

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

+ April 6, 2025 +  
10:00 am



*Redeemer Lutheran Church*

*300 O'Neal Road  
Greer, South Carolina  
Office (864) 877-5876*

## Facing Death

Mary of Bethany recognizes Jesus' mission: he has come to die. Perceiving the new thing God is doing, she embraces his death and pours out her devotion to Jesus in an extravagant act. The prophet beseeches the Israelites to forget the old pattern of salvation – the dry way through the Red Sea. Now God will make a new way, a wet way, in a dry, barren, and death-filled place.

On this Sunday in Lent, salvation lies not behind us but before us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mary's action in the face of death is bold. She anoints a corpse, and in so doing honors Jesus' vulnerability and his life. She models love for the other disciples and for us.

By honestly facing the reality of death, we are more fully able to live honoring our own vulnerability and the humanity of others. We live with gratitude. We are more able to love one another and God extravagantly. However, in our culture, mortality is often avoided. The stench of death is removed through chemicals, and deceased bodies are cosmetically enhanced to appear as life-like as possible.

Each day, we the baptized boldly face death, trusting that God has made a new way, a wet way, to travel from death to life. God in Christ has honored human vulnerability by becoming flesh and by laying down his own life. He is the new way through a dry, barren, and death-filled place. Because Christ Jesus has made them his own, the baptized walk wet through the desert places of this life, pouring out the whole of their lives, down to the very last hair, in extravagant love for God and for the people God has formed.



Ministers  
Pastor  
Parish Administrator  
Director of Music Ministries

The People of Redeemer  
The Rev. Elise T. Stringer  
Mrs. Jackie Pitts  
Mrs. Donna Cotter

**Welcome to Redeemer Lutheran Church in the name of Christ our Lord.**

**WE WARMLY WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US** this Fifth Sunday of Lent. It is our hope and prayer that the God who destroyed death and made new life possible on this day will touch and transform your life for all the days to come. If you are a guest, please sign the Guest Register in the Narthex. If you have any questions, our Ushers will be happy to help you.

**IF YOU ARE SEEKING A CHURCH HOME**, we invite you to consider making Redeemer that home. For more information about Redeemer Lutheran Church, becoming a member, and sharing your gifts in ministry, please speak with Pastor Elise or contact Jackie Pitts at (864) 877-5876. **We will receive new members again on Easter Sunday, and we invite you to join us! By the grace and love of God, this commitment will change your life and ours.**

**OUR GOD MAKES ALL THINGS NEW. IN THE FIRST READING GOD PROMISES IT.** In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

***Our fully staffed Nurse for babies and children up to 4 years old, is located down the hall on the left. Ushers are happy to show you the way if you need the Nursery.***

**WE ENTER THIS SANCTUARY WITH REVERENCE FOR GOD  
AND RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO MAY BE IN PRAYER.  
PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.**

*The prelude is a time for QUIET reflection and prayer.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE DAY

**GATHERING**

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

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

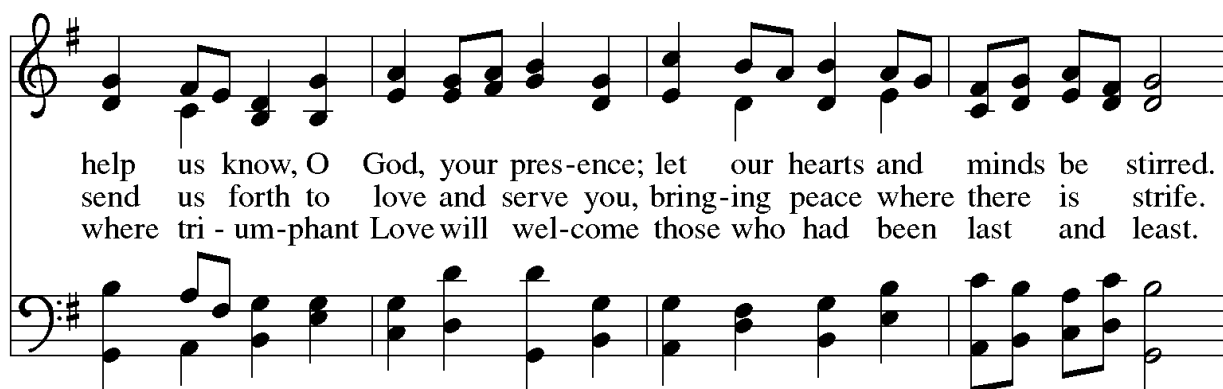
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.  
We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.  
Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In ✙ Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.  
**Amen.**



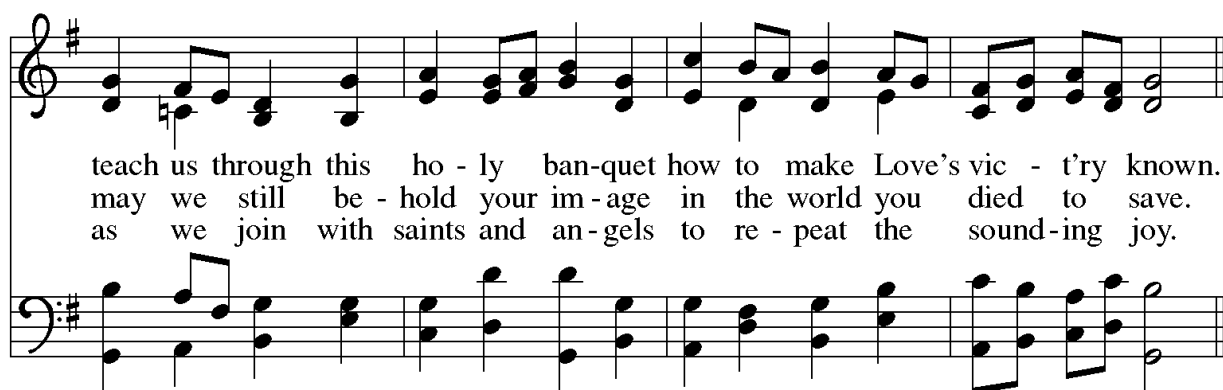
1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
 2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
 where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
 There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
 may we still be - hold your im-age in the world you died to save.  
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenliedjes en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932

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## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*We Sit*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

**Pastor Elise Stringer**

### WORD

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

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

A reading from Isaiah Chapter 43:

<sup>16</sup> Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: <sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. <sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM: Psalm 126

*Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.**  
**Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great | things for them."**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

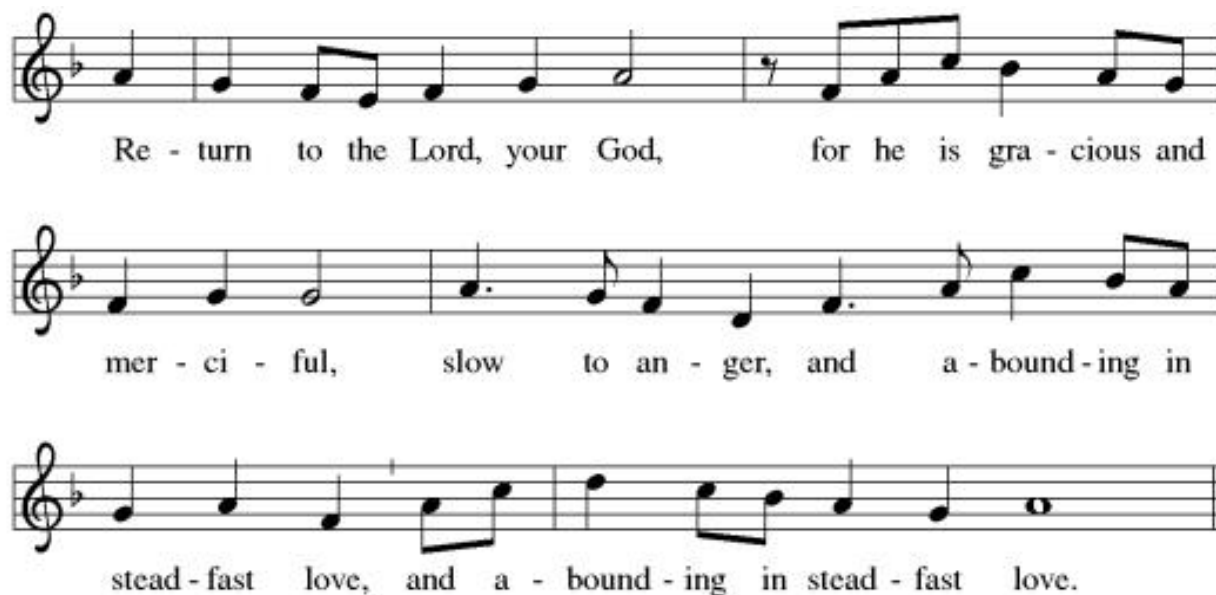
A reading from Philippians Chapter 3:

[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup> If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: John 12:1-8**

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

**THE SERMON**

**Pastor Elise Stringer**



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the first system of music. The second system of music continues the lyrics and includes a double bar line at the end.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.  
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

## NICENE CREED

*Offered by the Assisting Minister and congregation*

Let us confess our faith with the words of 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 INTERCESSION

*Offered by the Assisting Minister*

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need especially those on our prayer board and those we name before you now. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

*We share a sign of peace with others as we are comfortable. We sit.*

## MEAL

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

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY*

**Redeemer Choir**

## OFFERING HYMN

### Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



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 to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Offered by the Assisting minister and congregation.*

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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The Presiding Minister greets the congregation and invites all present to give thanks.*

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.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW#144

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

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover  
from death to life, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With the holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever. **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.

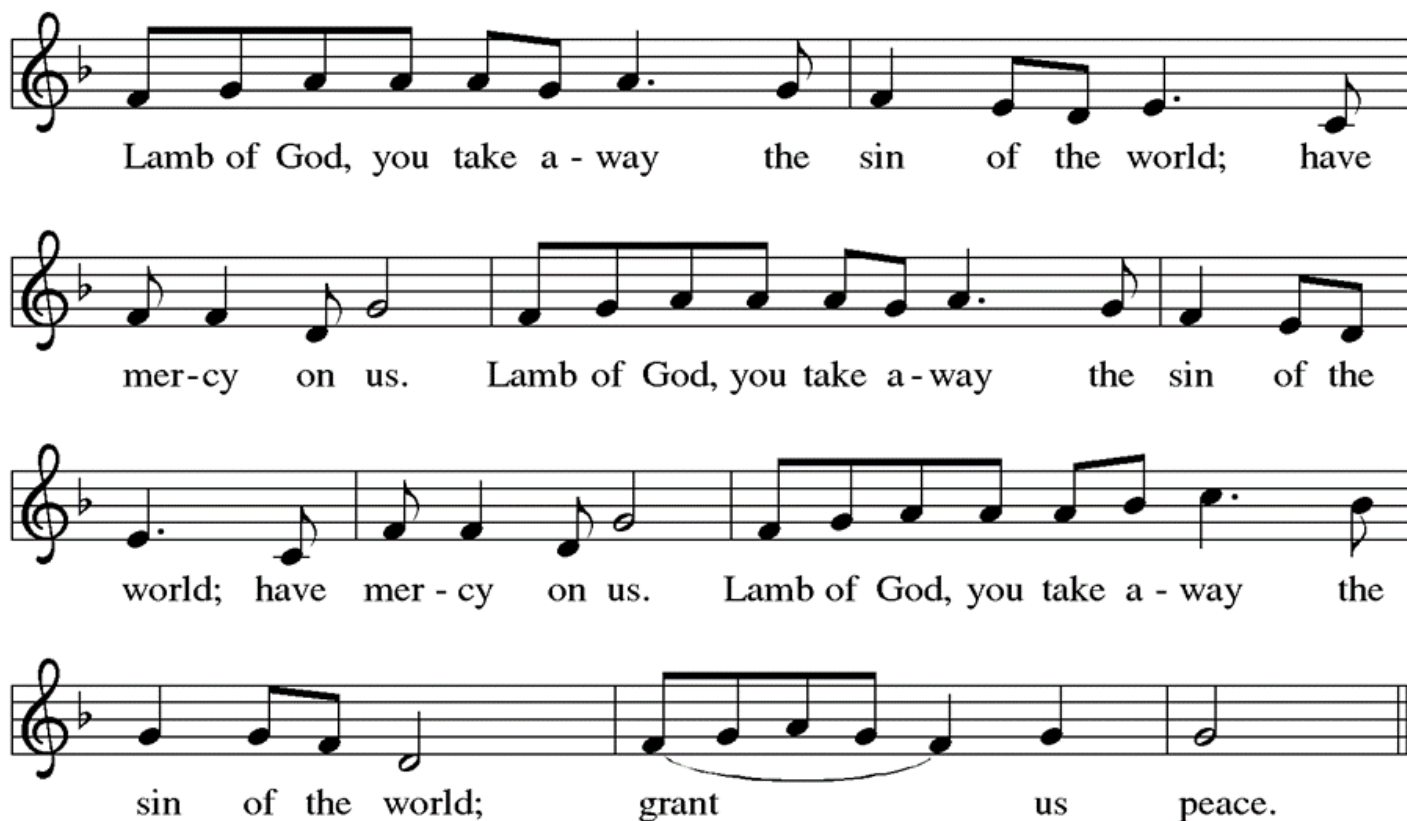
## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is before us. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMN

### LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146



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.

## HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*Congregation is encouraged to sing.*

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDEROUS CROSS  
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

ELW #803

ELW #733

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Please stand.*

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

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 love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

<b>SENDING</b>
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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## REDEEMER'S MISSION

Redeemers Mission is: **A lifelong family ministry of God's love!**

## SENDING HYMN:

*GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS*

ACS #1000

*(printed on next page)*

## DISMISSAL

*Offered by Assisting Minister.*

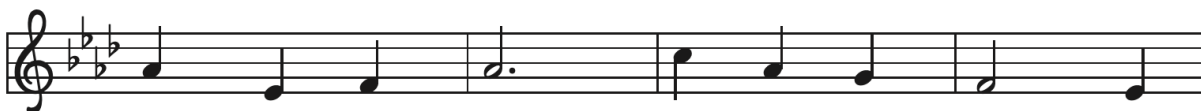
Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

**Donna Cotter, Organ**



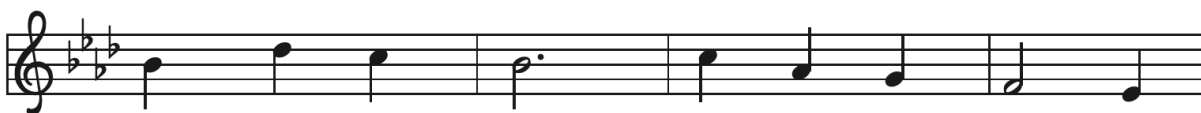
# God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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## Serving Today

<b>Ushers:</b>	Sam Kleckley and Tom Lewis
<b>Greeters:</b>	Wade and Barbara Tate
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Gordon Johnson
<b>Lector 1:</b>	Catharine Kirby
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Harold Neel
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jones Stringer
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Hannah Hester
<b>Cantor:</b>	Heather Hester
<b>Counters:</b>	Del King and Harold Neel
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Paula Ludwigson and Marilyn Barr
<b>Flowers:</b>	Lent, No Flowers
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	Michael Lybrand, Wade Tate, and BJ King
	<b>NO YOUTH GROUP</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	Lian King and Harper Meloon

## Serving Next Week - April 13, 2025

<b>Ushers:</b>	Chuck Pegram and Gordon Johnson
<b>Greeters:</b>	John and Sharon Fouke
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Phil Rhoads
<b>Lector 1:</b>	Joyce Frid
<b>Lector 2:</b>	Cindy Martin
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jacob Lybrand ( <b>WILL NEED A SUBSTITUTE</b> )
<b>Crucifer:</b>	Anna Smith
<b>Cantor:</b>	Chuck Pegram
<b>Counters:</b>	Del King and Harold Neel
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Donna Norman
<b>Flowers:</b>	Lent, No Flowers
<b>Sheepdog:</b>	Aaron Cornwell, Chris Felicia, and Tom Lewis
	<b>Easter Egg Hunt: 3:00-5:00 pm (BJ King, Renee Phillips)</b>
<b>Nursery:</b>	Chrissy Bristow and Lily Childers

## NOTES