

***“People of Christ  
Making a  
Difference”***

**1st Sunday in Lent**

**February 18, 2024**

**8:30 & 11:00AM**

## WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

A nursery is provided for children through age 4 for both worship services and for infants and toddlers during Sunday School. The nursery is located at the end of the hall on the right side.

Children's bags can be found in the "Kid's Corner" of the narthex.

Restroom facilities are located down the hall on the left side.

First Aid, Emergency Equipment, and a wheelchair are located down the hall on the right by the stairwell.

If for any reason you must leave the sanctuary, the service is live streamed in the Agape Sunday School classroom. Any usher will be glad to direct you.

Sunday school classes are provided for 18 month olds through adults.

Listening devices and larger print bulletins are located in the narthex.

Ushers are also available to assist you.

If you are a visitor feel free to sign-in using the QR code. Here's how it works:  
Point your camera at the image, tap the link that appears on your screen, and share whatever information you desire. Thank you! Hope to see you again soon!



## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*"Oh, How I Love Jesus"*

Gary Lanier

(We Stand)

### GATHERING HYMN

*"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"*

ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

(We Sit)

## THE GREAT LITANY

*A meaningful Lenten practice in both Anglican and Lutheran traditions is the praying of the Great litany on the First Sunday of Lent. Quite simply, a litany is a series of petitions that are sung or spoken in a responsive fashion between leaders and an entire congregation. In the Great Litany, nearly every general area of prayer is addressed, including prayer for various aspects of the church, the world, the government, and the poor. These petitions are prefaced by a series of requests asking God to deliver us for all manner of afflictions.*

*The Great Litany was actually the first piece of liturgy that ever existed in the English language. Thomas Cramer, appointed the first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury in 1532, decreed that a litany be written in English. We know that he compiled the litany from a combination of Lutheran, Roman and Greek orthodox sources. It remains to the present day almost entirely unchanged. The Great Litany is our Lenten reminder that worshipping Christians earnestly desire God's intervention and involvement in all areas of life.*

**L** Lord, have mercy. **R** Lord, have mer - cy.

**L** Christ, have mercy. **R** Christ, have mer - cy.

**L** Lord, have mercy. **R** Lord, have mer - cy.

**L** O Christ, hear us. **R** In mer - cy hear us.

**L** God, the Father in . . . . . heaven, **R** have mer - cy on us.  
**L** God, the Son, redeemer of the world, **R** have mer - cy on us.  
**L** God, the Holy . . . . . Spirit, **R** have mer - cy on us.  
**L** Holy Trinity, one . . . . . God, **R** have mer - cy on us.

**L** Be gra - cious to us. **R** Spare us, good Lord.

**L** Be gra - cious to us. **R** Spare us, good Lord.



☐ From all sin, from all error, from all evil;  
from the cunning assaults of the devil;  
from an unprepared and . . . . . e- vil death: ☒ **Good Lord, de- liv- er us.**

☐ From war, bloodshed, and violence;  
from corrupt and unjust government;  
from sedi - . . . . . tion and treason: ☒ **Good Lord, de- liv- er us.**

☐ From epidemic, drought, and famine;  
from fire and flood, earthquake,  
lightning and storm;  
and from ever - . . . . . last-ing death: ☒ **Good Lord, de- liv- er us.**



☐ By the mystery of your incarnation; by your ho-ly birth: ☒ **Help us, good Lord.**

☐ By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;  
by your agony and bloody sweat;  
by your cross and suffering;  
by your . . . . . death and burial: ☒ **Help us, good Lord.**

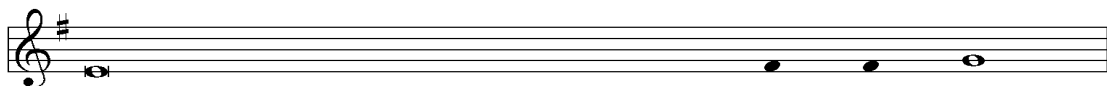
☐ By your resurrection and ascension;  
by the gift of the . . . . . Ho- ly Spirit: ☒ **Help us, good Lord.**



☐ In all time of our tribulation;  
in all time of our prosperity;  
in the hour of death;  
and in the . . . . . day of judgment: ☒ **Save us, good Lord.**



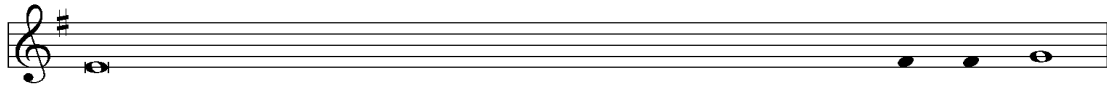
☐ Though unworthy, we im - plore you ☒ **to hear us, Lord our God.**



☐ To rule and govern your holy catholic Church;  
to guide all servants of your Church  
in the love of your Word and in holiness of life;  
to put an end to all schisms  
and causes of offense to those who would believe;  
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone a - stray:



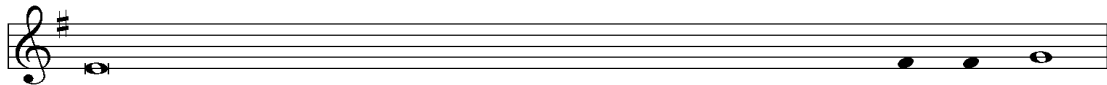
☒ **We im- plore you to hear us, good Lord.**



☐ To beat down Satan under our feet;  
to send faithful workers into your harvest;  
to accompany your Word with your Spirit and power;  
to raise up those who fall  
and to strengthen those who stand;  
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and . . . . . the dis- tressed:



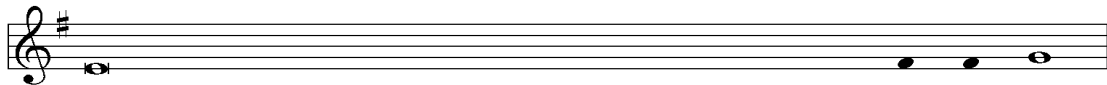
☑ We im- plore you to hear us, good Lord.



☐ To give to all nations justice and peace;  
to preserve our country from discord and strife;  
to direct and guard those who have civil authority;  
and to bless and guide . . . . . all our people:



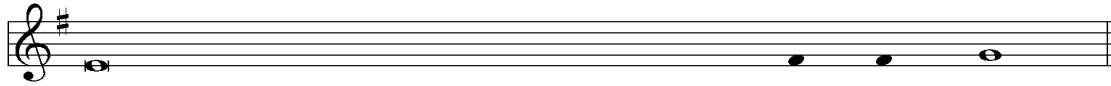
☑ We im- plore you to hear us, good Lord.



☐ To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;  
to protect and guide all who travel;  
to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;  
to watch over children and to guide the young;  
to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;  
to bring reconciliation to families in discord;  
to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;  
to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;  
to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows;  
and to have mercy on . . . . . all your people:



☑ We im- plore you to hear us, good Lord.



☐ To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,  
and to reconcile us to them;  
to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures  
of the earth, the sea, and the air;  
and graciously to . . . . . hear our prayers:



☒ We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



☐ Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, ☒ we im - plore you to hear us.



☐ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; ☒ have mer - cy on us.



☐ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; ☒ have mer - cy on us.



☐ Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; ☒ give us peace. A-men.



☐ O Christ, hear us. ☒ In mer - cy hear us.



☐ Lord, have mercy. ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ Christ, have mercy. ☒ Christ, have mer - cy.



☐ Lord, have mer - cy. ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(We Stand)

(We Sit)

## COUNCIL INSTALLATION

### FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup>God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY

Psalms 25:1-10



<sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way. R**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

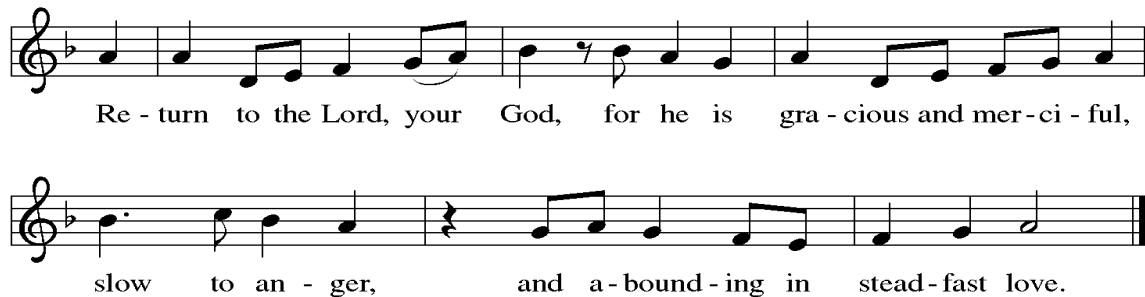
<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

(We Stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

<sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

(We Sit)



CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Jason

SERMON

Pastor Jason

(We Stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

*"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"*

ELW 517

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

### **THE NICENE CREED**

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

(We Sit)

### **OFFERING**

God calls us to be generous stewards for the sake of our ministry near and far. You can support our ministry by putting your offering in the offering plate, mailing it to the church, giving online ([sslc.org](http://sslc.org) or use the QR Code) or through the Givelify app. If you would like more details on direct deposit giving please contact our Parish Administrator, Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, at (803) 359-6562.



Anthem

*"God Be in My Head"*

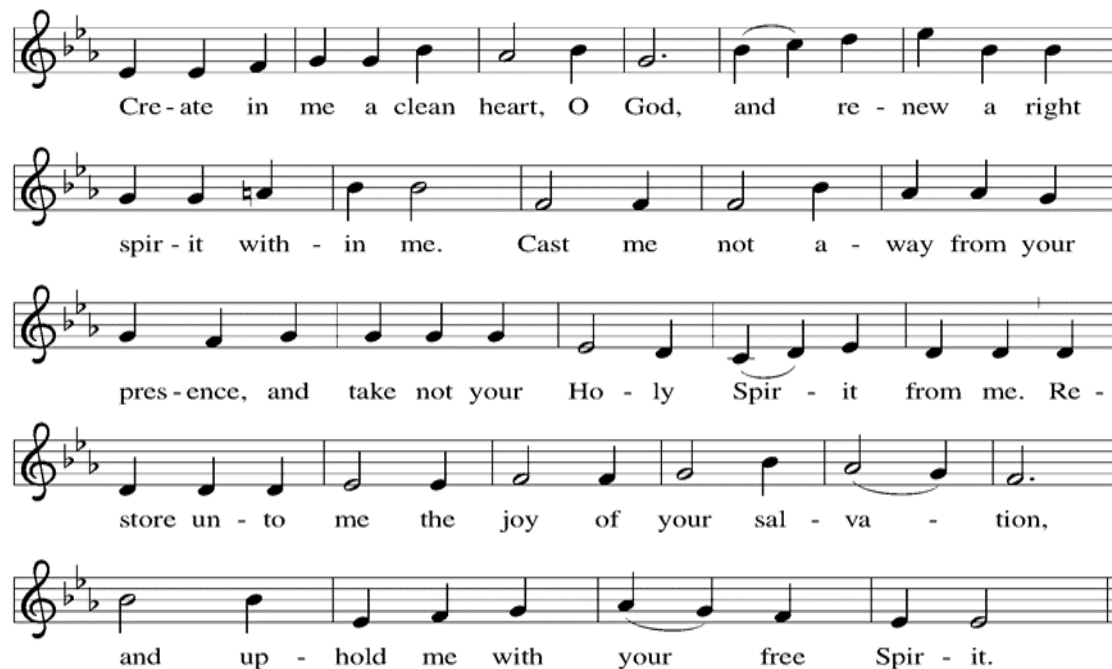
Hal H. Hopson

God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be in my head, and in my understanding.  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking.  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking.  
God be at my end and at my departing.

(We Stand)

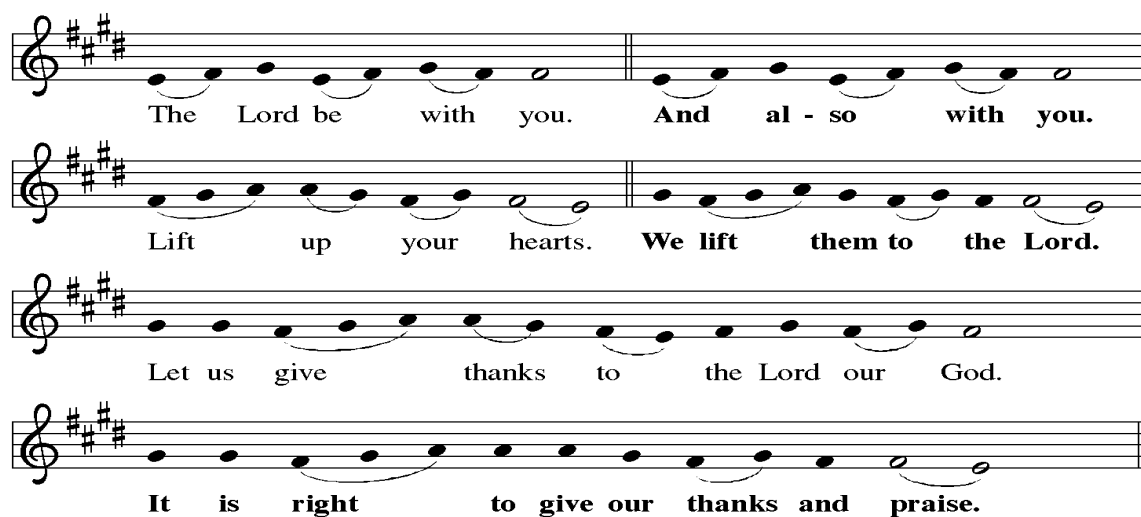
## OFFERTORY SONG

ELW 188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

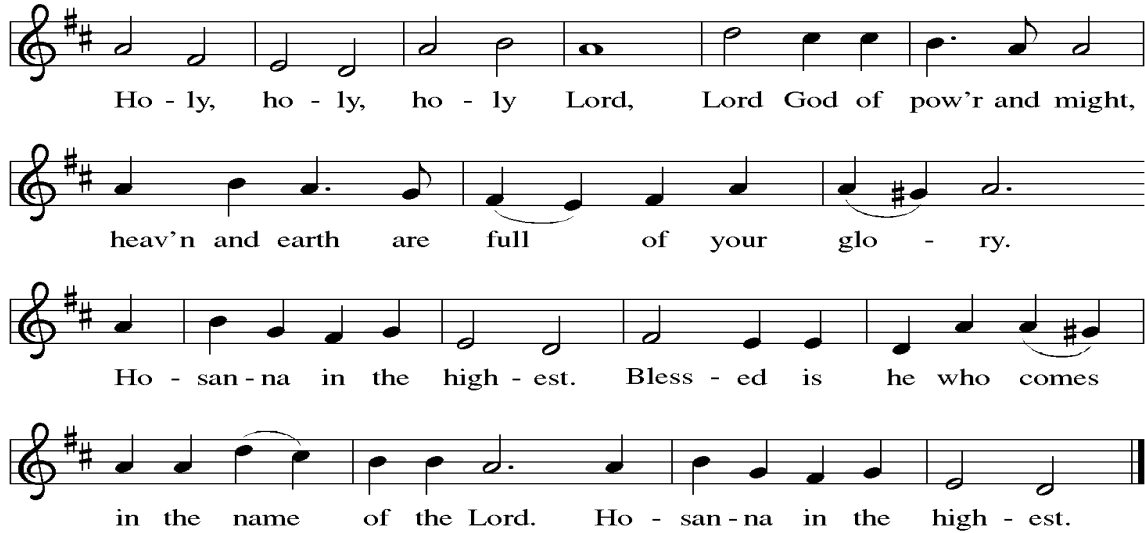
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

## THE PREFACE

## THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE 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 COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

(We Sit)

## THE AGNUS DEI

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

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## RECEPTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**C**hrist welcomes you to this Holy Meal of the Baptized! We receive communion this morning at the center aisle. Communion will be brought to the front rows for those who wish to remain seated. Children who commune should be assisted by adults near them. Those unable to partake of wine or wheaten bread are assured of our Lord's presence in, with, and under each element alone. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music

*"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

David Cherwien

*The Congregation is encouraged to participate in the following Communion Hymn.  
The hymn can be found in the back portion of the LBW (Green) Hymnal in your pew rack.*

Communion Hymn

*"Jesus Still Lead On"*

LBW 341

(We Stand)

## BLESSING OF THE COMMUNICANTS

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

God the Father, who fills the creation with abundance, + Christ the Son, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, and the Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

*"A Mighty Fortress"*

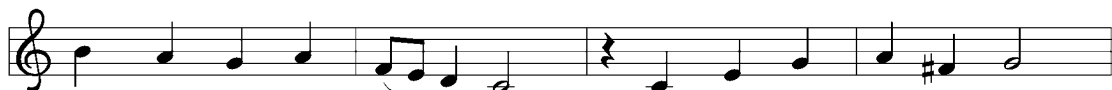
ELW 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

**DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Benediction"*

Arcangelo Corelli

# **Sunday, February 18, 2024**

## **The First Sunday in Lent**

### **The Power of Water**

Water is an integral part of the created order. Water sustains and fosters life; too little or too much water can end it. A glance at the news headlines points out the destructive power of water's presence or absence: In the United States alone, 2011 saw severe droughts afflict several parts of the country. On the opposite end of the spectrum, floods ravaged the Plains states in the spring and summer, displacing from their homes many people who live near rivers and streams. For those dwelling on or near the Eastern Seaboard, hurricane season is a tense time every year. Yet we need water as much or more than we need food, shelter, or the other "staples" of human life. Since ancient times we have established our communities near sources of water. We cannot survive long without it.

The tension between the saving and destructive powers of water fills today's lectionary readings. The waters of the flood overwhelmed the world in the days of Noah, yet 1 Peter reminds us that God delivered Noah and his family from death. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus only after his baptism by John, yet the Spirit immediately drives Jesus into the desert—a place defined by its lack of water. Through water and the word, in baptism our old, sinful self is put to death, and we are reborn as children of God. But the current that flows through these paradoxes is this: in death and life, in flood and drought, God remains faithful. As the psalmist reminds us, God's mercy and steadfast love "are from everlasting."

**THE ALTAR GREENERY** is given to the glory of God and in memory of Betty Funderburk Gibson, on what would have been her 100th birthday by Gay Clark, Reesa McCrorey & family.

**SERVING TODAY:**

**Ushers:** (8:30) Eric Wessinger, Ivan Black, Pat Bowen, Bill Carroll, Aaron Rawl, Vernon Hester, Deon Fink, Blaine Richardson, and Chad Geary;  
(11:00) Alon Cox, Matt Martin, Heyward Addy, Roy Welch, Brian Paeth, and Doug Harper

**Cantor:** Alyssa Romeo

**Flutists:** Bob Wingard, Stanette Brown

**Readers:** (8:30) Lacy Geary; (11:00) Ray Smith

**Communion Assistants:** (8:30) Neil Brown; (11:00) Ed Smith

**Order of St. Stephen's:** (8:30) [A] Luke Wenzel [C] Alaina Wenzel;  
(11:00) [A] Madelyn Burgess [C] Sophie Taylor

**The Church Staff**                      **Crisis Care Line: 808-6471**                      **Website: www.sslc.org**

The Rev. Jason T. Antley                      The Rev. Ralph G. Hill  
Mrs. Shannon Burnett, Director of Family Life                      Mrs. Tonya Reynolds, Parish Administrator  
Ms. Susan Wilson, Director of Music/Organist                      Mrs. Julie Tworzyanski, Preschool Director  
Mrs. Sylvia Looney, Organist Emeritus

**Sunday School Information:**

**Locations for Children's Classes**

**Locations for Adult Classes**

<b>Nursery</b> – Room #105	<b>Saints &amp; Sinners with Pastor Jason</b> Room #203 (Old Agape Classroom)
<b>2, 3, 4 year olds &amp; 5K</b> – Room #103	
<b>1<sup>st</sup>—2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b> – Room # 206	<b>Agape Adult Class</b> Men's Classroom (Downstairs)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room # 216	
<b>6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room #212	<b>Young Adult Class with Pastor Ralph</b> Chapel (Upstairs New Building)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b> – Room #217	

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