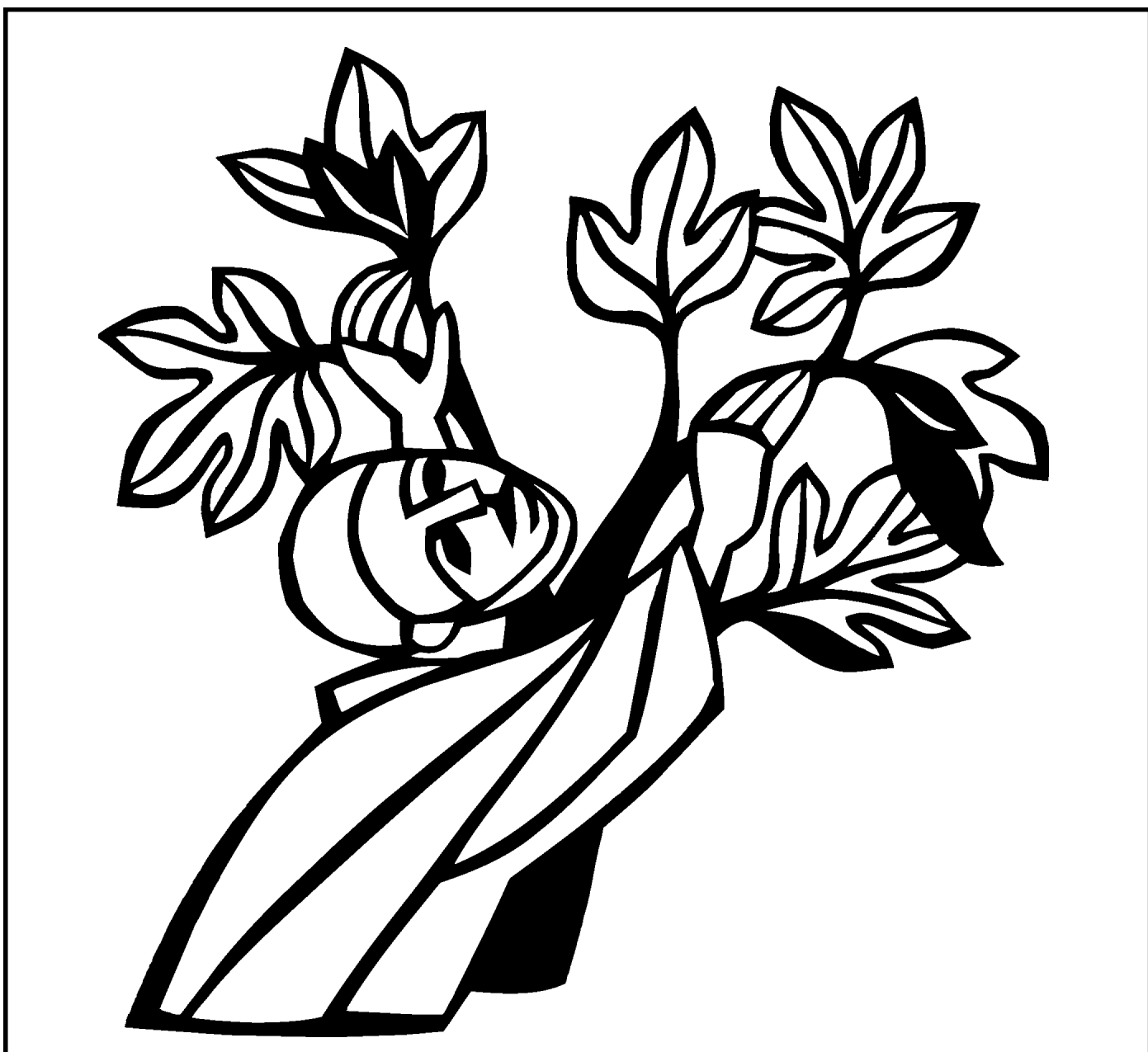


# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Traditional Service



**We welcome you to The Traditional Service this morning**

## Our Staff

**Cindy Anderson, Parish Administrator** Email: [secretary@messiah-erie.org](mailto:secretary@messiah-erie.org)

**Bonnie Stearns, Director of Utilities**

**Michelle Flaherty, The Gathering Music Minister:** [mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org](mailto:mlcmusic@messiah-erie.org)

**Pastor Tom Glasoe, Email:** [pastor@messiah-erie.org](mailto:pastor@messiah-erie.org) Cell: 814-460-8529

***Our Mission:***

*Glorifying God through our worship, our witness, our service,  
and our support*

***Our Vision:***

*To build and strengthen the body of Christ*

**Holy Communion**

To help you feel more comfortable please know that all baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament and have already received Holy Communion in your home church, are welcome to come to the altar and receive Holy Communion.

To receive the sacrament:

1. Communicant should receive the consecrated host from the Pastor and then proceed to the Assisting Minister who will be standing near the sanctuary pillar on whichever side of the church is being communed to receive a prefilled communion cup;
2. If the communicant prefers the consecrated grape juice, they shall receive that from the Pastor.
3. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know and the pastor will bring Holy Communion to you.

**Assisting at Worship:**

	<b>Today</b>	<b>March 30</b>
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	Savanna Conner	Savanna Conner
<b>Lector</b>	Laurie Hecht	Laurie Hecht
<b>Usher</b>	TBD	TBD
<b>Sound System</b>	TDB	TDB
<b>Video</b>	Brad Bresee	Savanna Conner
<b>Counters</b>	Linda Jones	Laurie Hecht, Linda Jones
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ann Kent, Linda Voigt	

*We welcome Matt Lowther as our musicians today.*

## ***Welcome/Announcements***

### ***The Great Lenten Litany***

- P** Lord, have mercy.
- P** Christ, have mercy.
- P** Lord, have mercy.
- P** O Christ, hear us.
- P** God, the Father in heaven,
- P** Be gracious to us.
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- G** **Christ, have mercy.**
- G** **Lord, have mercy.**
- G** **In mercy hear us.**
- G** **have mercy on us.**
- G** **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death:
- G** **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** From war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason:
- G** **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** From epidemic, drought, and famine; from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning, and storm: and from everlasting death:
- G** **Good Lord, deliver us.**
- P** By the mystery of your incarnation; by your holy birth:
- G** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** By your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by your agony and bloody sweat; by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial:
- G** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** By your resurrection and ascension; by the gift of the Holy Spirit:
- G** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- G** **Save us, good Lord.**
- P** Though unworthy, we implore you
- G** **to hear us, Lord our God.**
- P** To rule and govern your holy catholic church; to guide all servants of your church in the love of your word and in holiness of life; to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense to those who

would believe; and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone astray:

**G We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful workers into your harvest; to accompany your word with your Spirit and power; to raise up those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the distressed:

**G We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**G We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**G We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**G We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**G we implore you to hear us.**

**P** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**G have mercy on us.**

**P** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

**G give us peace. Amen.**

**P** O Christ, hear us.

**G In mercy hear us.**

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**G Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Christ, have mercy.

**G. Christ, have mercy.**

**P** Lord, have mercy.

**G** Lord, have mercy.

### **Gathering Hymn**      *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

### **Greeting**

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

**G** And also with you.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And also with you.

**P** Let us Pray: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Lesson****Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

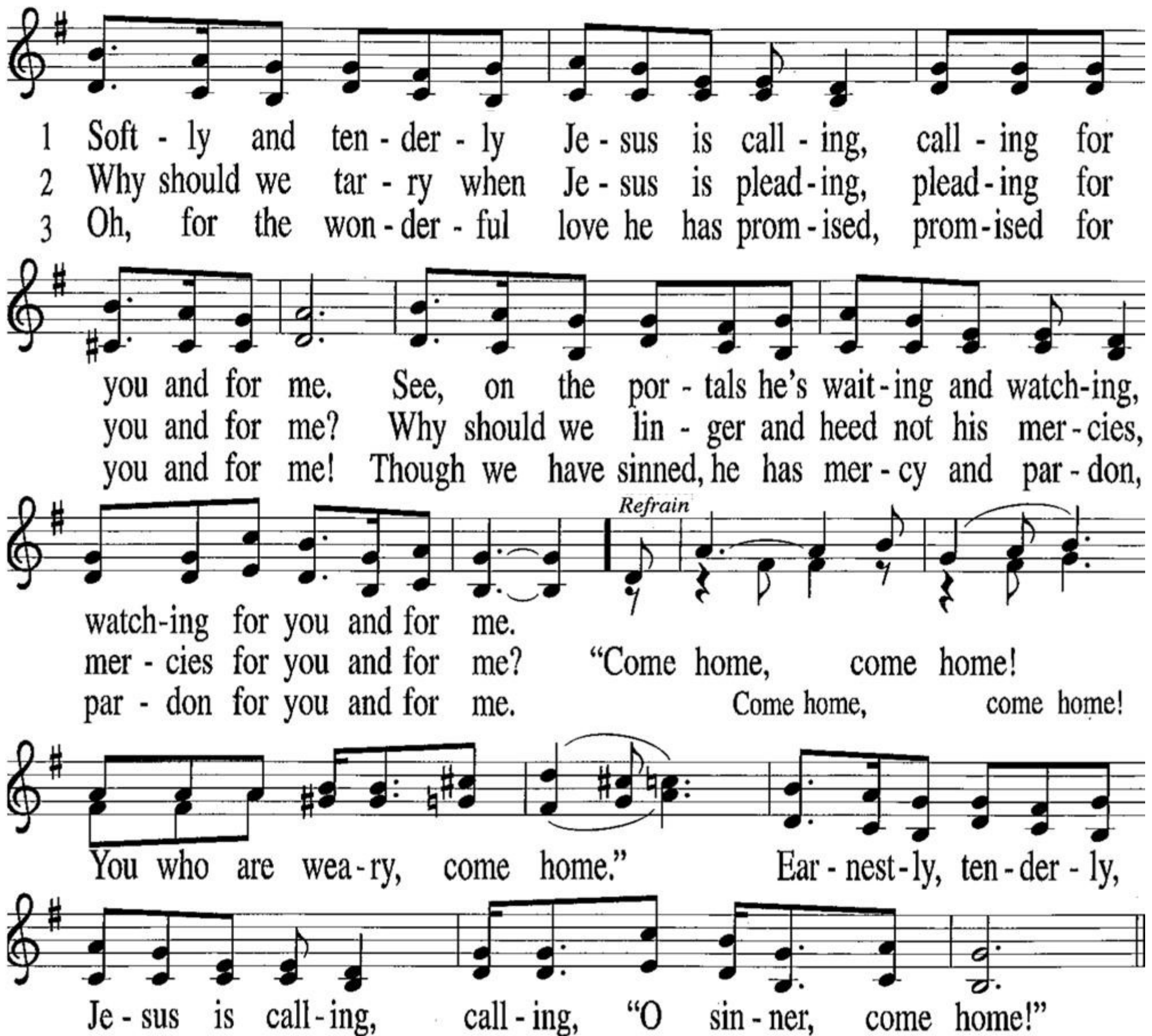
Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**A** The Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## MESSAGE

### Hymn of the Day *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for  
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,  
watch - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!  
par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!  
You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

### Creed

**P** Let us confess our faith with the word of the Apostles' Creed:

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again 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***

- A** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. God, in your mercy,.....
- G** **receive our prayer.**
- P** 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.
- G** **Amen.**

## ***Peace***

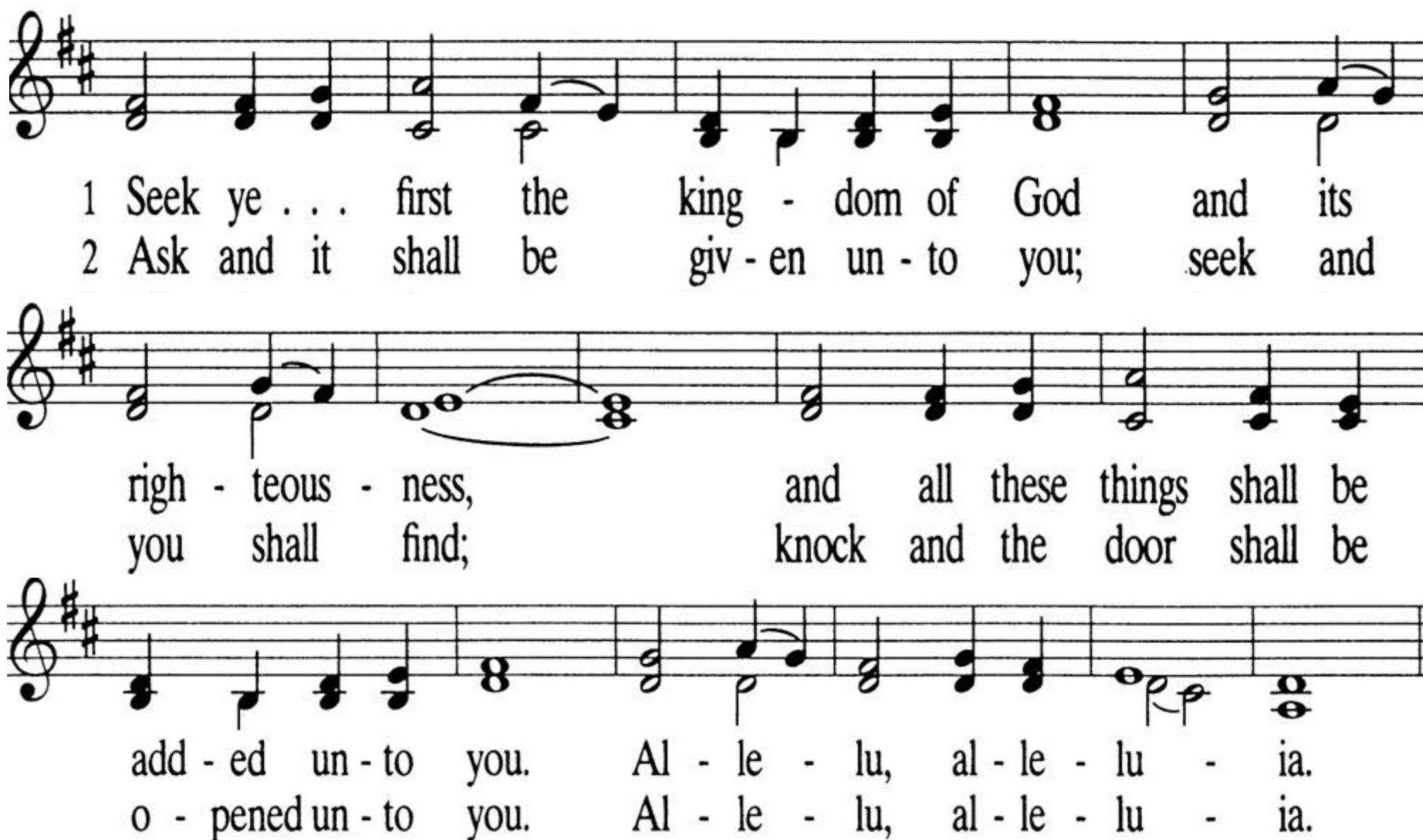
- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

## ***Instrumental music while the Altar is being prepared***

### ***Offertory Hymn***

### ***Seek Ye First***

***[stand]***



1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its  
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and  
righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
you shall find; knock and the door shall be  
add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

## ***Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self***

- A** Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Gracious Provider,
- G** **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.** 8



## ***The Great Thanksgiving***

- P** The Lord be with you.      **C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.      **C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
   **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## ***Preface***

### ***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord***



**C** 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.

## ***Eucharistic Prayer***

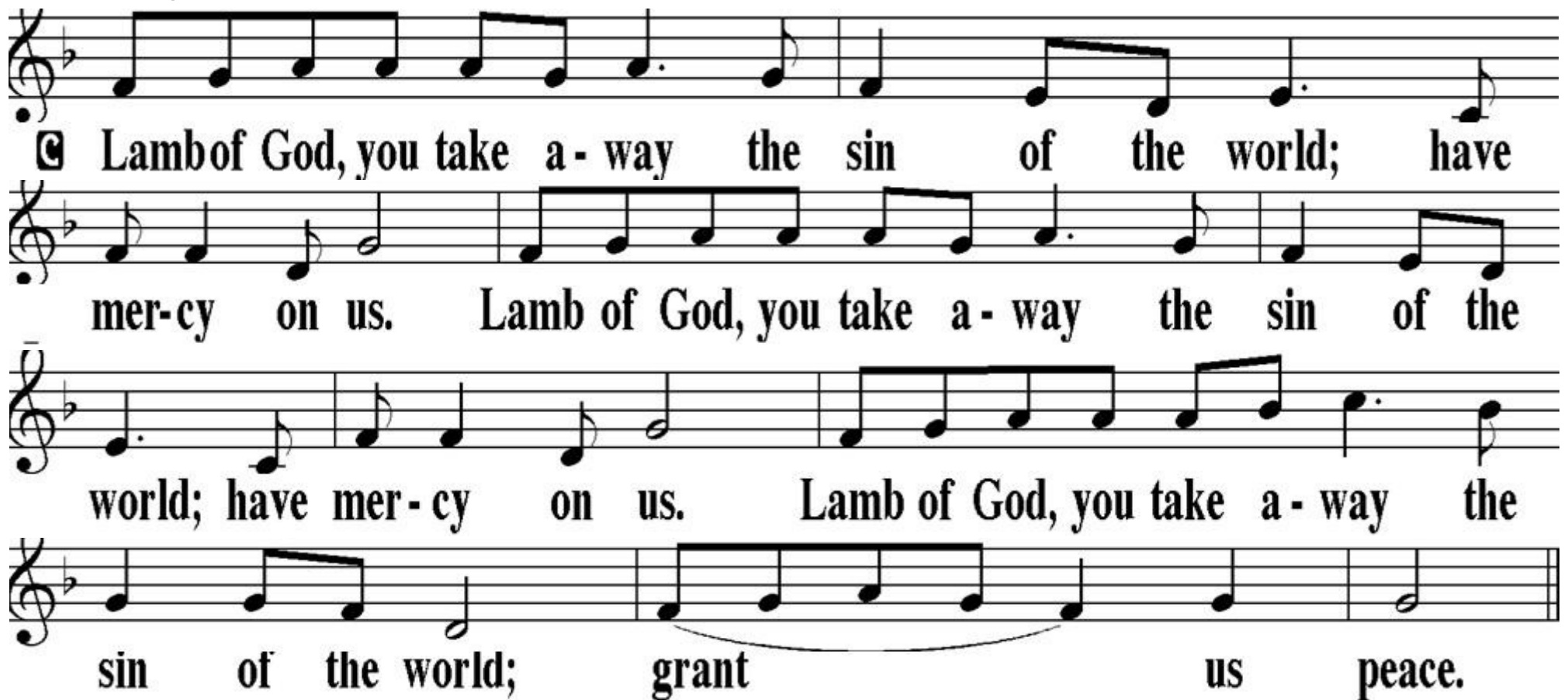
### ***The Lord's Prayer***

- C** 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***

- A** All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

## **Lamb of God**



**C** 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.

## **Distribution of Communion** [sit]

### **Communion Music** Instrumental

### **Post Communion Blessing**

**P** The body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his name. **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

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

**C** Amen.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**A** Let us pray. (*brief pause*) Generous Host,

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

### **Blessing**

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

**C** Amen.

**Sending Hymn    Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

**Dismissal**

- A** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
- G** Thanks be to God.

*The Palms are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the March 25th birthday of Robert "Bud" Bresee and the memory of his March 27th passing by the Bresee and Mills Families*





## *Announcements*

**S**econd Mile Giving is that stewardship we offer in addition to our regular giving. For **March, Youth Ministry** is our Second Mile Giving beneficiary. Contributions may be made throughout the month by using the yellow envelopes found in the pews. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**W**esleyville Food Pantry: Please consider a financial gift. Checks should be made payable to Messiah Lutheran Church marking "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

**L**enten Soup Supper & Vespers: **Wednesday, March 26, April 2 & 9, at 5:30 pm for supper, 6:00 pm Vespers** in Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex to bring a soup or see Cindy for more options!

**E**aster Flowers: order forms are on the counter in the Narthex. Help us beautify our church for Easter by sponsoring a spring, potted flower. for \$8.00 per plant. All orders are due by **Sunday, March 30!**

**O**WLs: Great Lakes Popcorn Company (located in the Colony Plaza) tour **Tuesday, April 8 at 10:30 am**. Lunch at the Colony Restaurant afterwards. Please RSVP to Karen Pistner at 814-899-4337 for one or both events by Friday, April 4!

**I**t's All Greek to Me Bible Study: Pastor Tom is leading a weekly Bible study on **Wednesdays at 6:30PM** Fellowship Hall.

**W**esleyville Food Pantry Volunteers Needed

April 1 at 5:00-6:00pm for Country Fair distribution.

April 7 at 10:00am to unload senior boxes.

April 14 at 10:00am to unload food delivery.

April 15 at 10:00-11:00am & 5:00-6:00pm for regular food distribution

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRELIMINARY 3-YEAR VISION  
PROPOSED - 2025 to 2027**

**WORSHIP**

**Start?**

Technology

Add Screens in sanctuary	(2025)
Update website	(2025)
Obtain Hearing Assisted Devices	(2025)

Music Ministry

Build out the Band	(2025)
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**CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY**

Bubble Church	(2025-2026)
School Day Off Camp	(2025)
Milestone Ministry	(Sept. 2025)

**PROPERTY**

Fix Front Electronic Sign	(DONE)
Repair/Purchase Boiler	(DONE)
Plumbing Upgrades/Restrooms	(2027)
Buy New Freezer	(ASAP)

**IN-REACH**

Recruit and Train More Volunteer	(2025)
Train in-home communion ministry	(2025)

**EDUCATION**

Bible Study (Adult and Children) - have more options	(2025-2027)
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**OUTREACH**

Maintain Community Garden	(2025-2027)
Continue Back to School Bash	(2025-2027)
Continue participation in Community National Night Out	(2025-2027)

**FELLOWSHIP**

Explore more group events	(ongoing)
Continue to grow OWLs ministry (spiritually and fellowship)	(ongoing)
Lutheran Walkers	(2025)

## This Week at the Church

*(See Newsletter for More Detail)*

**Office Hours :Monday, Closed Tuesday, 10:00am-5:00pm,  
Wednesday-Closed, Thursday, 10:00am-5:00pm,  
Friday-10:00am-5:00pm**

<b>Sun. 3/23</b>	<b><i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion
	2:00-4:00PM	FootSteps Reunion
<b>Mon.</b>	6:30PM	Guided Meditation
<b>Tues.</b>	10:00PM	Sewing Circle
<b>Wed.</b>	5:30PM	Lenten Soup Supper
	6:00PM	Vesper Service
	6:30PM	It's All Greek to Me Bible Study-SL
<b>Thu.</b>	10:00AM	Grateful Prayer Group-CC
	7:30PM	NA Group
<b>Fri.</b>	7:30PM	AA
<b>Sun. 3/30</b>	<b><i>4th Sunday in Lent</i></b>	
	8:30 and 11:00AM	Service of Holy Communion