



Sunday, March 8, 2026

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA 17857
570-473-3770
sjelc300@ptd.net**

WELCOME

As we enter into the season of Lent, our theme will be “All In” using resources from Barn Geese Worship. Jesus shows what it is like to be all in for the reign of God. It means being fully invested, deeply committed. There are no backup options. Everything is on the line.

Each week brings a different focus of the ways in which God calls us to go “all in.” Week three brings us the call to wonder with questions, surprise, and a true sense of awe. There is no end to the wonders of creation and life in this world that God has created for us to experience daily.

This Lent, God is all in for us. Let’s go all in for God’s love, too.

INVOCATION

We gather in the name of God, who created us, who was born to be with us, who guides us still.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

God knows our hearts, the guilt we carry, the heartache that keeps us awake, the burdens we bear. God knows that “happy are they who are forgiven,” and so we confess in confidence of God’s forgiveness.

A brief silence

Good and gracious God, We have sinned and fallen short of the good you desire for us and for all creation. We have seen the earth as resources to extract and forgotten to marvel at its beauty. We have doubted your ability to provide and hoarded more than we need. We have ignored the needs of the vulnerable, and when you called us to follow you to greater wonders, we remained where we were and

clung to control. Forgive our sin and our selfishness. Draw us out of ourselves, more deeply into your love, and more fully into a world in need.

God knows our sin before we do and meets every confession with abundant grace. In Christ we are alive and completely forgiven. God's goodness has the final word. May this gift renew our faith and lighten our load so that we are prepared to care for the world God so loves.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG Ask The Complicated Questions ACS 1005

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Awesome God, cultivate a deep sense of wonder in our hearts. When we have questions, give us even greater curiosity. When we feel ashamed to ask, give us courage. When we come before something too beautiful or too complex to understand, kindle in us a song of praise. May all of our wondering and wandering draw us deeper into relationship with you.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

read responsively

REFRAIN; Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

¹ Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

³ For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker. R**

⁷ For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸ **“Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’” **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world;* give me this living water that I may never thirst again. (*John 4:42, 15*)

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The

woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something."³² But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about."³³ So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?"³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work."³⁵ Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting."³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together."³⁷ For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.'³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done."⁴⁰ So when

the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **How Great Thou Art** **ELW 611**

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 PEOPLE

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that

produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (*especially*), and bring relief to places damaged by floods (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE

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

You may share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

MEAL

God provides for all our needs through Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued support with your offering. Offering may be placed in the offering plate on the table in the rear of the sanctuary, by mail or our on-line giving.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Spirit Open My Heart

ACS 1043

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Spirit, Open My Heart'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the refrain with a double bar line.

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

God who provides, we return to you a portion of all that you have given us. Bless and use these gifts, our hands, our hearts, our ministry, to care for the world you so love. Now prepare us to receive you at this table and again in the world beyond our doors. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

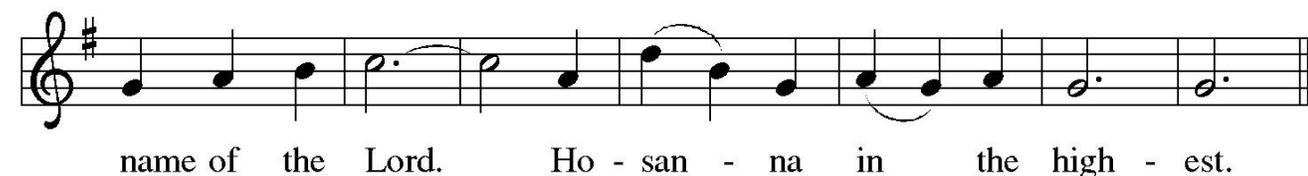
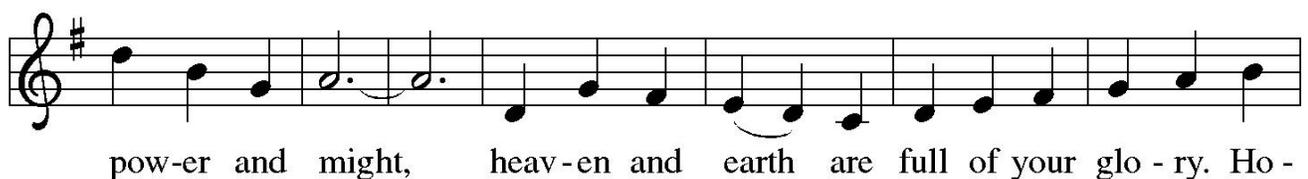
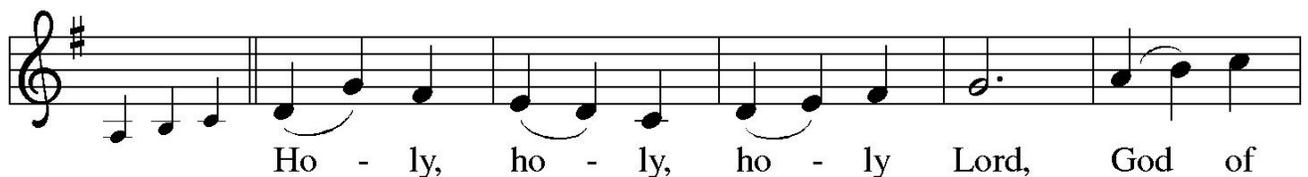
We lift them to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We have to praise you, we have to thank you, God, because the whole universe is filled with your wonders. On this very day you overcome the powers of death and destruction forever, and so, in thankfulness, we join the song of the angels:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Creator, you made a wondrous world and called it good. You planted a garden, and in it, you crafted your creatures, even our ancestors. When sin, pain, and death entered the world, you did not leave us but remained a lover and friend of humanity. You made outrageous and hope-filled promises to Abram and Sarai, you brought water from a rock when your people wandered in the wilderness, you saw the possibilities in least and lowly, and you knew that life could come even from dry old bones.

When at last the time was right, you were born to be with us in Jesus and joined us in the highs and lows of human existence. You met Nicodemus in his nighttime wondering, you welcomed the questions of the woman at the well, you witnessed the rejection of the man born blind, you wept at the grace of Lazarus, and you even went through death for us.

On the night of his betrayal and arrest, knowing it was time to give all of himself, Jesus took bread, 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. And so we remind each other and the world:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pour out your Spirit on us, your gathered people, and on this meal, your gifts of bread and cup. Through a holy mystery, let this become for us the body and blood of Christ. Let it remind us of the unending feast for which we are bound. Let it strengthen us, that we will become the body of Christ for the world you so love. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy, all are welcome!

COMMUNION

The assembly may be seated. Communion will be served at the altar rail. Prefilled cups with either wine or grape juice are available. Plastic cups can be placed in the trash receptacles at the end of the altar rails.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, you have revealed yourself to us again in the holy mystery of bread and cup. Strengthen us by your presence, draw us closer to one another as the Body of Christ, and send us to reveal you in our all our words and ways.

Amen.

SENDING AND BLESSING

As you have met God in this place, go now to meet God beyond this place. As you have received the love of Jesus, go now to give the love of Jesus.

As the Creator has been all in for you, go now and be all in for the sake of the world.

Gracious God, Parent, Sibling, and Spirit, + bless you as you go.
Amen.

SENDING SONG Before The Waters Nourished Earth ACS 1049

DISMISSAL

We go now with joy to be a light in our community, **to make Christ known to all through nourishing, serving, and faith. Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. *All In* © 2026 Barn Geese Worship. Used by permission. [Adapted by Pastor Karla Leiby.]

Pastor
Rev. Karla S. Leiby

Director of Music
William Jacavage

Greeter
Robin Heintzelman

Lector
Mike Erdley

Acolyte
Cameron Lehman

Communion Assistant
Tom Propst

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in memory of Jazmyn Williams, whose birthday is remembered by her grandmother, Tina Pontius.

THE BULLETINS and CANDLES are presented in memory of my son, Robert Snyder, whose birthday will be remembered on March 14, by Robyn Snyder.

This month's Special Pink envelope is designated for ELCA Disaster Response.

Noisy Coin/Quiet Cash collection through March is being designated to the Priestley Library.

40 Days of Lent collection is being designated for Kate's Kupboard. We will be collecting non-perishable food, personal care and cleaning supplies now through March 29th. Donations can be dropped off at on the table in the rear of the sanctuary.

Midweek Lent Services are being held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us in our journey through Lent.

Navigating the Challenging World of Dementia and Abuse Prevention presentation. All are invited to attend for further understanding of the dementia disease process, challenges it presents, and available resources. Gerontology certified presenters. Tuesday, March 31st, 6-8:00 p.m. at REC 429 8th Street, Selinsgrove. Register by March 13th at journeytojustice23@gmail.com or visit Facebook page Journey to Justice. Cost is \$10.

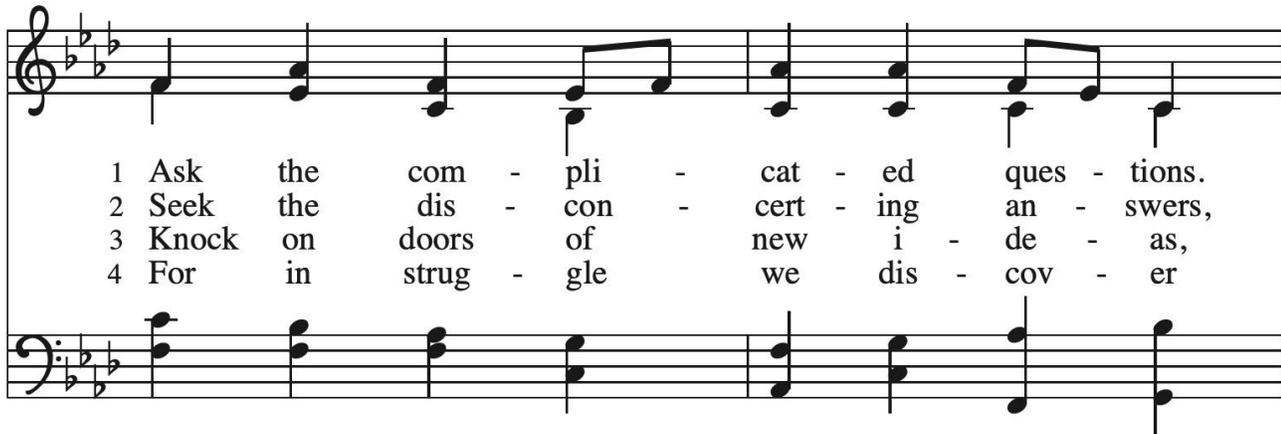
There will be Red Cross blood drive at St. John's on Thursday, March 12, from 1-6:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to donate blood to those in need. Blood supplies are low. Please give the gift of life to those in need of blood and blood products.

Crew 2307 will be having their annual Spring Fling on Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Come check it out !

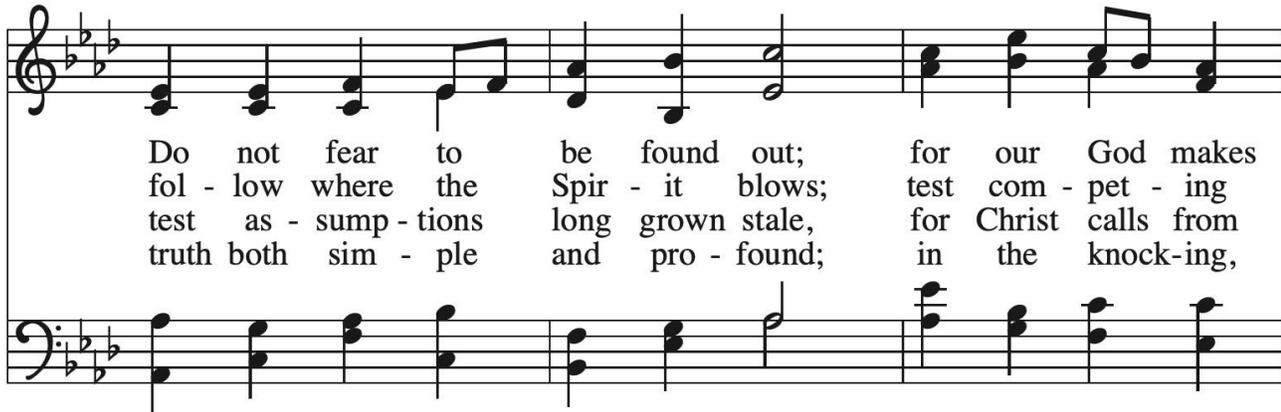
PRAYERS: Mary Siemsen; Beth Ginck; Sue Kurtz; Bill Wagner;
Stephanie Zettlemyer

HOMEBOUND and CONTINUED PRAYERS: Shirley Leiby; Jason
Gulden; Helen Snyder; June Diehl; Mary Rogers; Nevin Brungard; Elaine
Kohl; Nancy Hendricks; Betty Yerg; Jane Ressler; David Bartholomew;
Marti Row; Chris Eisely

Ask the Complicated Questions



1 Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques - tions.
2 Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers,
3 Knock on doors of new i - de - as,
4 For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er



Do not fear to be found out; for our God makes
fol - low where the Spir - it blows; test com - pet - ing
test as - sump - tions long grown stale, for Christ calls from
truth both sim - ple and pro - found; in the knock - ing,



strong our weak - ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

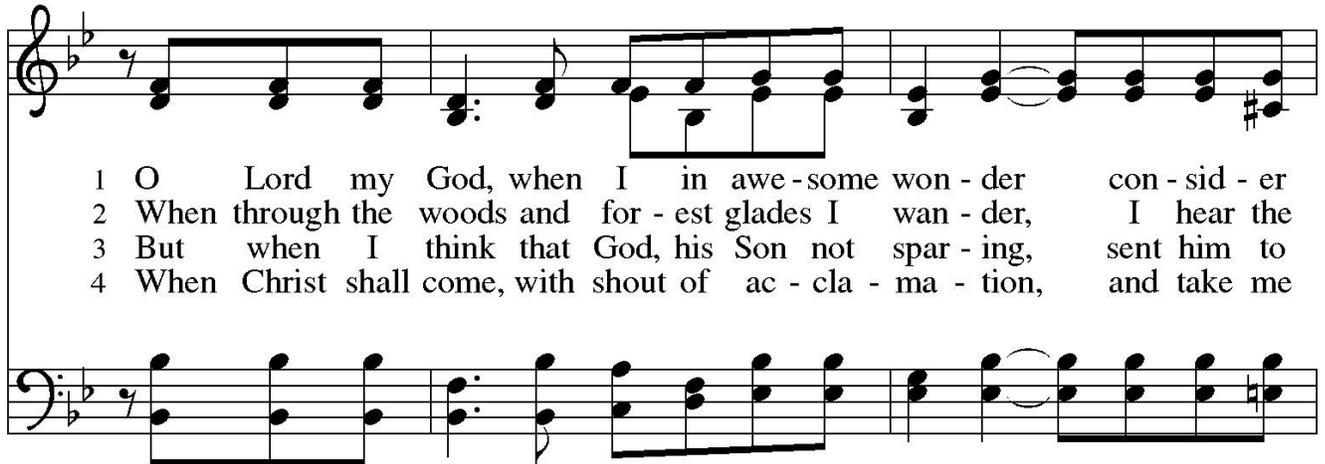
Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Text © 2018 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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

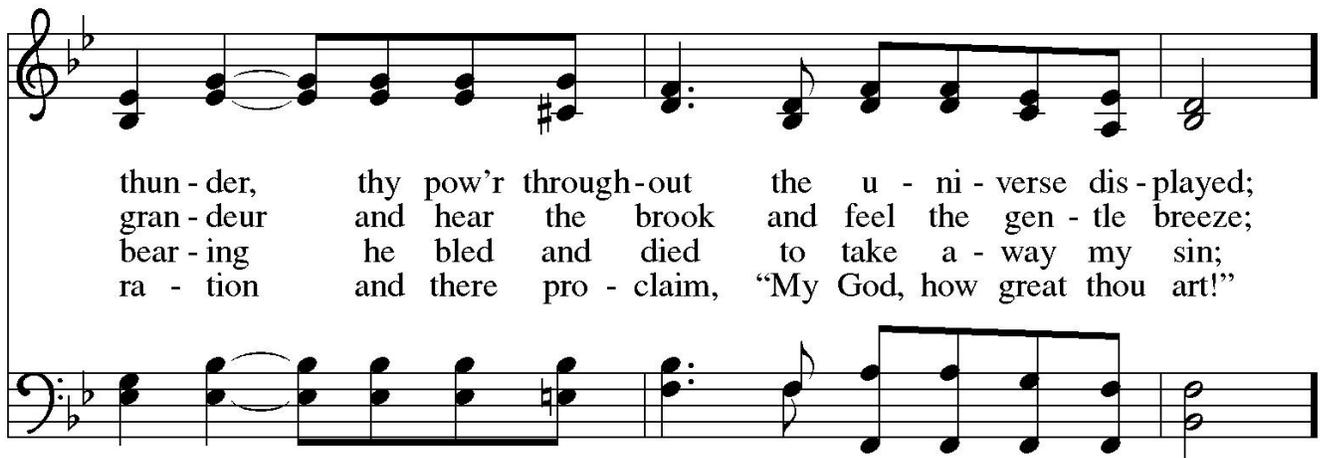
How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft-y moun-tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur-den glad-ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-



thun-der, thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played;
gran-deur and hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze;
bear-ing he bled and died to take a-way my sin;
ra-tion and there pro-claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee, how great thou

art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to

thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City, OR 97135 (ASCAP).

Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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