

**Order of Worship
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 28, 2024**



**Grace Lutheran Church
745 S. Ingraham Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801**

**863-686-5585
www.gracelakeland.com**

**Pastor: Rev. Pamela Smith
Ministers: All the People of Grace**

Greetings to you and welcome to worship!

As the season of Advent and the holy days of Christmas and Epiphany have passed on the calendar, we gather together and participate in the ongoing revelation of Jesus as the beloved Son of God. In our gospel readings for these weeks, we learn of the early days of Jesus' earthly ministry -- the calling of the disciples and the first of his miracles recorded in the gospel of Mark, the healing of those sick and infirm. Our epistle readings are portions of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, a congregation suffering from divisions and factions; Paul exhorts them to be mindful of the fact that they are the very body of Christ and to love one another.

I pray that our worship together will be meaningful to you and that the hand of friendship extended to you will be warmly received. The ushers are happy to assist you with the practical matters of our service and if you would like to talk privately with me, please let them know.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Pam

Some Practical Things:

- **Children:** All children, even those who chat or cry or squawk, are welcome here. Some may enjoy one of the children's activity bags that an usher can provide.
- **Restrooms** are located outside of the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate this Sacrament every Sunday. All baptized Christians are welcome at this, the Lord's Table. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- **Offerings:** Those who desire to give an offering can do so using the envelopes in the pew, the "Give" button on our webpage or the Tithe.ly app. We are happy to provide assistance with any of these if that would be helpful to you. Thank you for your generosity.
- **Fellowship Time** follows our worship service each Sunday. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for friendly chat and refreshments. We welcome all – members and visitors alike.
- **Friendship Pads:** All who are worshipping with us today, especially those who are visiting with us, are invited to sign the Friendship Pad that is at the center aisle end of the pew. This is a handy way to let us know how we can be in touch with you and to welcome you to our gathering. After you sign it, please pass it down the pew to others.

✠ GATHERING ✠

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Come Down, O Love Divine

arr. Wilbur Held

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

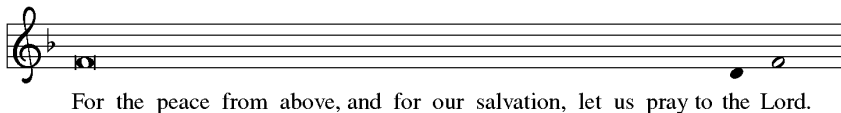
Amen.

GREETING

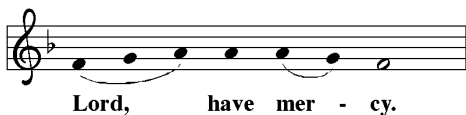
KYRIE



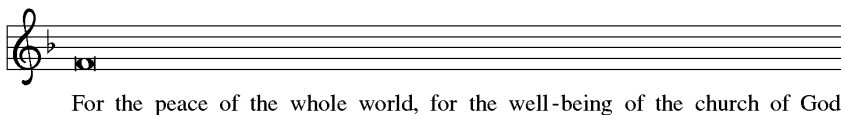
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



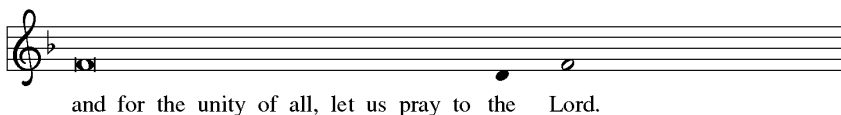
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



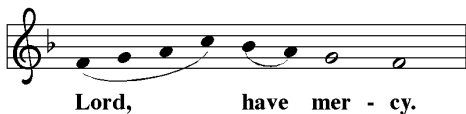
Lord, have mer - cy.



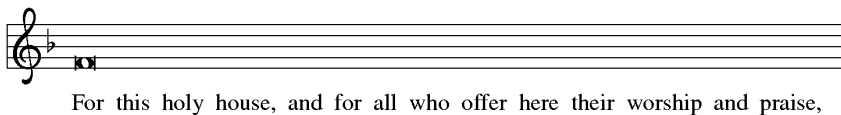
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



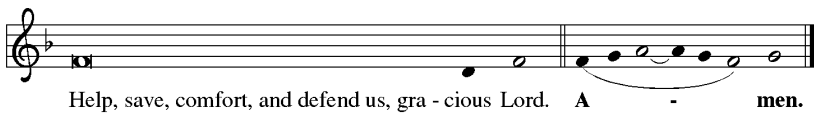
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



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. Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:1-5

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you. ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130 (read responsively by full verse)

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
²LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!
³If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
LORD, who could stand?
⁴But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.
⁵I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

**⁶my soul waits for the LORD
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.**

⁷O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

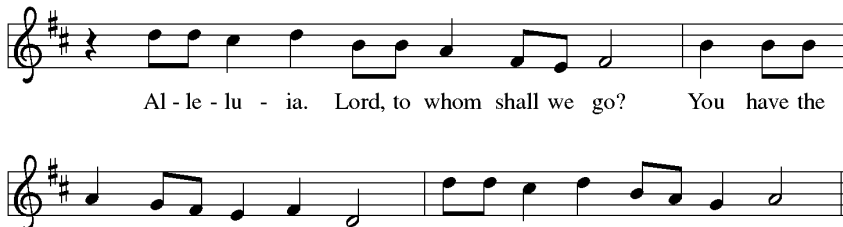
**⁸It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea — for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Bishop Suarez

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord

ELW 580



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call
 2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;
 3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;
 4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,
 if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind
 whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,
 in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.
 its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.
 and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.
 the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.

RITE OF INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.



Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:



peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul.



God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer, particularly *Mabel, Mike, Anna Mae, Michael, Donna, Ann, Julie, Carol, Anne, Tom, Lydia, Brian, Paul, Wil, Amy, Bob, Jane, Mary, Scott, Ron, Flo, Monica, Doris M., Dottie, Marian P., John, Tim, Betty S., Pastor Pam, Jeff, Henry, Mary, Greg, Jim, and Max.* God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Other petitions may be offered.

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GREETING OF PEACE

Let Your Peace Rain upon Us *Yarabba ssalami*



Ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi am - ter a - lay - na ssa - lam,
Let your peace rain up - on us, O liv - ing God of . . . peace.



ya - ra - bba ssa - la - mi im la' qu - lu - ba - na ssa - lam.
Let your peace rain up - on us, Lord, fill our hearts . . with your peace.

Text: Palestinian traditional; tr. Mark Swanson, b. 1955, and Mark Sedio, b. 1954
Music: YARABBA SSALAMI, Palestinian traditional
English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

Peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

You may place your offerings in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Alternatively, some are using the [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) app for online giving or are using their bank's online banking option. Whichever way you choose to give, we are grateful for your stewardship and generosity.

MUSICAL OFFERING

An Anthem for Communion

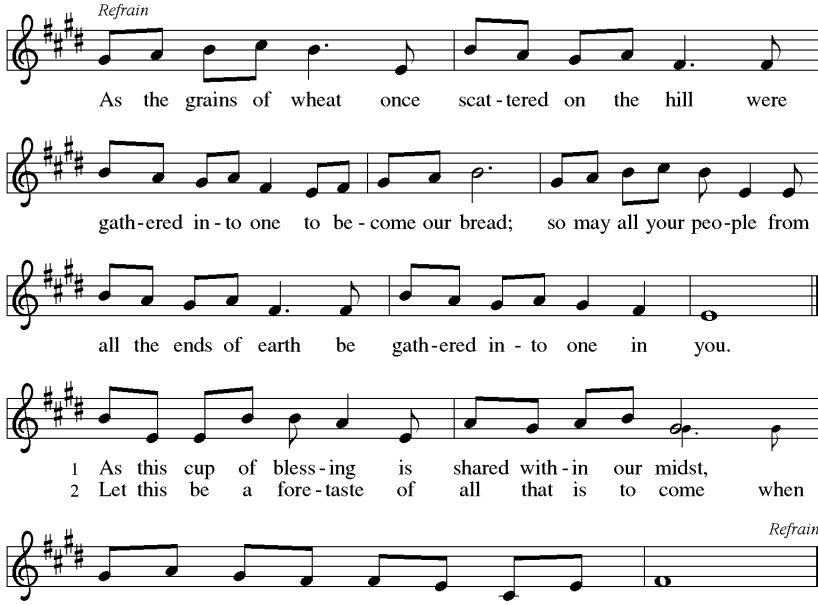
by Gilbert Martin

OFFERTORY

As The Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

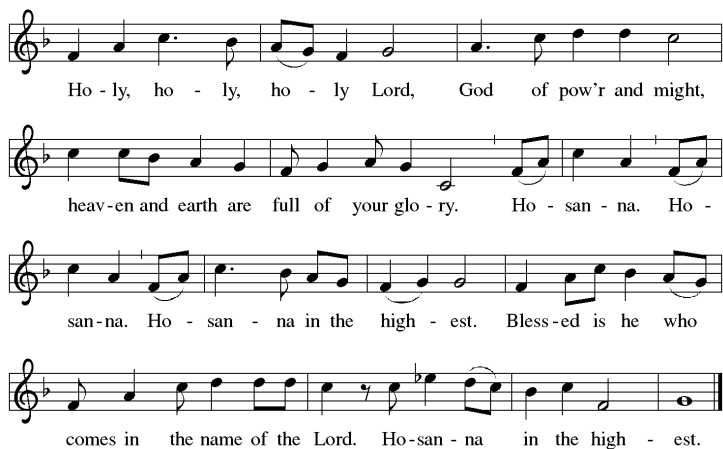
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry our Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

Amen.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God, most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

DISTRIBUTION

All baptized children of God are invited by the Lord to the Lord's Table where we receive Jesus' very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. We commune at the altar rail, kneeling as you are able. After you have received the host, the first chalice is for intinction and the second for drinking. A third chalice contains juice. Gluten free bread is available. If you wish to commune, but cannot come forward, let an usher know and Pastor will come to you. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

HYMN DURING COMMUNION *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

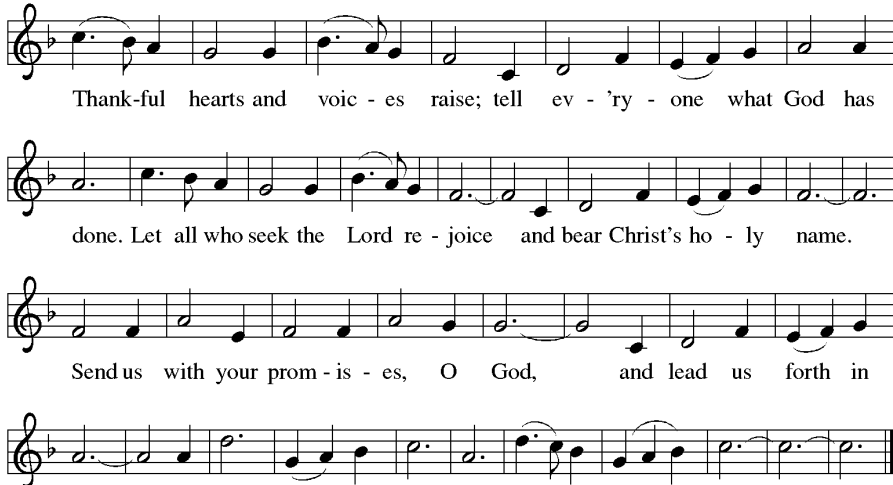
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

SENDING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story
(next page)

ELW 661

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry

to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Liturgical Text and Music from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006, 2020, 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SAS016761. All rights reserved.

We Are Called. Text: David Haas, b.1957. Music: David Haas. Text and music © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord. Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000. Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918. Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light. Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934. Music: Kathleen Thomerson. Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Reprinted and/or streamed with permission under OneLicense #A-722274. All rights reserved.

I Love to Tell the Story. Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911. Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936. Public domain.

Over recent months we have added video and audio equipment to our sanctuary to livestream our worship services over Facebook, YouTube, or other platforms and also to have them available for later viewing through our website. Likewise, we may use still photography of church activities for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence with us, you acknowledge that you may be photographed and you consent to our use of it for these purposes. The video capture of congregants is minimal and will usually be from the back. If you want to be sure that you will not be shown on any video, we recommend sitting near the back on the left side of the sanctuary.