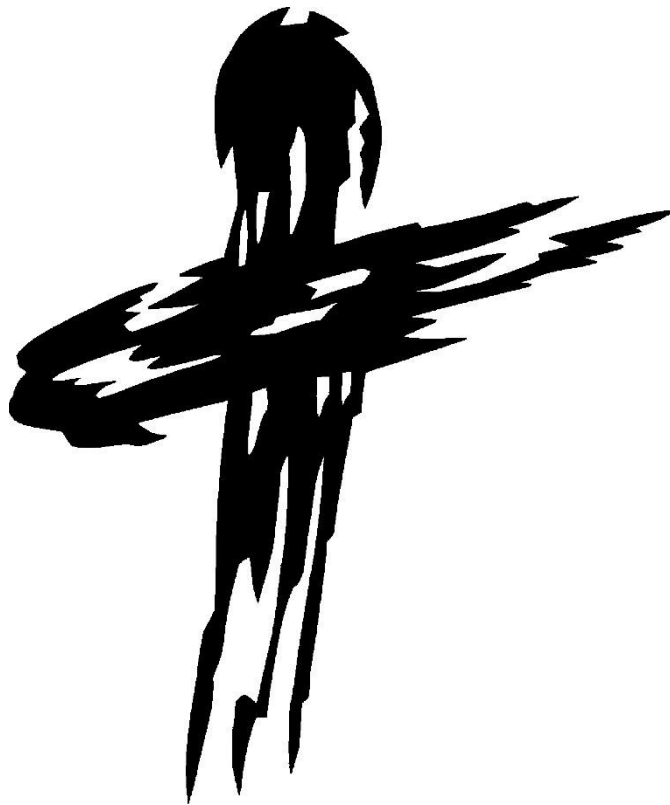


# ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm.



February 18, 2026

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

**New to St. Paul?** If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or [parishadmin@stpaularlington.org](mailto:parishadmin@stpaularlington.org).



## SUNDAY SERVICE

8:15am | Holy Communion  
9:30am | Dimanche Gras potluck breakfast  
10:30am | Holy Communion & livestreamed  
11:30am | Coffee Hour in Goodman Fellowship Hall

## LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

## SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY:

Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*  
Josh Davis, *Lector*  
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*  
Taryn Walsh, *Deacon*  
Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter, *Livestream Broadcast Team*

*\*Music note: the organ music this evening, two versions of the hymn "Out of the Depths (ELW 600), comes from Clavierübung III, often referred to as Bach's "German Organ Mass."*

*When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.*

*At the ✠, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.*

*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

The Congregation Gathers in Silence

*You may wish to reflect on Psalm 90 before the Service begins. It is printed in the hymnal.*

### PRELUDE

Chorale Prelude on “Out of the Depths”\*

J.S. Bach (ELW600)

*Tom Berryman, organ*

**Psalm 51** spoken together

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

**Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.**

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

**Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

**Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Let me teach your ways to offenders,**

and sinners shall be restored to you.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.  
Favor Zion with your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then you will delight in the appointed sacrifices, in burnt and whole offerings;  
then young bulls shall be offered upon your altar.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent — self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love — strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

#### CONFESSION OF SIN

*The presiding minister leads the following confession.*

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,  
and before the whole company of heaven,**

**that we have sinned by our fault,  
by our own fault,  
by our own most grievous fault,  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.  
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us  
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*People may come forward to receive the ashes.*

*The presiding minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*During this time, Peter Schmidt sings "Sign Us with Ashes."*

*After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*The presiding minister addresses the assembly.*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

*After a moment of silence, the Service continues.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# WORD

## FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from the prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion;

    sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,

    for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—

a day of darkness and gloom,

    a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains,

    a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old,

    nor will be again after them

    in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,

    return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,  
and relenting from punishment.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room  
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar,  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?' "

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



LORD, you are full of compas- ' sion and mercy,  
 slow to anger and abounding in ' steadfast love;  
**you will not al- ' ways accuse us,**  
**nor will you keep your an- ' ger forever.**  
 You have not dealt with us according ' to our sins,  
 nor repaid us according to ' our iniquities.  
**For as the heavens are high a- ' bove the earth,**  
**so great is your steadfast love for ' those who fear you.**  
 As far as the east is ' from the west,  
 so far have you removed our transgres- ' sions from us.

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
 and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



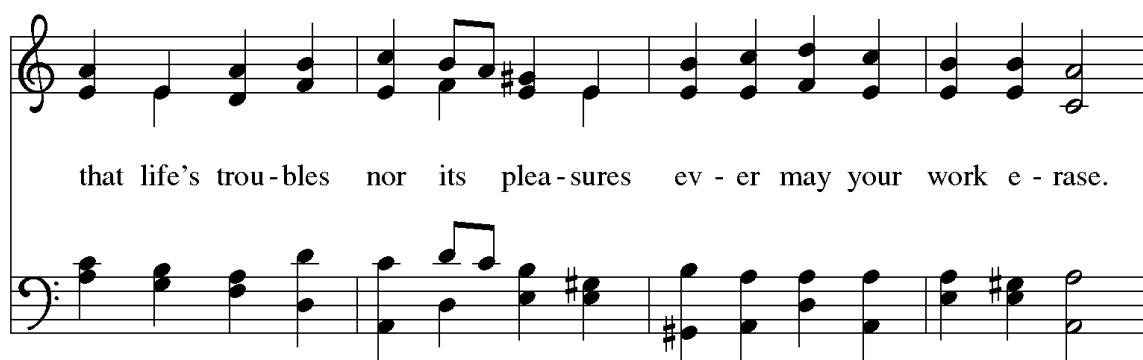
\* GRADUAL HYMN

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

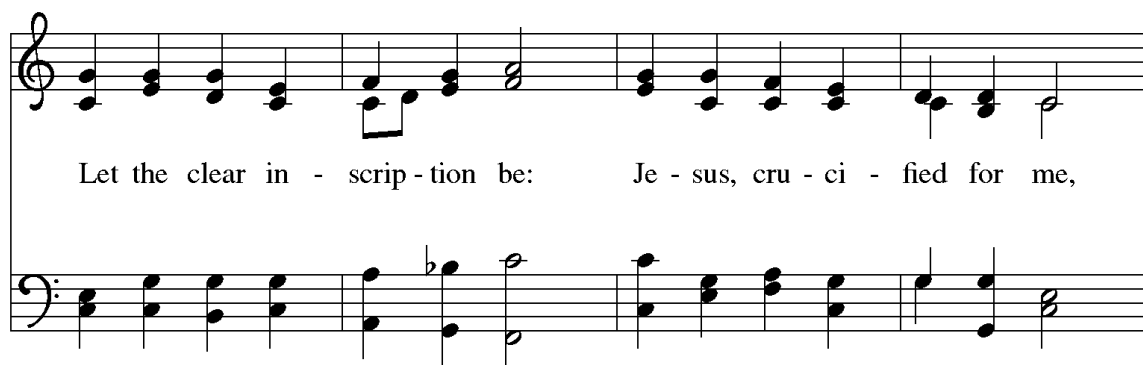
ELW 811



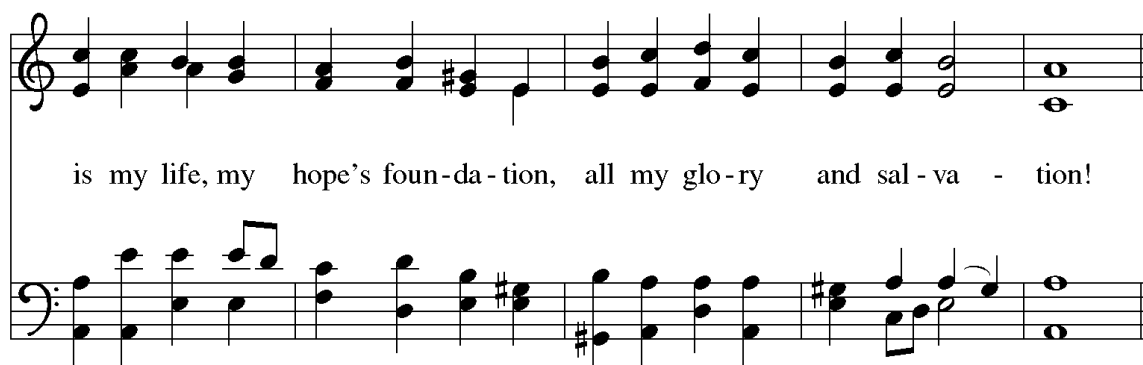
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

ELW 600



- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
- 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
- 3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
- 4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.  
 All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.  
 We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.  
 no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace  
 We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from  
 Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,  
 I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.  
 the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.  
 your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.  
 tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite  
 Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*As is our custom, please face one another across the center aisle. The deacon invites us to prayer and offers the first intercession. As you are moved to pray, you are invited to pray any of the following intercessions aloud.*

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

*A brief silence.*

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, especially Bobby, Dan, Diane, George, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan; bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for Martin Luther and all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

\*PEACE

*Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

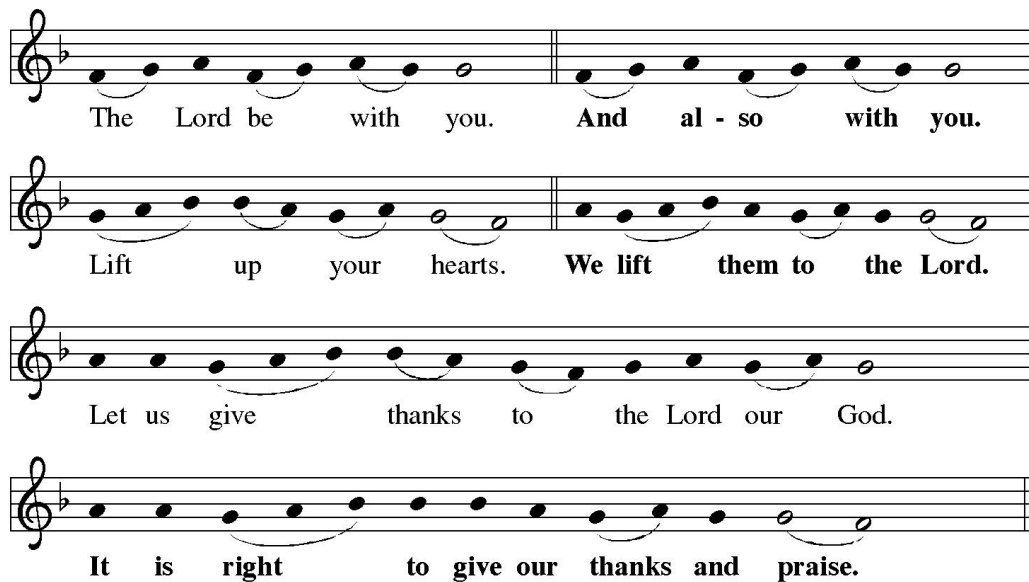
PREPARATION OF THE TABLE AND OFFERING

# MEAL

## \* OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



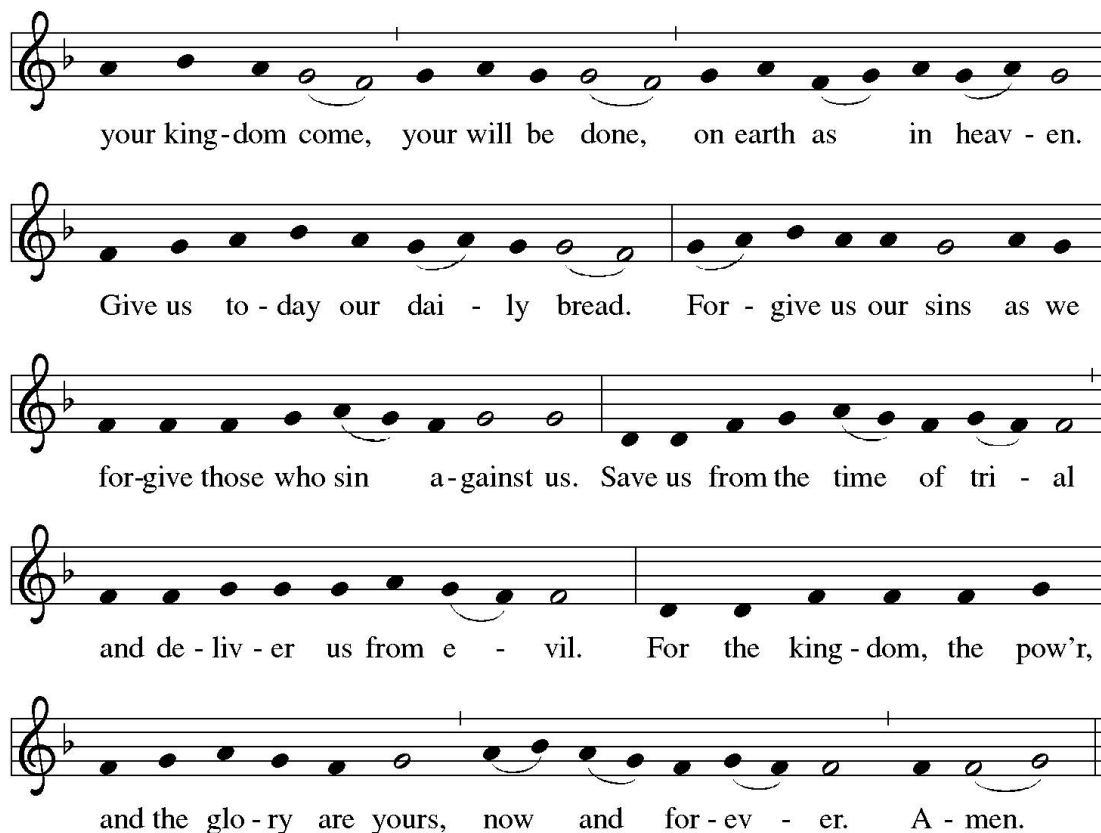
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the 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:

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 in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.  
 Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

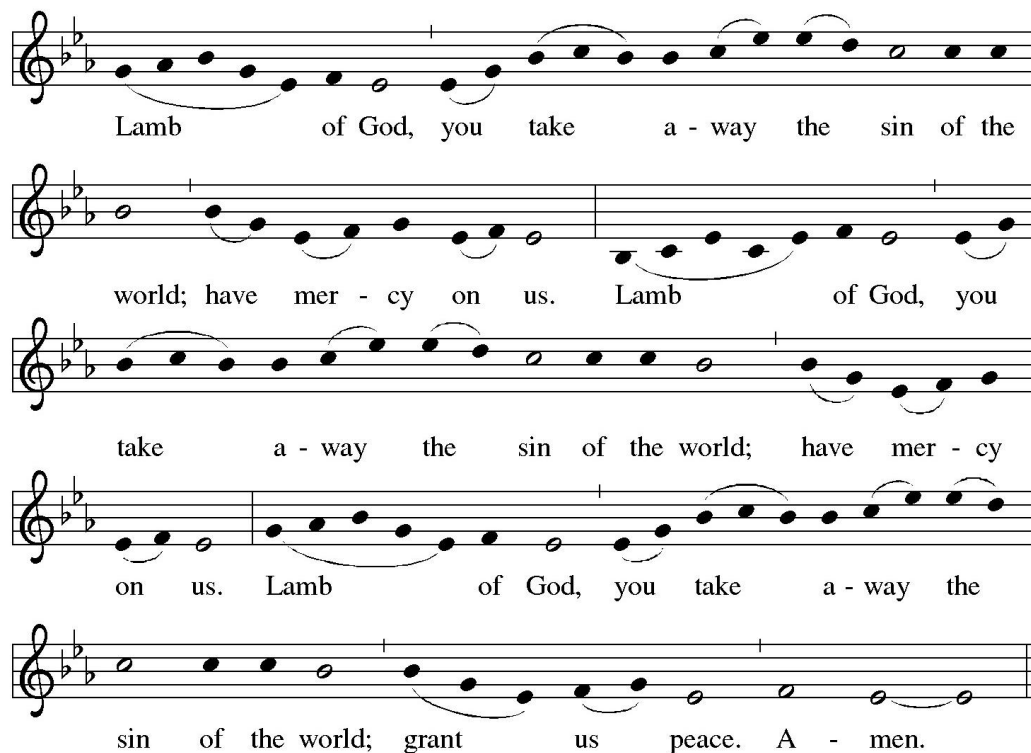
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

## THE COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.*

*Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.*



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. A - men.

# COMMUNION HYMN

Just as I am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry  
 shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871  
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## \*TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



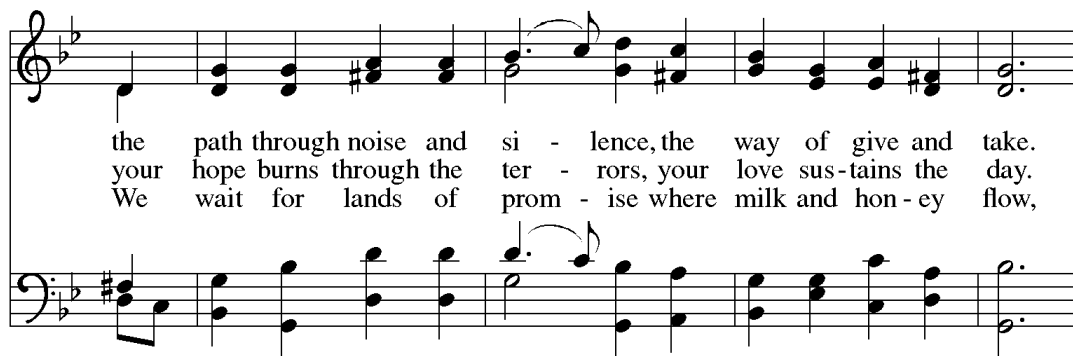
\* SENDING HYMN

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.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993  
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

## DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Chorale Prelude on "Out of the Depths"

J.S. Bach (ELW600)  
*Tom Berryman, organ*





# SAINT PAUL

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

[www.stpaularlington.org](http://www.stpaularlington.org) | 781-646-7773

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Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

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Eric Carlson

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Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

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Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Property Committee

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Bev Hjorth

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Eric Carlson



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



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