunday, March 16

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist – Old Brick
8:45 am	Coffee Hour – Old Brick
8:45 am	Blood Pressure & Medication Check – Elevator Room
9:00 am	Family Worship – New Brick
9:30 am	Youth Formation, Adult Forum: Sunday Circle, Sunday School
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick
1:15 – 5:45 pm	Sundays at Three – Parish Hall, Conference Room & Zoom
1:30 – 4:00 pm	EfM – Parish Hall, Conference Room & Zoom
6:00 – 7:00 pm	Lenten Taizé – New Brick

Monday, March 17

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, March 18

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream

Wednesday, March 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:30 – 8:30 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Wednesday Evenings in Lent Series – New Brick, lower level

Thursday, March 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick sanctuary
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level

Friday, March 21

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom
8:00 – 11:59 pm	Tabernacle of David – Old Brick

Saturday, March 22

9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild Prep – Old Brick
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick



LENTEN TAIZÉ VESPERS

Each Sunday evening during Lent at 6:00 p.m., Christ Church offers a service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France, promoting peace and justice through prayer and meditation. Our Lenten Taizé Vespers service gives attention to silence, holy words, prayer, and singing, and offers us all an opportunity to meditate and reflect on God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community of fellow pilgrims on the way.

Gather with us in the New Brick Sanctuary for this very special and restorative service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Circle: *Evil in Scripture*

Lent is a period where we prepare ourselves with prayer, fasting, repentance, spiritual discipline, and self-denial. During the 2025 season, Sunday Circle will explore a few of the different faces of evil that we have experienced in the world. In doing so, we at Christ Church will reflect and try to learn how we can take inventory and better manage ourselves as we encounter such individuals. The first session in this series, *Evil in Scripture,* is this Sunday morning and we invite everyone to join us for this powerful series.

And if you would like to view any of our previous Sunday Circle sessions, view the list on our website's Adult Formation page, and then email communications@christchurchcolumbia.org for a link to the sessions you're interested in.

Lenten Meditation Book – Final Copies Available Now

The first printing of the sixty-page edition of the 2025 Lenten Meditation Book flew off the shelves on one day, and the second is about to so the same! While supplies last, you can grab a copy this weekend at CSN or at worship. The LMB is a Lenten tradition that we look forward to creating each year - but it simply would not be possible without the beautiful, heartfelt, and inspiring submissions of your fellow parishioners. If you missed out, you can always request a digital copy by emailing us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Easter Challenge
Easter is our celebration of rebirth - we celebrate the risen life of Christ and open ourselves to rise with Jesus. This Easter, we challenge each parishioner to lead another person to the resurrection experience. Invite a loved one, a friend, a neighbor, a colleague, or even a total stranger to church to experience the joy of rebirth. Let's share this experience with as many as possible. Easter is on April 20 and the services are 8:00, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m., and you can send your new guest a link to www.christchurchcolumbia.org/lent so they can learn more about Christ Church and our upcoming Lenten season.

Centering Prayer - Mondays
Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Supper Series
Christ Church's Wednesday Evening Lenten Series, one of the most cherished traditions of the season, continues Wednesday at 6:30 with a communal meal provided by Christ Church Outreach, is followed by a presentation by our own Mother Marcia Davenport offering her perspective on our theme for this year, *Reaching Out in Faith.*

Healing Eucharist - Thursdays
Each Thursday at 12 noon during Lent, Christ Church offers midday worship in Old Brick. This service includes readings, prayers, a litany for healing, and the Holy Eucharist. Parishioners and non-parishioners are all welcome to join in a prayerful time in the presence of God, and to share in the wonderful mystery of God's love whilst we seek healing for ourselves and our loved ones. Please come in to reflect, pray, and participate in a service held in our beautiful, historic chapel.

Christ Church Choirs - Thursdays
The Christ Church Choirs rehearse in New Brick on Thursday evenings, and anyone can join us. Handbell Choir meets from 6:45-7:30 p.m. and Adult Choir meets from 7:30-9:00 p.m. You don't need to know how to read music, so whether you have previous experience or are ready to commit long-term or not, there's a place for you in our choirs. Why not give it a try? If you're interested, speak with our Director of Music, Larissa, on Sundays, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or simply stop by a rehearsal and see if it's something you might enjoy.

Christ Church Book Club - Fridays
Book Club has just started a new book for Lent that's titled *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life* by David Brooks. Learn more here, and Ellen will scan a few chapters to get you started if you email her. We read a few chapters each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. to share thoughts and have lively conversations. Email bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information and the Zoom link.

WOCC's March News
The WOCC is coordinating a gathering at London Town & Garden during Maryland Day Weekend, so on March 22nd from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. join us for an event that includes a historic area tour, gardens tour, and hands-on activities for everyone. If you would like more information, please speak to any WOCC member at church, or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

Baptism Class - March 22
During Holy Week, Christ Church will have a Baptism! It will take place on Holy Saturday, April 19th. To prepare all children and adults wishing to be baptized, there will be a special class in the New Brick sanctuary on Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

If you're interested in learning more, please reach out to the Church Office any time, or speak with Fr. Manny at church.

Our Altar Guild Needs Your Help
The Christ Church Altar Guild can truly use a few more people to help us in our ministry of providing clean linens and items for every worship service.

It is a vital ministry, so if you are interested in signing up or learning more, please visit our website's Altar Guild page - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/altar-guild, or you can speak with Altar Guild Coordinator, Pam Foreman, or any Altar Guild member at church.

Help Us Provide Eucharist to Those Unable to Travel to Church. Become a Lay Eucharistic Visitor.
This year, we have had more people request Communion to You, a service Christ Church provides to bring Eucharist to homebound parishioners. To fulfill this need, we require a few more Lay Eucharistic Visitors, so if you're interested in helping with this vital ministry, please speak with Kathy Lyon at church, or contact the Church Office. And if you, yourself, require this service, please call the Church Office. We will ensure that Communion gets to your home.

Vacation Bible School Needs YOU
VBS is one of Christ Church's feature events every summer, and it requires a lot of assistance to make the week safe, fun, and engaging for everyone. The number of adult volunteers we get impacts the number of children we can accept for the week and the number of lives we can affect. If you can help out the week of June 23rd, please speak with Yetti at church, or call the Church Office. Thank you.

And on April 1, we will begin registration for VBS participants on our website, so stay tuned!
Save the Date: Spring Food Drive on Saturday, April 5, 12-4 p.m., at River Hill Giant Supermarket in Clarksville to Help Feed Hungry Families
Be a part of one of the most rewarding ways to help feed the hungry in Howard County. Please sign up for a shift during the Spring Food Drive on Saturday, April 5, from noon to 4 p.m., at River Hill Giant, 6050 Daybreak Circle, Clarksville, Md., 21075.

Walk-ins and children are welcome as Christ Church continues a hands-on, family friendly activity that occurs twice a year, in spring and fall. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex or in Old Brick, starting on Sunday. You can volunteer for a one-hour shift or stay longer. To learn more, email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Groceries collected from shoppers will go to two food pantries. One is the Howard County Food Bank, which is operated by the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC). The other is SAFE, its partner pantry that provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals.

The number of struggling households has grown due to inflation and the new administration's mass firing of federal workers. In response, the CAC posted: "Terminated federal employees living in Howard county may visit the Howard County Food Bank to receive a bag of shelf staples twice a month for up to three months."

Somos Amigos' Executive Director Expresses Gratitude, Shares Future Plans During Annual visit to Christ Church on March 9
"Thank you," said Frank Brightwell, who founded Somos Amigos Medical Missions in the Dominican Republic more than 25 years ago. For many of those years, Christ Church has been a supporter and, more recently, has welcomed Executive Director Brightwell for an annual visit. On March 9, he delivered the sermon at the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship services and met with volunteers.

Brightwell conducted Sunday Circle, where he thanked participants in person and on Zoom on behalf of some of the patients who have benefited most directly from our help. They include Emilio, a young man in his twenties who gained a job along with his hearing – thanks to the funds we raised to pay for audiologists' care and high-tech hearing aids. Before that, we enabled a boy named Franci to grow into a healthy teenager after undergoing surgery to fix a heart defect. Others are patients whose diabetes is closely monitored in an insulin program that we've supported.

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Brightwell said Somos Amigos wants to expand medical and dental services beyond the current model of quarterly clinics by carrying out a plan for new construction and remodeling of existing structures. The plan also continues an increased reliance on Dominican staff and health-care providers that has been successful since the pandemic.

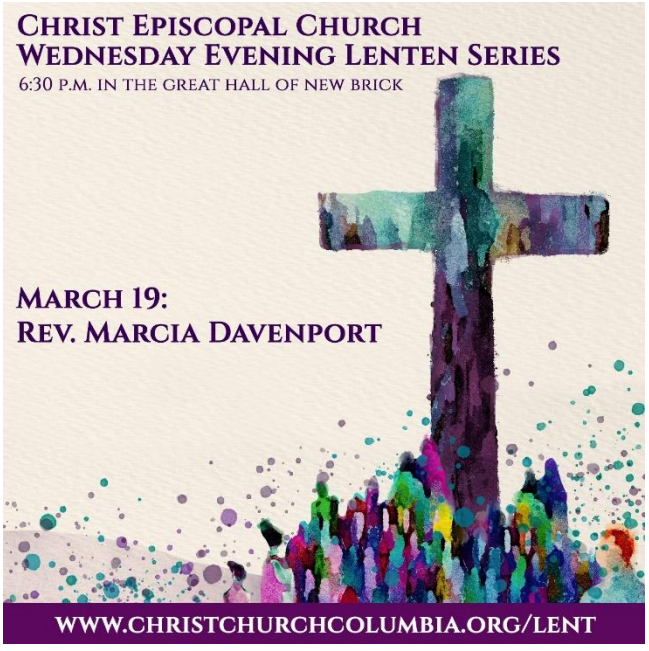
At the same time, volunteers remain a mainstay. Repeat travelers to rural Naranjito include parishioners Jim and Dione Mahoney, and her sister and brother-in-law, Desiree and Jorge Arce, who came from Virginia to hear Brightwell. Former parishioners Mary and Ed Keath, who first established ties to Somos Amigos, were alerted to attend virtually from their home in Oregon. Other past volunteers at Christ Church include physicians Preethi Jackson and Ellen Boudreau Hoke and Outreach member Shahra Toth. Feel free to ask them for information. To learn more about making a trip, go to "Become a Volunteer" on the Somos Amigos website – www.somosamigos.org

FISH Asks for Volunteers As Well as Groceries and Toiletries in its Bin and Basket

FISH of Howard County is calling for new volunteers. If you are interested, ask parishioner Andy DeLong, who is FISH treasurer and a board member of the nonprofit, which provides committed support to Howard County residents. Please continue to put non-perishable foods and toiletries in the FISH basket at the altar or in the bin on the breezeway. The neighbors you help are grateful for all you do in their support.

Columbia Community Care Turns 5, Continues to Request Our Support

When the pandemic hit and Maryland entered a lockdown in March 2020, many students were going hungry without the school meals that they had grown to depend upon. That's when a local teacher founded Columbia Community Care (CCC) to collect and distribute essentials to families in need. After individual parishioners began helping, Christ Church became a regular supporter in June 2020.



CCC marked "5 Years of Community" with a March 11 post on its Facebook page. It distributes groceries, diapers, and personal care items at three sites on Saturday mornings and delivers to those without transportation. To volunteer, go to "Volunteer Opportunities." Those who need help are urged to go to "Get Help" on CCC's website.

Please keep collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. Our point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers its contents.

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.



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Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
Rev. Kiona Lookingbill, *Deacon & Director of Youth and Family Ministries*
Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*
Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*
Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*
Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*
Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*
John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)
Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)
• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams •
George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms

Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*
Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector Emeritus*