



House of Prayer Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent, Year C

**House of Prayer is a gathering of God's people connecting our faith to our daily lives,
so that all would encounter Christ in each person**

*Holy Communion will be part of this worship service,
the invitation to share in Communion comes from Jesus himself,
whether this is your first time or you have been to the table many times before, **you are welcome.**
whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church at all, **you are welcome.**
if you are uncertain or have been rejected in other spaces, **you ARE welcome here!***

*We practice communion by intinction which means our ushers will invite you forward to one of
our communion stations where you will be given a wafer of bread, hold on to it, you will then be
presented with a chalice which contains wine and a small cup which contains grape juice, dip the
wafer into whichever is your preference and consume the elements trusting they are Christ's body
and blood, given and shed for you.*

*We have gluten free wafers and a separate chalice available. If this is a need, please let the server
know and we will make this available to you.*

*If you prefer to receive Communion in your seat, let your usher know and our Communion servers
can come to you, or they can provide you with a prepackaged Communion kit.*

(The "+" insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude: *Fantasie in c minor*

J.S. Bach

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

Ring of the Bell *(please remain seated)*

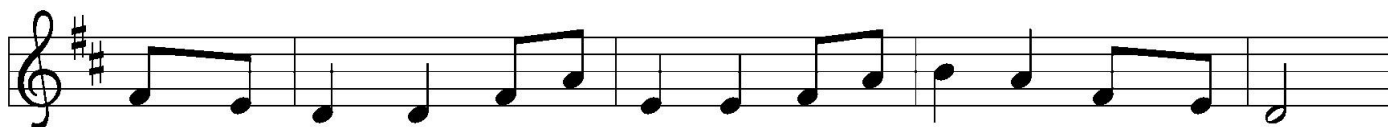
Call to Worship

L: We gather the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

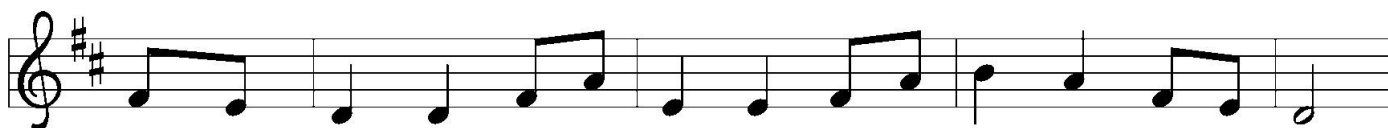
C: We gather seeking the Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding
in steadfast love. Amen.

+Gathering Hymn: *ELW 807 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

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.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

+Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

C: Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

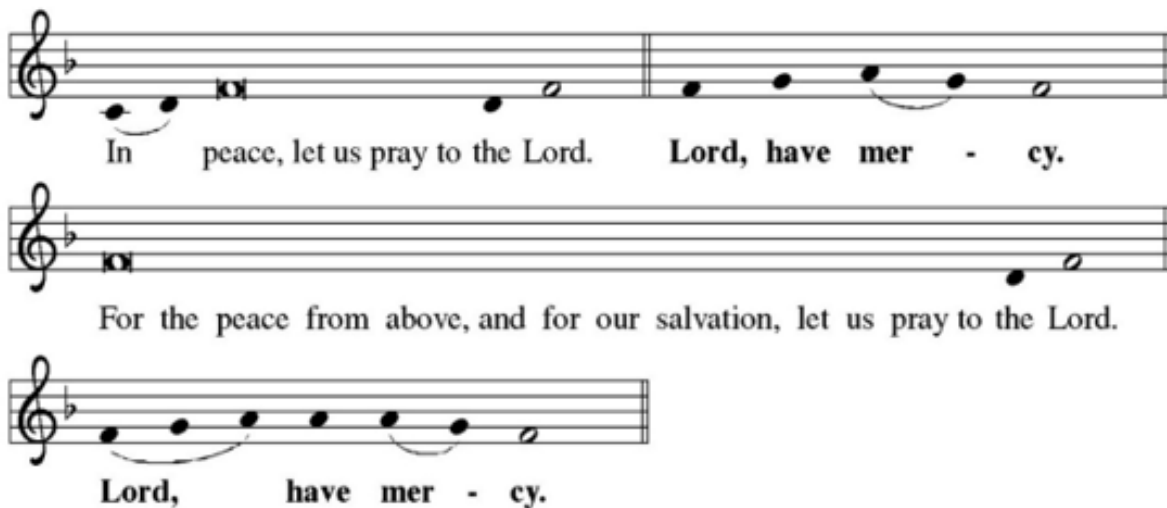
L: Gracious God,

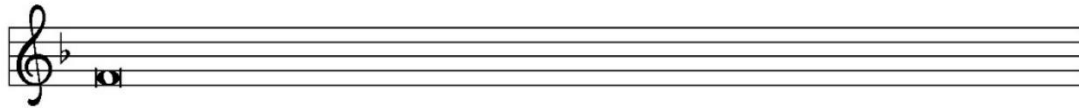
C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Almighty God has mercy on you and forgives you all your sins through our † Lord Jesus Christ. God strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

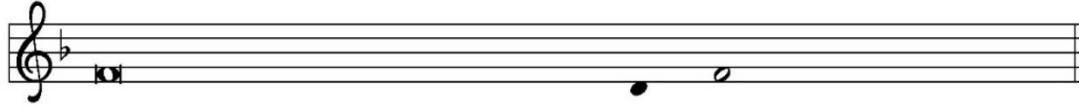
C: Amen

+Kyrie





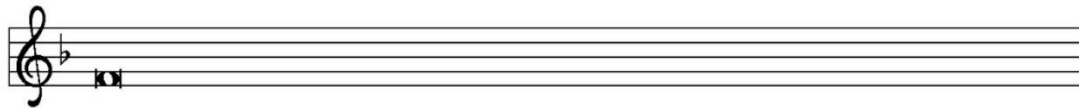
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



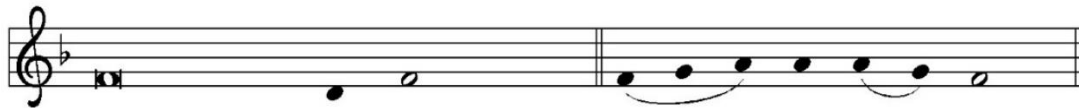
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

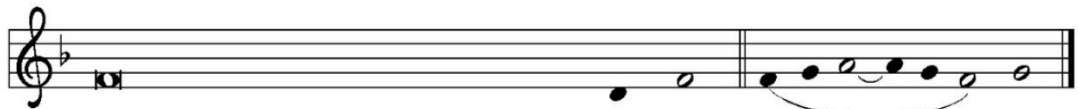


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

L: God of compassion,

C: you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us

the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God**

+Gospel Acclamation:



+Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

L: The Gospel according to Luke, the Fifteenth chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father

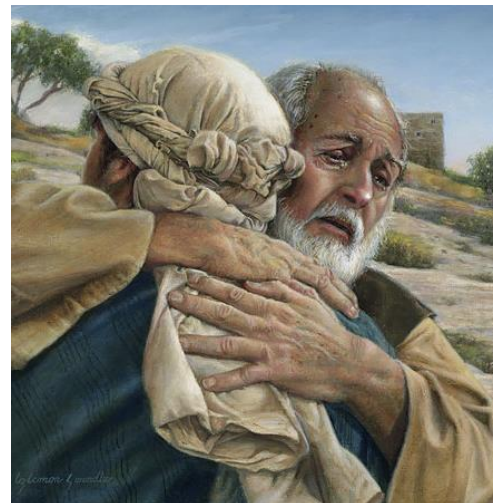
saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

L: The Good News of God. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon: Real Presence of a Prodigal God



Hymn: *ELW 608 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

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

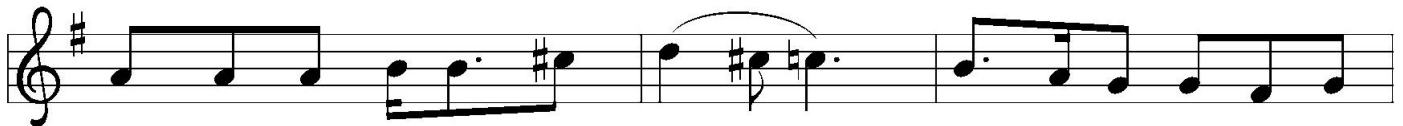


you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

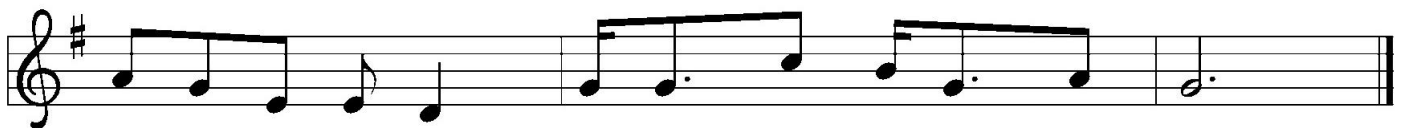
Refrain



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.



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!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

+Apostle's 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.**

You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession

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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (all sing before and after the prayers)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The Lord Is My Song

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Alto, in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The Soprano part is on a treble clef staff, and the Alto part is on a bass clef staff. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staves.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Spoken Response: L: God, in your mercy, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

prayers end with: 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, **C: Amen.**

All Sing: *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

Peace

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

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

Offering & Musical Offering: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* *African American spiritual*

Combined Choir

Offering Prayer

L: God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. Just as Jesus was lifted from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from shadow to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

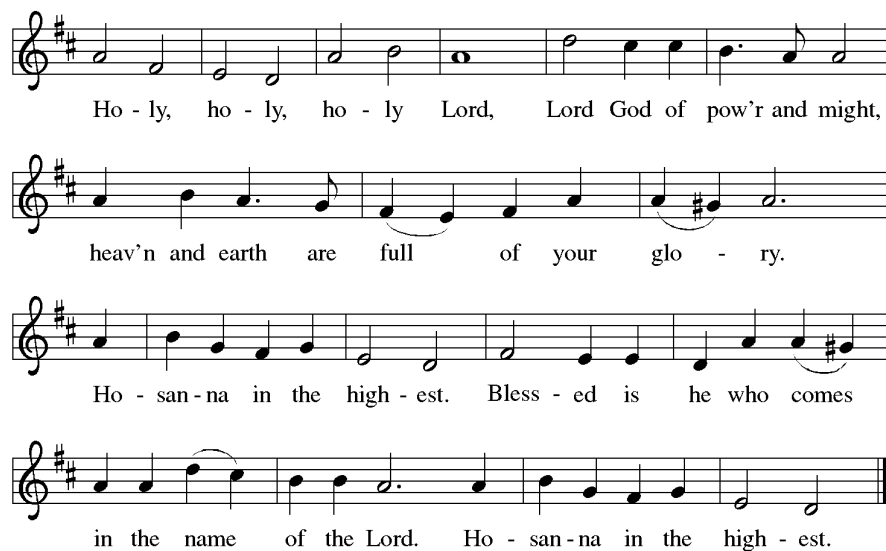
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we **rise** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... (*please rise in body or in spirit*)

+Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

+Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer

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.

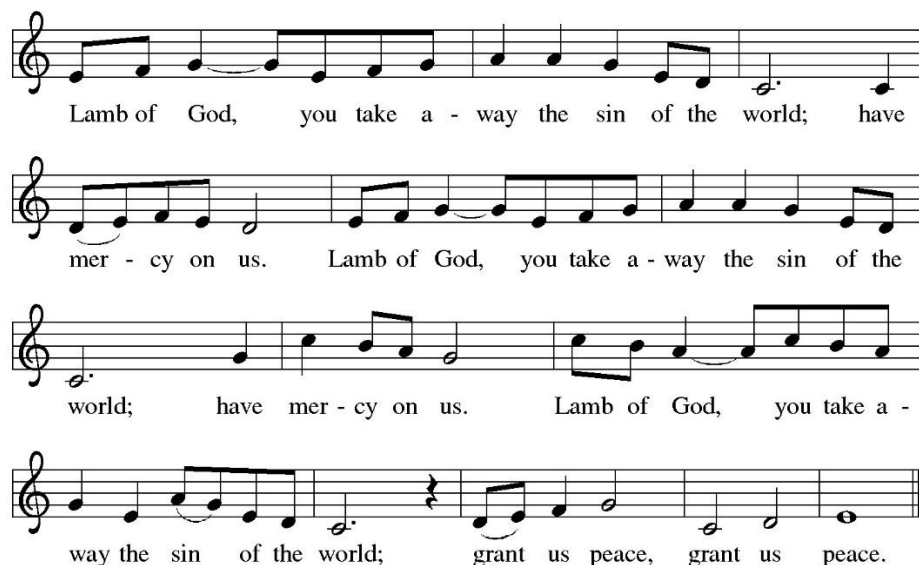
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

+Invitation to Communion

L: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, experience God.

(You may be seated)

Communion



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, grant us peace.

Combined Choir

ELW 542 O Living Bread from Heaven

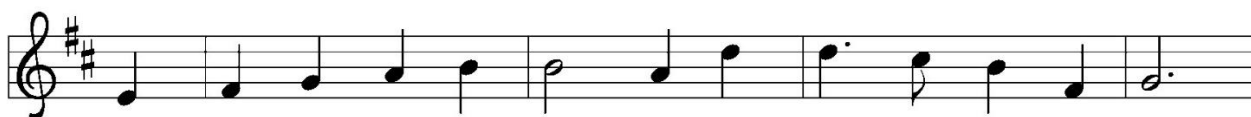
O Living Bread from Heaven



- 1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strength - ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.
and here your-self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



O won-drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank-ful song o'er - flows!
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.

+Prayer after Communion

L: God of our ancestors, before whose face the human generations pass away, we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf, the broken fragments of our history are gathered up and healed by the redeeming act of Christ. Send us forth in peace, form us into what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Nourished by this sacrament, give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life with joy and singleness of heart. In the name of Christ we pray,
C: Amen.

Sending

+Exhortation to Mission & Blessing

L: Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you?

C: to do justice! to love kindness! to walk humbly with our God!

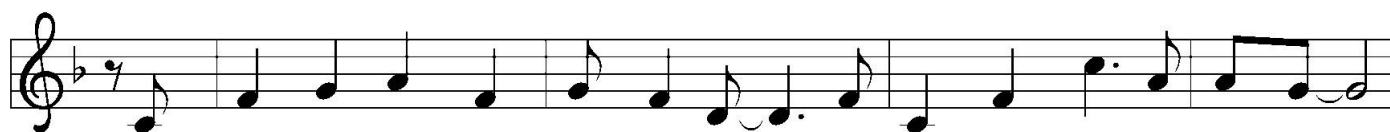
L: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit blesses you to do just that.

C: Amen!!



+Sending Hymn: ELW 763 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude: *Fugue in c minor*

J.S. Bach

Worship Participants

Presider:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Preacher:	Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians:	Dr. Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist:	Tim Buendorf
Special Music:	Combined Choir
Lector/Intercessor:	Paul Danielson
Communion Servers:	Pastor Eric, Paul and Sue Danielson, Cindy Jacobs
Ushers:	Charlie Robbins, Verne Nordholm, Steve Sather
AV Engineer:	Ethan Alberg
Communion Preparers:	Sharon Stewart



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

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