

LENT 4 (LAETARE) – MARCH 15, 2026

Confession and Absolution

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ~~the~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 122:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Isaiah 66:10a, 11a



Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.
I was glad when they | said to me,*

“Let us go to the house | of the LORD!”
Our feet have been | standing*
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!
 Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*
 May they be secure who | love you!
For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*
 I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*
 all you who | love her;
that you may nurse and be | satisfied*
from her con- | soling breast.

Kyrie

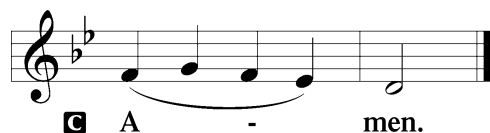
LSB 186 Mark 10:47



Lent 4



P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Exodus 16:2-21

Exodus 16:2-21

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. ¹⁹And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” ²⁰But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. ²¹Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 122:1, 7

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

**Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers!**

Acts 2:41-47

Acts 2:41-47

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

⁴⁶And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Tract

Psalm 125:1-2, 5b

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore. Peace be upon Israel!**

John 6:1-15

John 6:1-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. ²And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. ³Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. ⁵Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

¹⁵Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Holy Baptism - First

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

(Matthew 28:19)

Holy Baptism - Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Holy Baptism - Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

Holy Baptism - Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

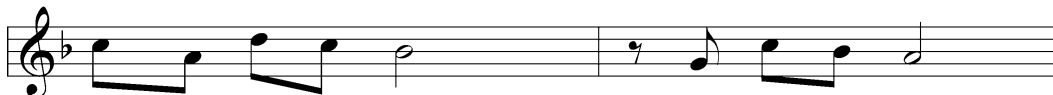
Sit

Hymn of the Day: 629 What Is This Bread

LSB 629



| | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|--------|----------|----------|
| 1 | What | is | this | bread? | Christ's | bod - y |
| 2 | What | is | this | wine? | The | blood of |
| 3 | So | who | am | I, | That | I should |
| 4 | Yet | is | God | here? | Oh, | yes! By |
| 5 | Is | this | for | me? | I | am for - |



| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|--------|--------|--------|------|-------|------|--------|
| ris - | en | from | the | dead: | This | bread | we | break, |
| Je - | sus | shed | for | mine; | The | cup | of | grace |
| live | and | He | should | die | Un - | der | the | rod? |
| Word | and | prom - | ise | clear, | In | mouth | and | soul |
| giv - | en | and | set | free! | I | do | be - | lieve |



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946

Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951

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Sermon

Stand

Offertory: 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

Prayer of the Church

- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.
- L** O Christ,
- C** have mercy.
- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.

- L** O Christ,
C **hear us.**
L God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
L God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
L Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
L Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- L** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
 From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
 From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
 From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
 By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and
 passion; by Your precious death and burial;
 By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the
 Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of
 judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
L We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
L To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your
 Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them
 in holy living;
 To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have
 erred and are deceived;
 To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany
 Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
L To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the
 weakhearted and the distressed:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
L To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our
 country Your protection in every time of need;
 To direct and defend our /president/queen/king/ and all in authority; to bless and protect our
 magistrates and all our people;
 To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all
 who travel;
 To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their
 blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
 To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have
 mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194 2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

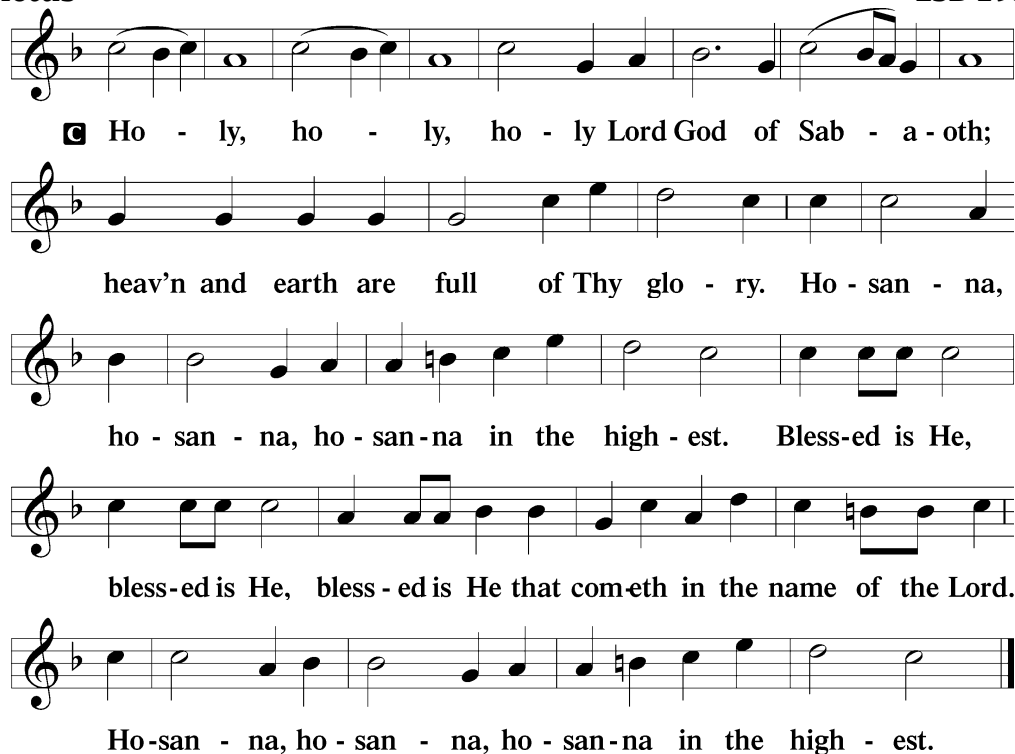


C It is meet and right so to do.

- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195 Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



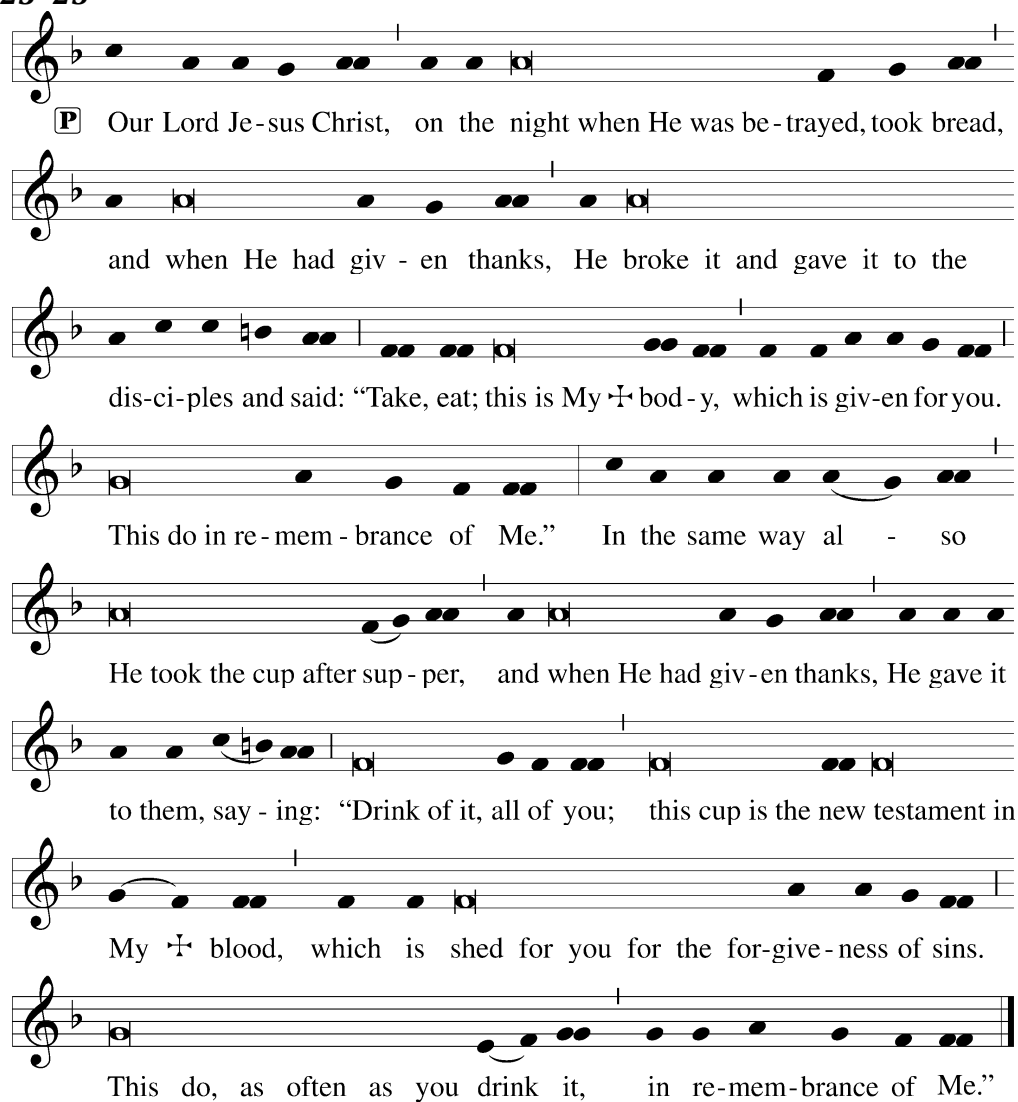
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162 Matthew 6:9-13

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


The Words of Our Lord *LSB 197 Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*



P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv-en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†]bod-y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem-brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup-per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say-ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197 John 20:19



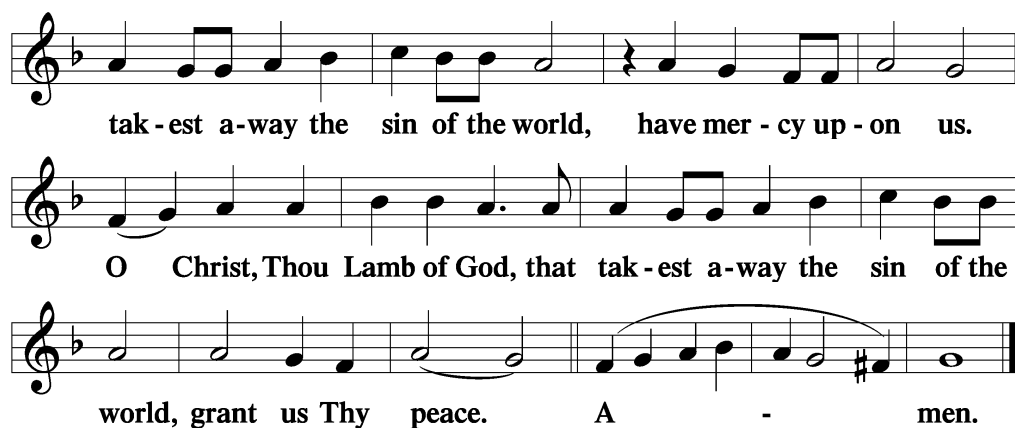
P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198 John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

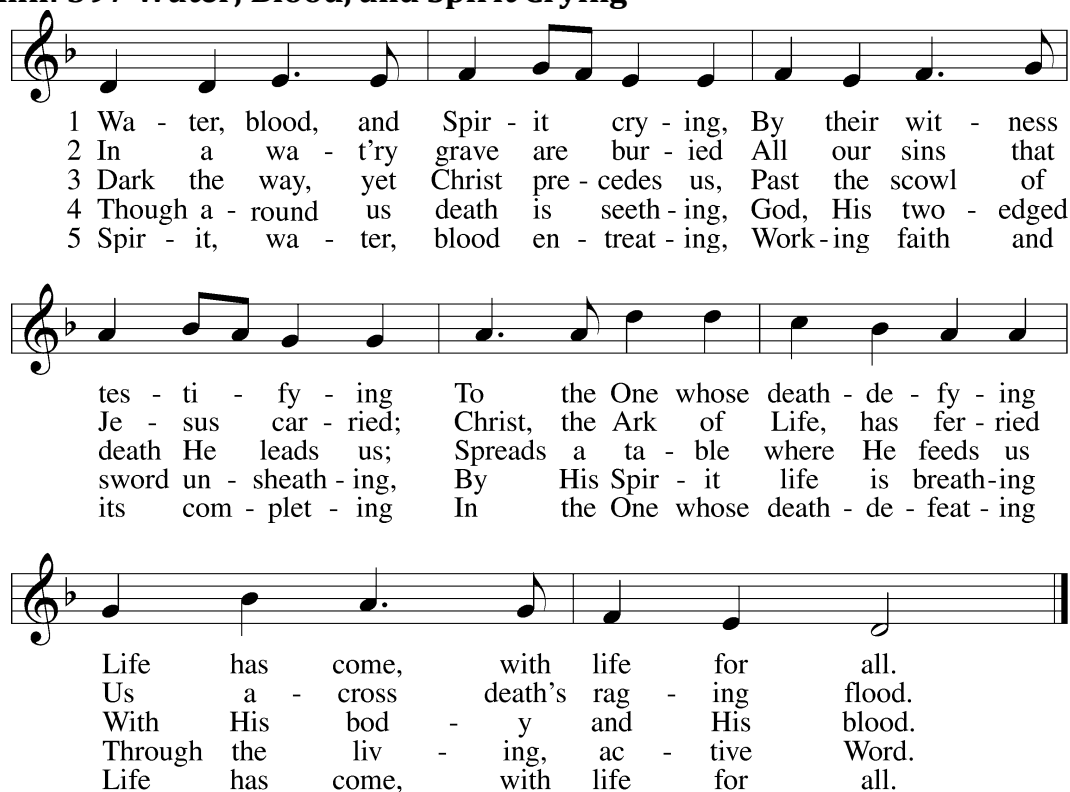
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Hymn: 597 Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying

LSB 597



1 Wa - ter, blood, and Spir - it cry - ing, By their wit - ness
2 In a wa - t'ry grave are bur - ied All our sins that
3 Dark the way, yet Christ pre - cedes us, Past the scowl of
4 Though a - round us death is seeth - ing, God, His two - edged
5 Spir - it, wa - ter, blood en - treat - ing, Work - ing faith and

tes - ti - fy - ing To the One whose death - de - fy - ing
Je - sus car - ried; Christ, the Ark of Life, has fer - ried
death He leads us; Spreads a ta - ble where He feeds us
sword un - sheath - ing, By His Spir - it life is breath - ing
its com - plet - ing In the One whose death - de - feat - ing

Life has come, with life for all.
Us a - cross death's rag - ing flood.
With His bod - y and His blood.
Through the liv - ing, ac - tive Word.
Life has come, with life for all.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Jeffrey N. Blersch, 1967

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Distribution Hymn: 642 O Living Bread from Heaven

LSB 642



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You
2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most
3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly

feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,
 Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my
 bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,
 gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.
 through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

Text: Johann Rist, 1607–67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius
 Text and tune: Public domain


Distribution Hymn: 641 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

LSB 641

Refrain

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.
 Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.
 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
 4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
 5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less
 heed his voice; So when You call Your
 grat - i - tude That You should count us
 Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 let us be, To serve each oth - er

Refrain



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97

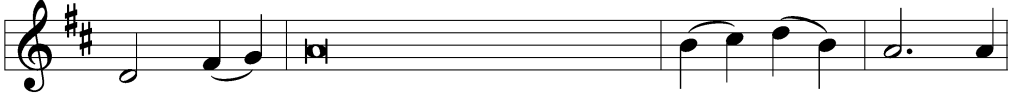
Tune: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-96

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis


LSB 199 Luke 2:29-32




Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,




which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,




a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



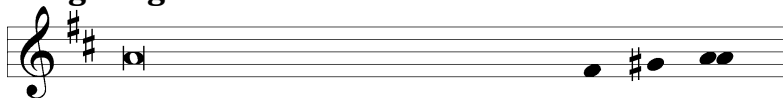
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



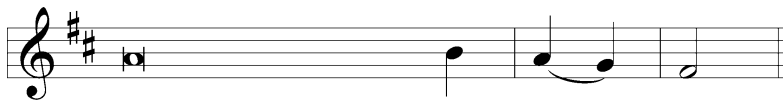
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200 Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



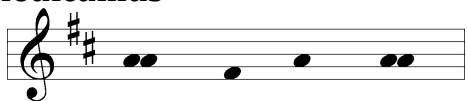
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202 Psalm 103:1

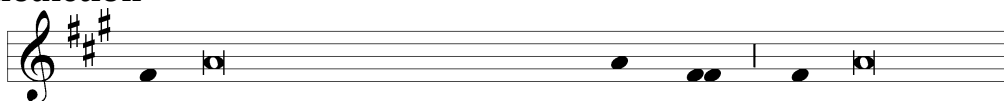


A Bless we the Lord.

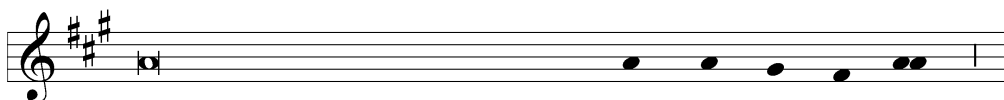


C Thanks be to God.

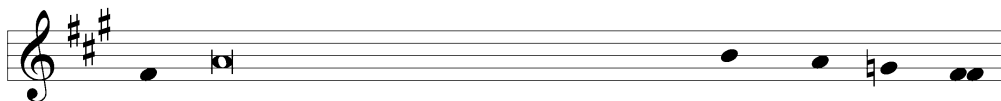
Benediction

LSB 202 Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



■ A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn to Depart: 918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 918



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91

Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text and tune: Public domain

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