

**THE SPIRIT ENTERS:  
NICODEMUS VISITS JESUS  
JANUARY 25, 2026**



### **OUR MISSION**

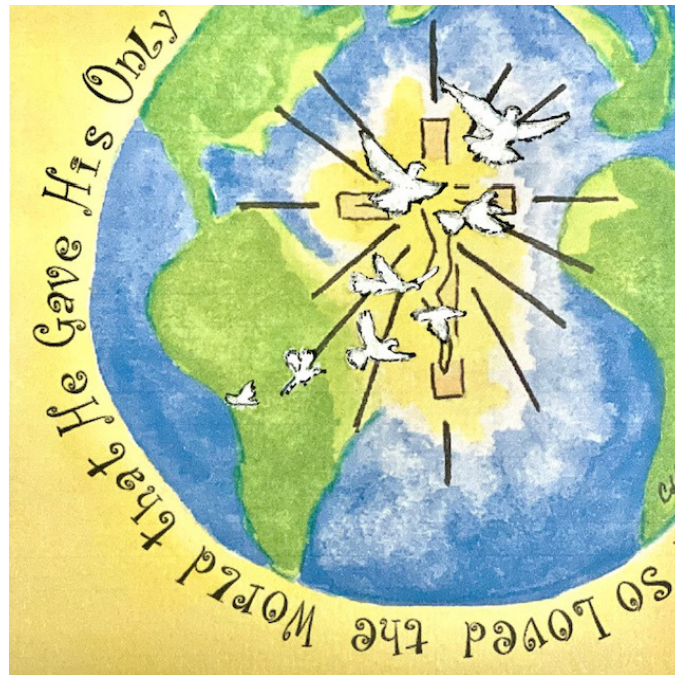
Journeying together in love  
for God  
and for all people.

### **OUR VISION**

A world where all people will  
experience love and know their value  
in the eyes of God.

Painting by Colleen Schenck

Out of the 3rd chapter of John we get two important messages – “That God so Loved the World” and ‘We must be born of the Spirit!’



### **PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

810-364-7081

1023 Michigan Ave. Marysville, MI 48040

ELW = red hymnal

ACS = purple hymnal

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The God who knit us together calls us now.

**We come in wonder at God's profound words.**

Let us hear and wrestle with God's Word together.

**God, teach us your truth in new ways.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God of grace and mercy,

**We who have seen the signs of Jesus' presence in the world  
still fall into doubt and despair.**

**We put our trust in ourselves and in the powers of the world,  
in material goods and in finite and fallible people.**

**In our fear we act out against our neighbors,  
and hurt those most in need of our help.**

**Restore our faith, O God.**

**Forgive us for our failings**

**and make us one with our beloved siblings throughout creation.**

Our God hears and answers, beloved, and with love and tenderness washes away all our sins. Know that you are always whole, always loved, and always held, even in your doubts and failings. Go forth with joy in this knowledge.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

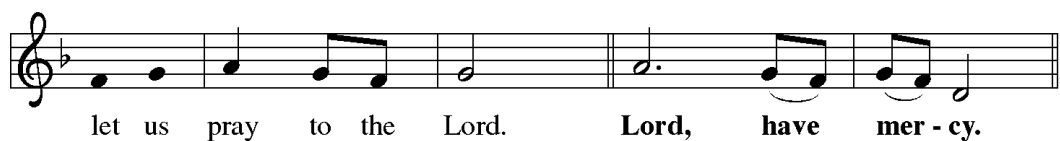
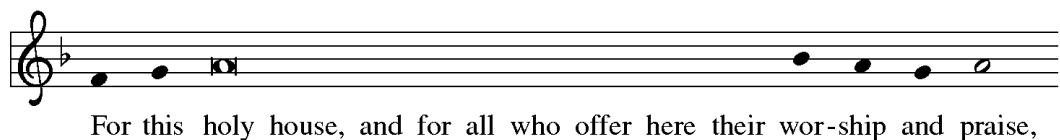
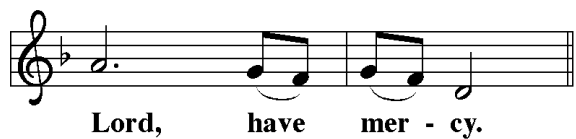
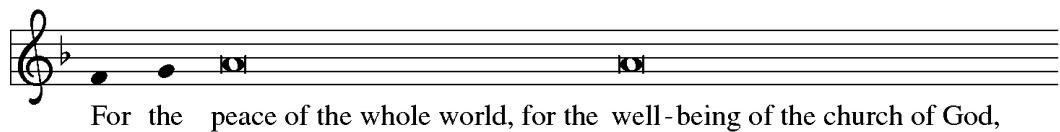
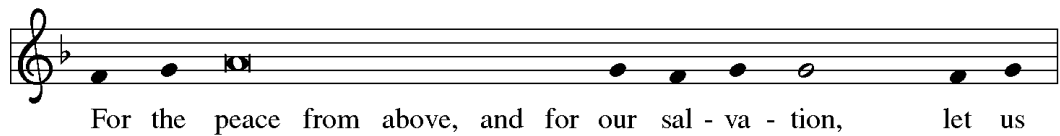
**ELW 836**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## KYRIE





Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 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.



*Refrain*  
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 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

*Continues on next page*



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 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.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Birth God,

You gave us new life when we were born of water and Spirit. Help us live into that new life, refreshed and renewed for your work. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## PSALM 139:13-18

*Psalm 139 is a song of wonder and trust, praising the God who knows us completely, formed us lovingly, and holds our lives from beginning to end.*

## WELCOMING THE GOSPEL

*Congregation stands to welcome the gospel.*

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

## **GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-21**

*Before the reading:*

The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*A Jewish leader seeks Jesus under cover of night to ask him the questions which plague his mind, safe from the criticism of his colleagues.*

*After the reading:*

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

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Mike Opfermann

### **SONG OF THE DAY**

*Borning Cry*

**ELW 732**

## **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 THE CHURCH**

*We respond to each petition:*

God of light, **hear our prayers.**

...With confidence in your mercy, we lift these prayers and those of our hearts into your care, through Jesus Christ our light and our life.

**Amen.**

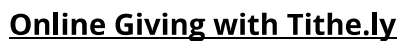


The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*The Table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.*



## OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the  
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,

**you provide all we need each day to live our lives to you.**

**Make us good stewards of your gifts,**

**that with humble hearts we might continue to offer them,**  
**as we do today, for your work of justice in the world.**

**Amen.**

## 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 musical notation for 'GREAT THANKSGIVING' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical notation for 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is more rhythmic and varied than the first hymn, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We do not need to sneak out to see Jesus in the dead of night. He stands on the mountaintop and proclaims for all to hear, "Come and be fed at this holy table!" Siblings in Christ, this invitation is for you, today and forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

### COMMUNION

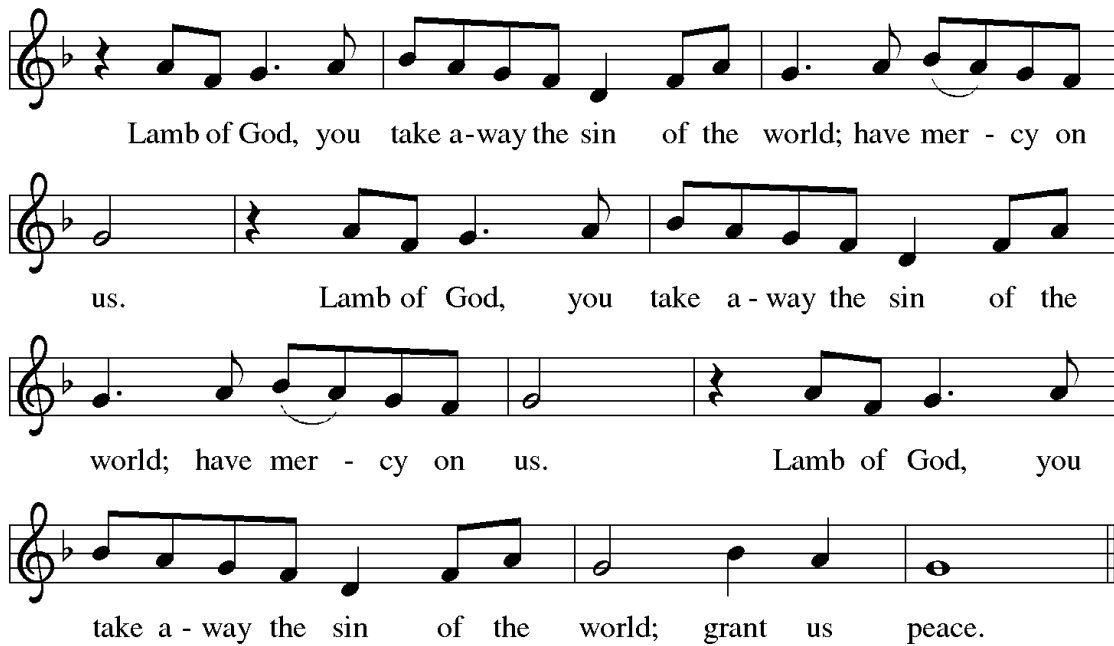
*All are welcome to Christ's table!*

*In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to receive bread from Pastor. You can then receive red wine from the chalice or an individual cup. White grape juice is also available in individual cups. As you return down the side aisle, you may dispose of your cup in the basket. If you would like to receive communion, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and we will come to you.*



*Gluten free communion wafers are available on a stand up front at the end of the aisle. This was manufactured on dedicated equipment in a dedicated facility. Not only is it gluten free, but it is also dairy-free, egg-free, peanut-free, fish- and shellfish-free.*

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

## COMMUNION SONGS

*Jesus Loves Me!*  
*When Long before Time (The Singer and the Song)*

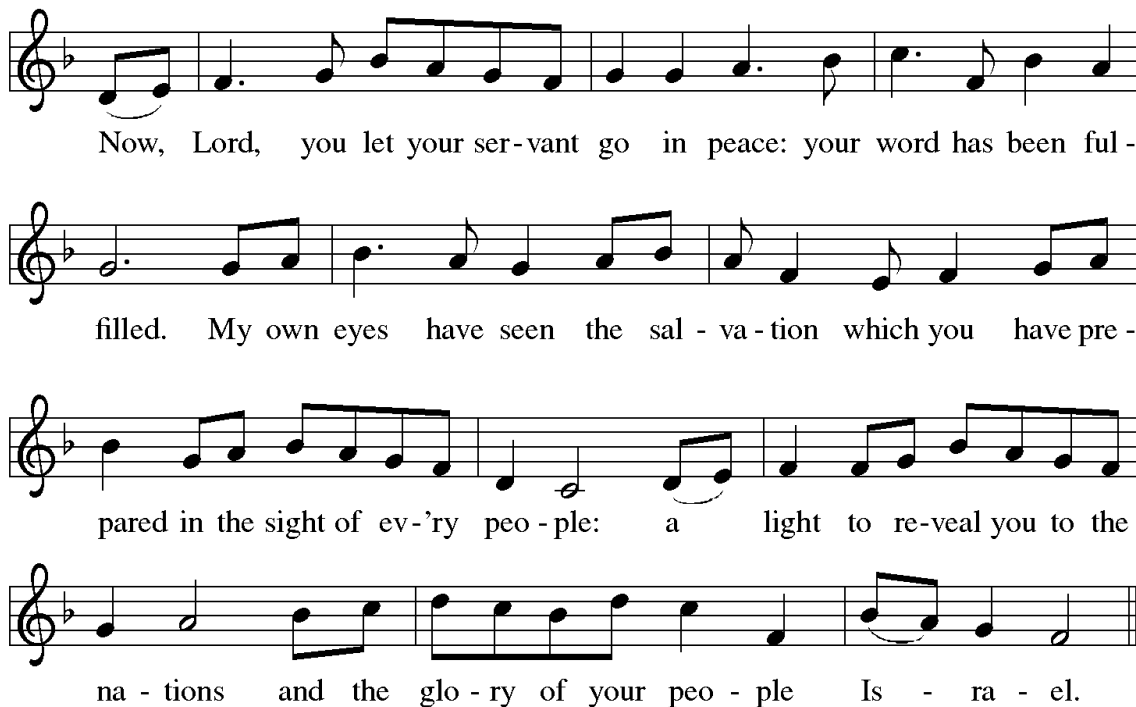
**ELW 595**  
**ELW 861**

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
**Amen.**



## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,  
**in this meal you have drawn us to your heart,  
and nourished us at your table with food and drink,  
the body and blood of Christ.**  
**Now send us forth to be your people in the world,  
and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Art Sign-up:



## BLESSING

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✝ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**ELW 543**

## DISMISSAL

We have come and seen. Go in peace to love and serve.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

From [sundaysandseasons.com](https://sundaysandseasons.com).  
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## **Super Bowl Subs**



***Orders taken through February 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Forms available at the Welcome Desk  
or in the office.***

*Pick up your Super Bowl Subs  
after worship on Sunday, February 8th.*



This Lent at



1023 Michigan Ave. Marysville, MI 48040  
pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org | (810) 364-7081



## THE WAY OF LOVE

FOLLOWING JESUS  
THROUGH THE  
GOSPEL OF JOHN

*A Lenten series that invites us to walk  
The Way of Love: A path marked by compassion,  
courage, humility, and hope.*

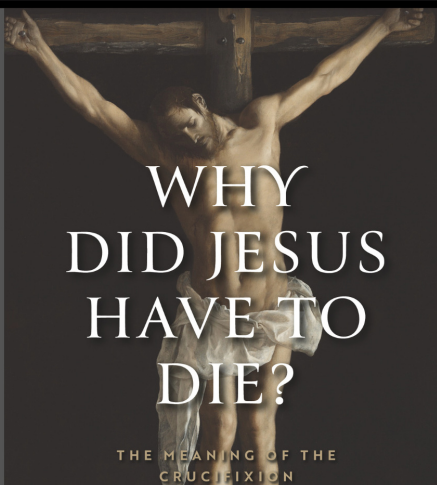
**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
February 18, 2026 at 6:30pm

**Series continues on Sundays**  
9:30am

**Lenten Wednesday Dinner Church**  
February 25 - March 25, 2026 at 5:45pm

*The crucifixion is central in Christian faith, but the New Testament offers few clear answers about how Jesus' death saves, or why, exactly, he had to die. We will ponder this together. Reading "Why Did Jesus Have to Die" by Adam Hamilton is optional.*

*A signup is available at the welcome desk for soup, bread, emptying the dishwasher, etc. Also, we are happy to help arrange transportation for those unable to drive at night - please contact the office.*




## WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

THE MEANING OF THE  
CRUCIFIXION

SAVE THE DATE:  
**EASTER WORSHIP**

April 5, 2026



7:05am: Sunrise Service at Riverlawn Cemetery  
*Easter Breakfast between services*  
9:30am: Easter Worship at Pilgrim



## The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news



Scan for this week's news



Scan to subscribe to our emails

### Serving in Worship

	<b>This Week</b> <b>Jan 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Next Sunday</b> <b>Feb 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Musician:</b>	Cindy Rogers	Cindy Rogers
<b>Worship Assistant:</b>	Mark White	Sally McDonald
<b>Worship Coordinator:</b>	Sue Winzeler	Everette Yaek
<b>Usher:</b>	Lynn Winzeler	Alex Merkau
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Ava VanSledright	Keagan Mischka
<b>Reader:</b>	Maya VanSledright	Mike McCarthy
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Everette Yaek	Alison Jackson
<b>Greeters:</b>	Greg & Kerry Nutty	Anita Varty
<b>Coffee Bar Attendants:</b>	Jenifer Kusch	Rick Carlson
<b>Coffee With Luther Hosts:</b>	Fred & Jean Russell	Joan Makowski
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Jenna Jackson	Nancy Bond
	Marilyn O. & Donna C.	Tracy Bond
<b>Bread Bakers:</b>	Jenna & Alison Jackson	Nancy Bond
<b>Offering Tellers:</b>	Angie Tucker	Peggi Starkey
	Jeff Tucker	Nadine LaGruth

### Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to purchase flowers for the sanctuary, see Flower Bulletin Board in hallway.

### Stay Connected

[www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](http://www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)

Pastor Mike Opfermann: [plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)  
Michelle Carlson, Dir. of Music: [plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)  
Sheri Bryce, Office Manager: [plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)

WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

### Next Week's Text

John 4:1-42; Psalm 42:1-3



*Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.  
Keep open or tear out before recycling your bulletin.*

**January 25, 2026**

**Nicodemus**

**John 3:1-21**



**Pray:** Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Holy God, pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and make us new creations each day, born again out of your eternal love for us. Invite us deeper into the mystery of your world-transforming presence, that we might follow you more closely. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



**Read:** Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. (John 3:5)



**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

A Jewish leader seeks Jesus under cover of night to ask him the questions which plague his mind, safe from the criticism of his colleagues. What he gets is an education in keeping things hidden.



**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
  - In baptism, we die to the old self to be born anew. What needs to die within you so that God can create new life there?
  - What would you ask Jesus if you could meet him in the middle of the night?
- For the littles: Are you afraid of the dark?



**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God give you new life in water and Spirit. Amen.



**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go swimming. As you swim, consider Jesus' blessings given in baptism.



**Go Deeper:** Go to [clergystuff.com/daily-devotions](http://clergystuff.com/daily-devotions) for devotions on the Narrative Lectionary daily readings.

Monday: *Jesus and John the Baptist*, John 3:22-30

Tuesday: *The One Who Comes from Heaven*, John 3:31-36

Wednesday: *The Inescapable God I*, Psalm 139:1-6

Thursday: *The Inescapable God II*, Psalm 139:7-12

Friday: *The Inescapable God III*, Psalm 139:13-18

Saturday: *The Inescapable God IV*, Psalm 139:19-24