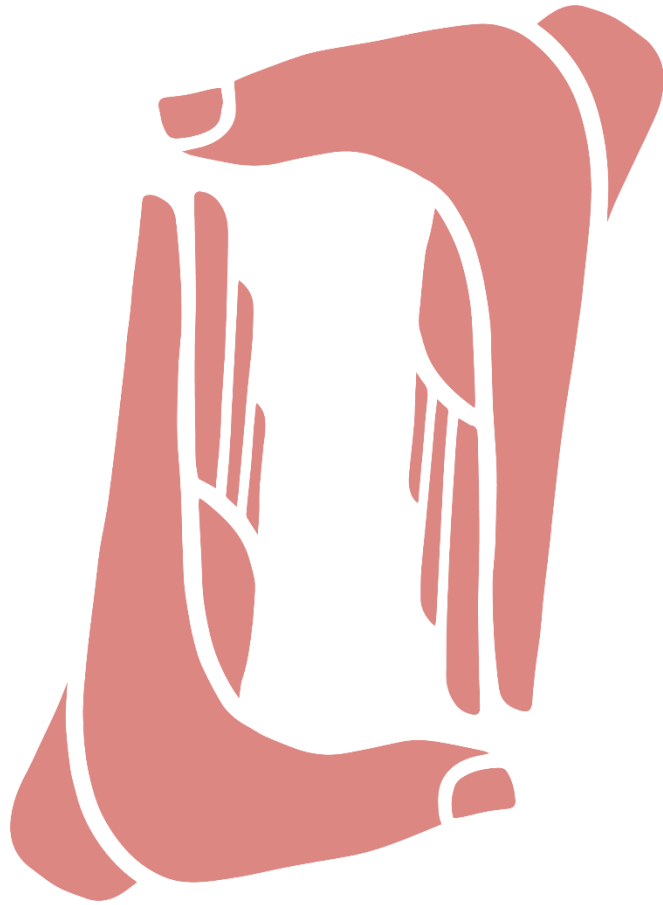


# *St. James Lutheran Church*



everything  
[in] between

stranger & neighbor

**Season of Lent**  
Welcome to our Service

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**Who is my Neighbor?**

**How can I help?**

**What do I have to learn?**

**Where is God in it all?**

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

**So may we listen. May we learn.**

**May we stay curious, and may we look for God.**

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

## CALL TO and PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done.

Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change.

So join me in the prayer of confession.

Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Let us pray:

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know:**

**who is our neighbor?**

**Do we have to love the stranger?**

**Must we have compassion for our enemy?**

**Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.**

*Time for silent reflection*

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith,

When we set limits on love,

**God loves extravagantly.**

When we forget that we are neighbors,

**God claims us as God's own.**

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

**God surrounds us with grace.**

There is nothing we can do or leave undone  
that could separate us from the love of God.

**This is the good news of the gospel. *We are forgiven.***

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**



# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

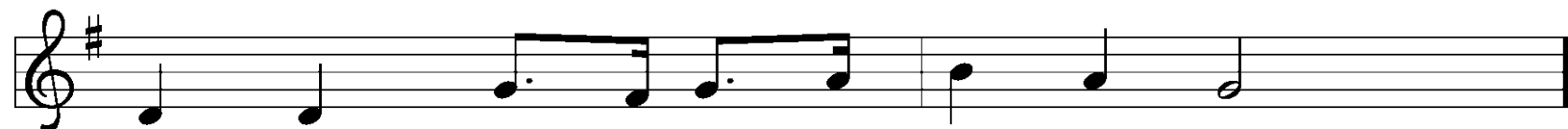
## *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

### *Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929

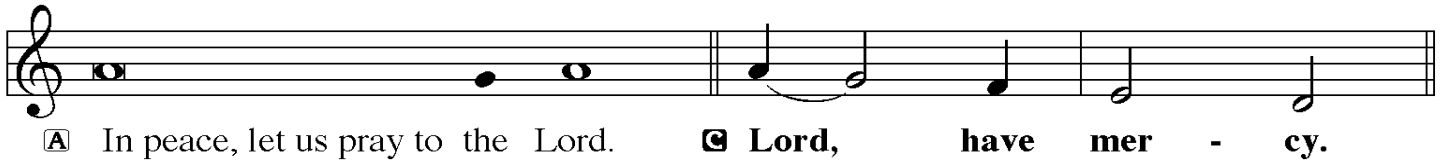
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

## **GREETING**

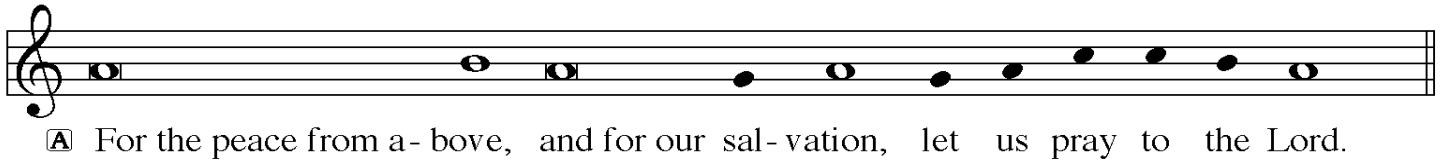
Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy,  
and peace be with you all.

**And also with you.**

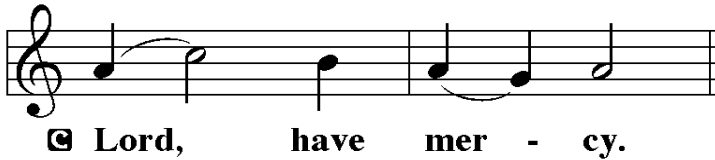
# KYRIE



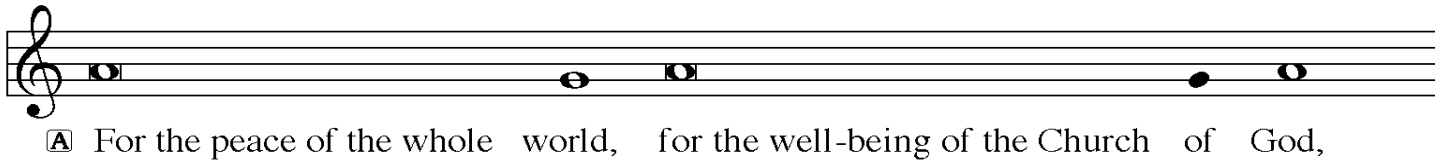
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



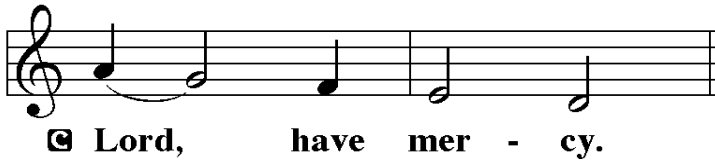
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



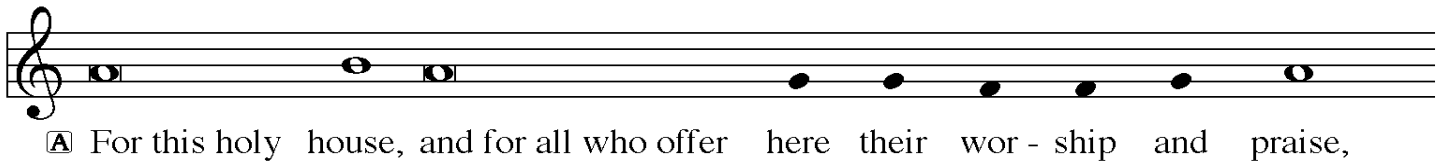
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

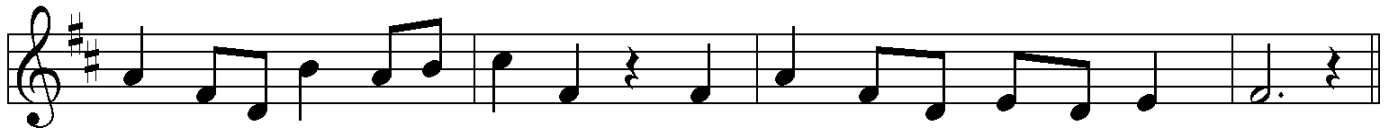


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

# HYMN OF PRAISE



**A** Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, We love to ask you questions.**

**We love to throw our wonderings at the sky, to bring our curiosity to your feet, to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long. But when the answers come, we don't always like what we hear. Awaken a curiosity in us. Awaken a penchant for listening, and make room in our spirits for your Word to land. With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen.**

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

**THE FIRST READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 26<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF DEUTERONOMY.**

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has

given to you and to your house.

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM**

**WE WILL READ PSALM 91 RESPONSIVELY.**

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

**You will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation.

**No evil will befall you, nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

For God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways.

**Upon their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

You will tread upon the lion cub and viper; you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

**I will deliver those who cling to me; I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

**THE SECOND READING IS WRITTEN IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF 1 CORINTHIANS.**

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" that is, the word of faith that we proclaim; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to



all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

**CHOIR** ..... **What Wondrous, Marvelous Love**

*Please rise as able.*

**THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE 10<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER OF LUKE.**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

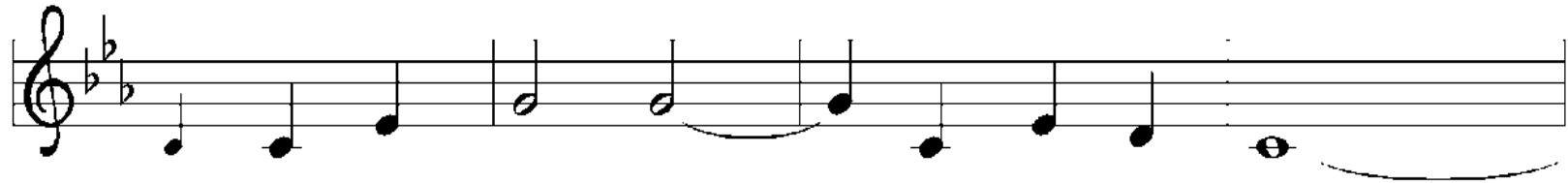
Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Hear what the Spirit is Saying to God's People. **Thanks be to God.**

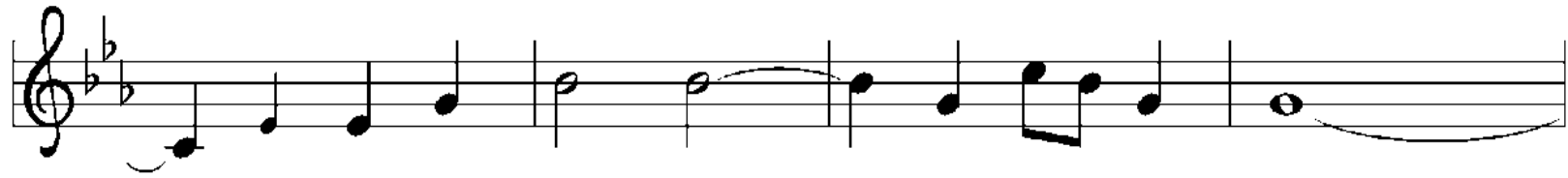
*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

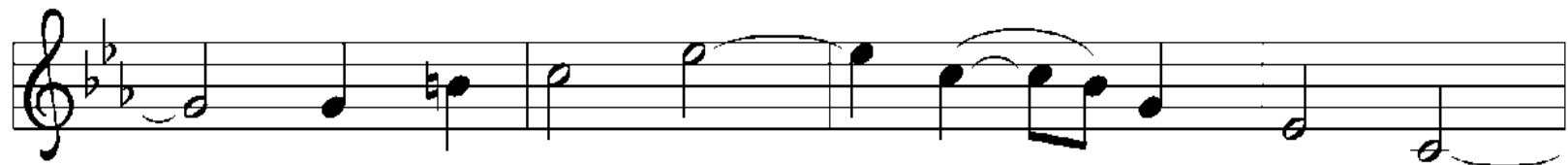
# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



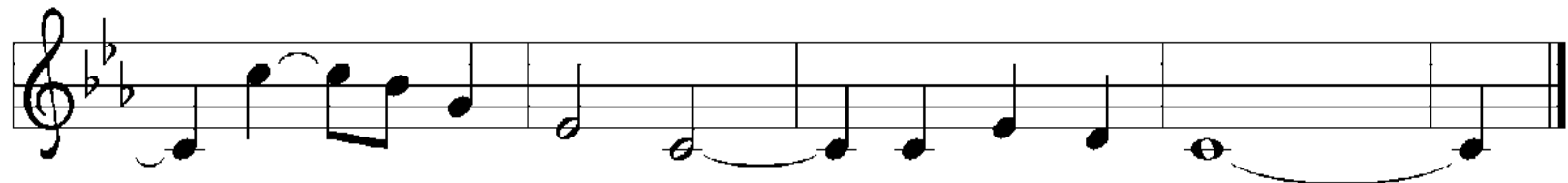
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

*Please stand as able*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us affirm our faith with the following words:

If God asked us, "Who is our neighbor?" what would we say?

**We would say, every child, every person,  
every weeping willow, and every morning lark.  
Every freckled face, every wrinkled pair of hands,  
every tail-wagging dog, and every crisp ripe apple.**

**We would say,  
we are connected—  
to one another, to all of God's creation.  
There are no strangers in God's house.  
We are all family here.**

I think God would delight in that answer.

For it is said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

**with all your soul,**  
with all your strength,  
**with all your mind,**  
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

When the reader says: "God, in Your mercy."

Please respond: "**Receive our prayer.**"

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please reserve conversations for after worship.*

## OFFERING

*Please be seated as we gather the offering for the mission of the church.  
Your gifts of thankfulness enable us to spread the Good News of God's  
love.*

*Please stand as you are able as we sing.*

## GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart**

**Give thanks to the Holy One**

**Give thanks because He's given**

**Jesus Christ His Son (2x)**

**And now let the weak say I am strong**

**Let the poor say I am rich**

**Because of what The Lord has done for us (2x)**

**Give thanks (3x)**

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your  
bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures  
with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Friends, this is the joyful feast of unity.

Christ has gathered his people around the earth  
to commune at this table.

Across political lines and economic lines,  
in places of powerfully protected affluence,  
and among the poorest of the poor, we share a meal,  
remembering and celebrating the One who proved shalom possible.

And so, come:

you from the East and you from the West,  
from the North and from the South.

Come. Come with your doubts,  
come with your hopes, come with your inadequacies  
and with your strengths.

Come, for this is a table where all are invited  
and all are welcome.

On the night in which he was betrayed, Our Lord Jesus Christ 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."*

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated. As a church of the ELCA we welcome all people to the table to  
receive our Lord's meal and experience Christ's presence. Come forward to  
receive an empty cup from the tray. Then come forward to receive the wafer and  
wine (or grape juice, no cup needed). If you prefer, pre-packaged cups are  
available (Gluten free are available and have printing on them). Non-communing  
persons may come forward to receive a blessing.*

## **BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

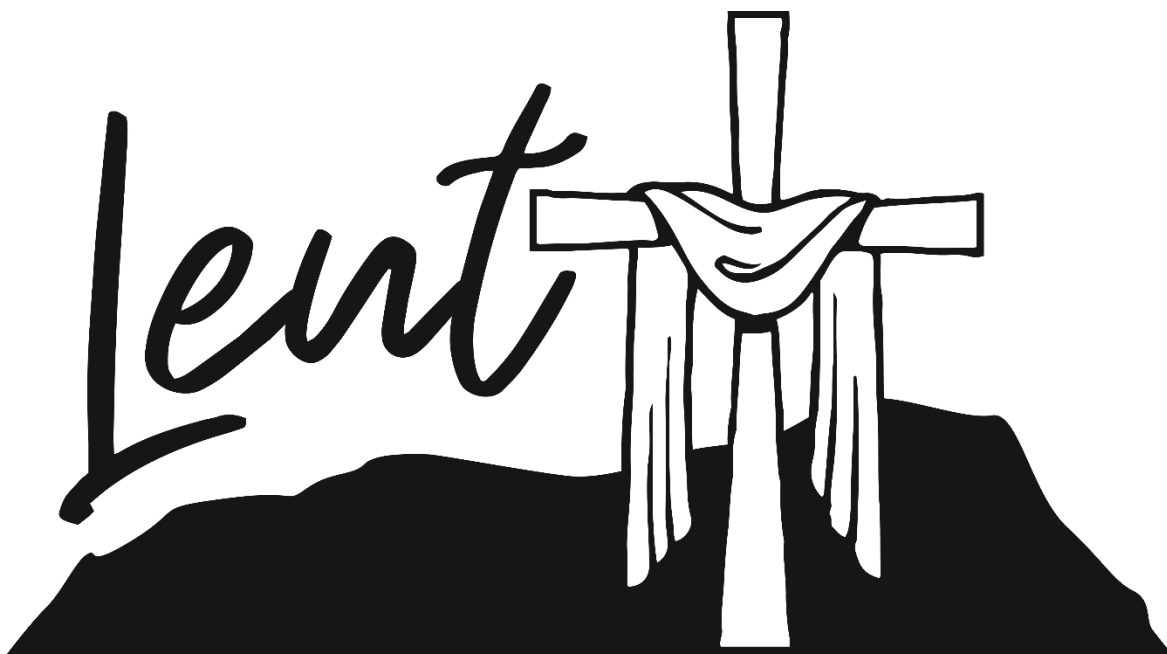
May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**



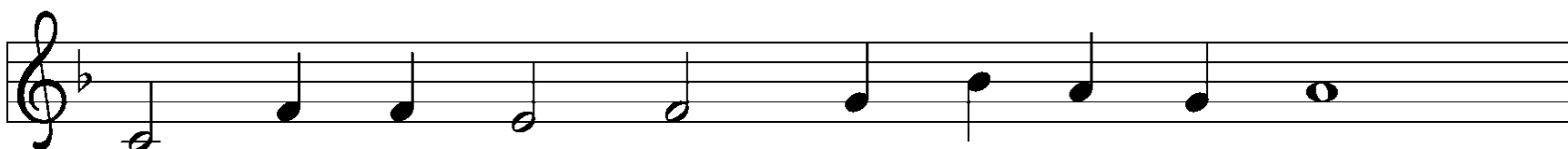
# Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



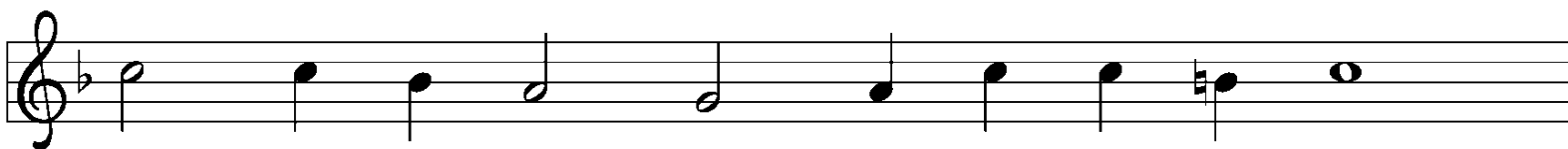
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



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



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



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



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

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## **BLESSING**

As you leave this place, may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.

So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with confidence that you do not go alone.  
God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news and go in peace.

**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

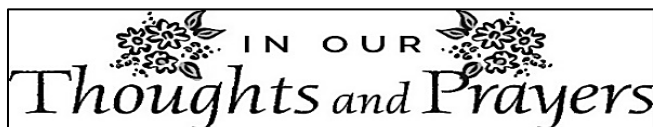
Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*PORTIONS OF SERVICE FROM MATERIALS BY by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

*Eucharistic Prayer Introduction from 2010 World Communion Day – Worship Resource – PCUSA*

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**Please Pray for: Dolores Fiori, Laura Librizzi, Claire Gilmore, Marx Heller, Diane Eby, Winnie Ziegler, Hannah Bonchi, Margaret Rea, Jennifer Johnson, Linda Kisby, Rita Ricca, Gillian Lee Phillips, Betty Haines, Dorcas Schellhas, Henry Butterhof, Bette Jackson, Maggie Rider, Marlene Triggian, Ed Shine, Bob & Ellie Frietag, Christina Spahn, George Cappucio, Jessica Lewis, Dan P., Tom Dixon, Arlene Calletta, Ed Volpa, Mike Fountas, Nick Pobletti, Sophie Stites, Arlene Deptula, Thomas Rose, Linda Slater, Annette Scipione, Baby Octavia Marie Kozole, John Thame, Chip Stewart, Joe Chille, Lisa D'Ambrosia, Chenza Cerrato, Sadie Peterson, Kathy Gorbis, Bill Link, Carl Anderson, Edythe Aselta, David Butterworth, Karen Fiorilli, Lori Truitt, Charlie Patton, Jennifer Robinson, Ed & Toni Marinelli, RoseAnn Lucca, Thomas Penza, Mia Arrison, Cass Seddon, Beth Grasso, Tiffany, Carol Ann Conner, LaSarah Todd, Frank Calleta. Linda Foster, Julie Communale.**



**The Prayer List is available in the Narthex** – You may submit names after receiving the person’s permission for their name to be shared publicly. Please share your name so we may follow up on the progress of your loved one.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TODAY	10:00 AM	WORSHIP WITH ST. JAMES CHOIR
WED., MAR. 12	1:00 PM	GOD’S STITCHERS
	6:00 PM	LENTEN SOUP DINNER
	7:00 PM	LENTEN STUDY
THU., MAR. 13	12:30 PM	GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP
SUN., MAR. 16	10:00 AM	WORSHIP
MON., MAR. 17	7:30 PM	COUNCIL



**Join us for Lenten Soup & Study**

**Soup at 6:00 pm**

**Study at 7:00 pm**

**March 12th - April 16<sup>th</sup>**

We will need 2 soup makers and 1 person to bring bread each week. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend.

Throughout **the season of Lent**, we will be collecting toiletry items for the Veteran’s Haven Home. Some items being collected include soaps, shampoo, shaving cream, toothpaste, shavers, brushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers (they can be partially used bottles).

We will also be donating cookie trays, if you would like to contribute any store-bought cookies and/or tasty cakes.

**COMMUNITY  
LENTEN  
DONATIONS**

# Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> Following Worship



Join us as Marinella Funeral Home will be visiting St. James and presenting information on funeral pre-planning. Pastor will also talk about Living Wills and their importance. Consider it a gift to your family; it is never too early to make your wishes known.

*Lunch will be provided.*

**If you plan on attending, please sign up in the narthex.**

It is time to work on our **EASTER FOOD BASKETS!** Please take a card from board in the narthex for the item you would like to donate. *All donations are due by April 6<sup>th</sup>!*



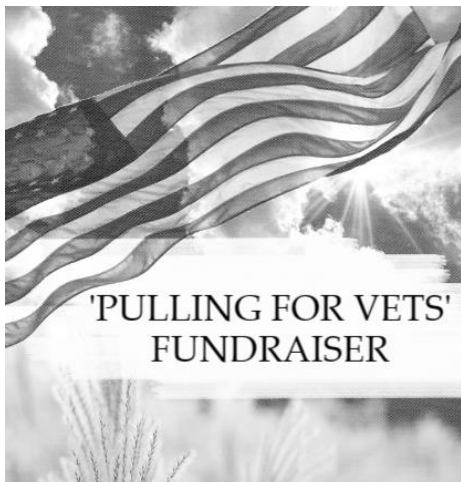
**Easter Outreach Donations**

## 'Pulling for Vets' Tickets Now Available

Our 'Pulling for Vets' Fundraiser will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> from 3pm-6pm.

Tickets are now available for purchase, or if you would like to take a few to sell.

Please let us know how many you need, so we can keep track of ticket sales. Thank you!



**Office Hours: Wednesday's & Thursday's 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**Please call to see if the secretary is available.**  
**Church office      609-561-4488**

**Ministers ..... All the People of God**  
**Pastor Pamela J. Werner ..... 609-335-3083**  
**Pastor's Email ..... laffinggal@comcast.net**  
**Amanda Dilks..... Secretary**  
**Church Email ..... stjameslutheran@folsom.comcastbiz.net**  
**Web ..... www.stjamesfolsom.org**  
**Organists..... Maria Doukhnai & Matt DiDonato**  
**Choir Director ..... Matt DiDonato**

**We need your help:** Please help with set up and clean-up, assist with communion. We also need readers (scriptures are sent out prior so that you can read over them). We will train you. Please help. Thank you.

<b>Worship Ministers</b>	<b>This Week: 03/09/25</b>	<b>Next Week: 03/16/25</b>
Reader	Mario Triboletti	Ed Volpa
Communion Assistants	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Altar Guild	Betty Pollock & Rose Jones	Betty Pollock & Rose Jones



# Lent

RETURN TO THE LORD  
*your God,*  
FOR HE IS  
*gracious and*  
MERCIFUL.

JOEL 2:13