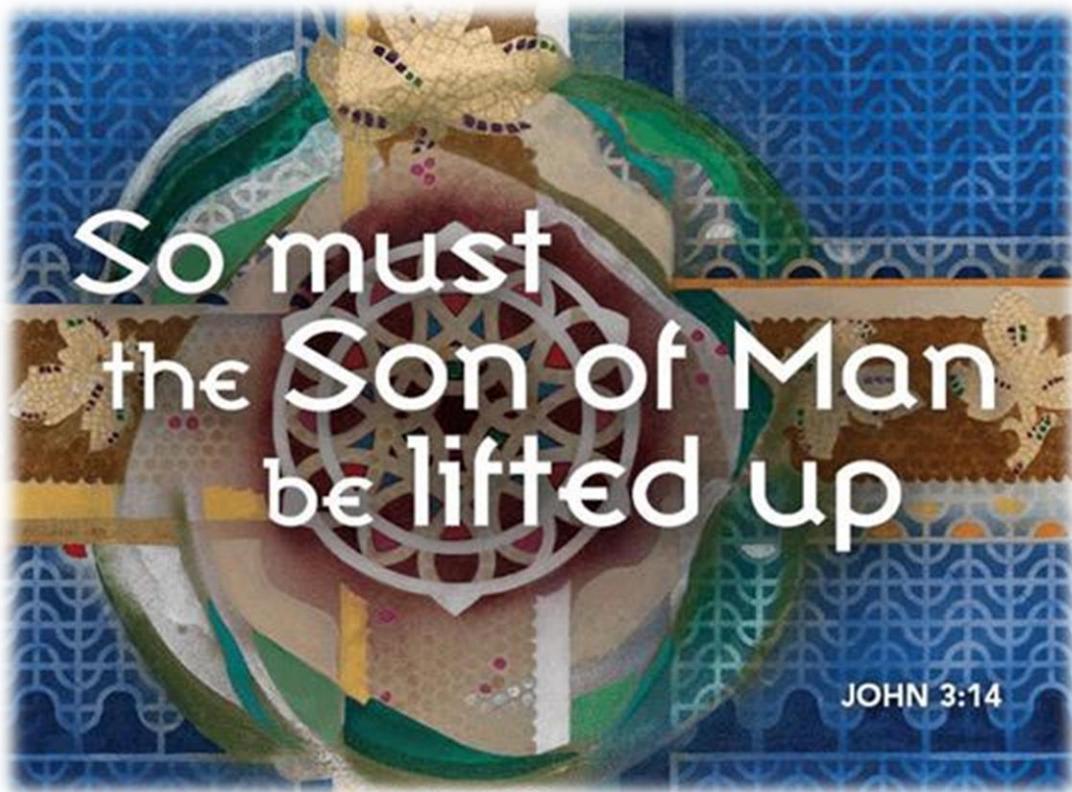




SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 14, 2021

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE IN **BOLD** TYPE



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

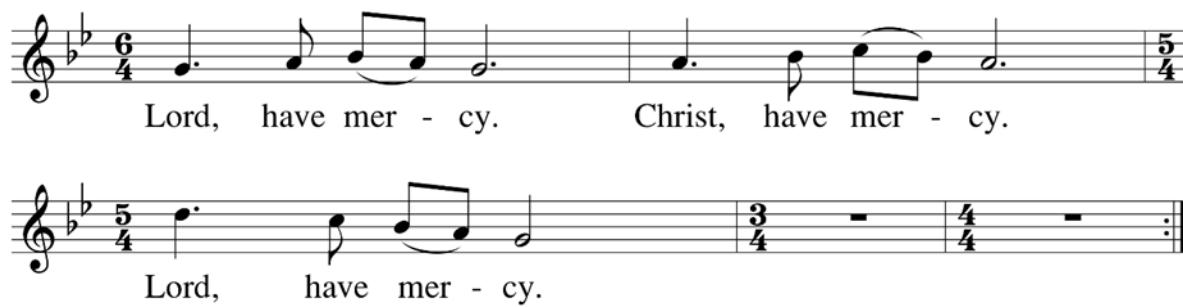
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.

FIRST LESSON

Numbers 21:1-9

A reading from Numbers.

¹ When the Canaanite, the king of Arad, who lived in the Negeb, heard that Israel was coming by the way of Atharim, he fought against Israel and took some of them captive. ² Then Israel made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will indeed give this people into our hands, then we will utterly destroy their towns." ³ The LORD listened to the voice of Israel, and handed over the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their towns; so the place was called Hormah. ⁴ From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

² Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³ gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸ They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹ Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁰ You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹ Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²² Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

LENTEN ACCLAMATION (*Stand*)

Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end-less glo - ry!



Turn to the Lord with all your heart,



for the time of sal - va - tion is here.

To refrain

GOSPEL LESSON

The Holy Gospel according to John, from the 3rd chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Gregg Hoffmann



1 For by grace you have been saved and e - ven faith is not your
 2 "So my grace is all - suf - fi - cient for each child who is my
 3 So this weak - ness with con - tent - ment I'll ac - cept now in my -



done. Don't let an - y - bod - y boast, for this is
 own. When you're weak, then you are strong, for this is
 self. When I'm weak, then I am strong, for this is



God's great gift. A - men.
 God's great gift." A - men.
 God's great gift. A - men. A - men.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM OF SETH WENDELL GROSSEOEHME

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Parents: We present Seth Wendell Grossoehme for Baptism.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

As you bring Seth to receive the gift of Baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the Holy Supper, teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the Holy Scriptures, and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help Seth grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Seth, and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

All: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I now ask you all to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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 \ddagger resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. In the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the Baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of Baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

BAPTISM

Seth Wendell, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS (*congregation extends their hands towards the baptized child*)

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Seth with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

CHRISMATION (*a cross is drawn in oil on the child's forehead*)

Seth Wendell, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME (*a candle is lit and given to the newly baptized*)

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome this newly baptized child of God into the community of faith. **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our local partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and in need, especially, Wayne, Scott, Steven, Jackie, Vicky, Julie, Margaret, Kay, Yvonne, Eddie, Bea, Jack, Eric, Mary, Frank, Bill, Madeline, Earl, Barbara, Steven, Kathy, and Ted. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to the point of overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry and bless the work of local feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE

Our Lord Jesus Christ sent forth his peace long ago, and it has continued to flow through generations of faithful followers. Today, his peace continues in you. The Peace of Christ is with you.

And also with you. Amen.

At this time in our worship, we invite you to share the Peace of Christ with others.

Feel free to share the peace with others nearby, or, if you are alone, give someone a call after worship!

OFFERING

<https://onrealm.org/gracerockhill/-/give/now>

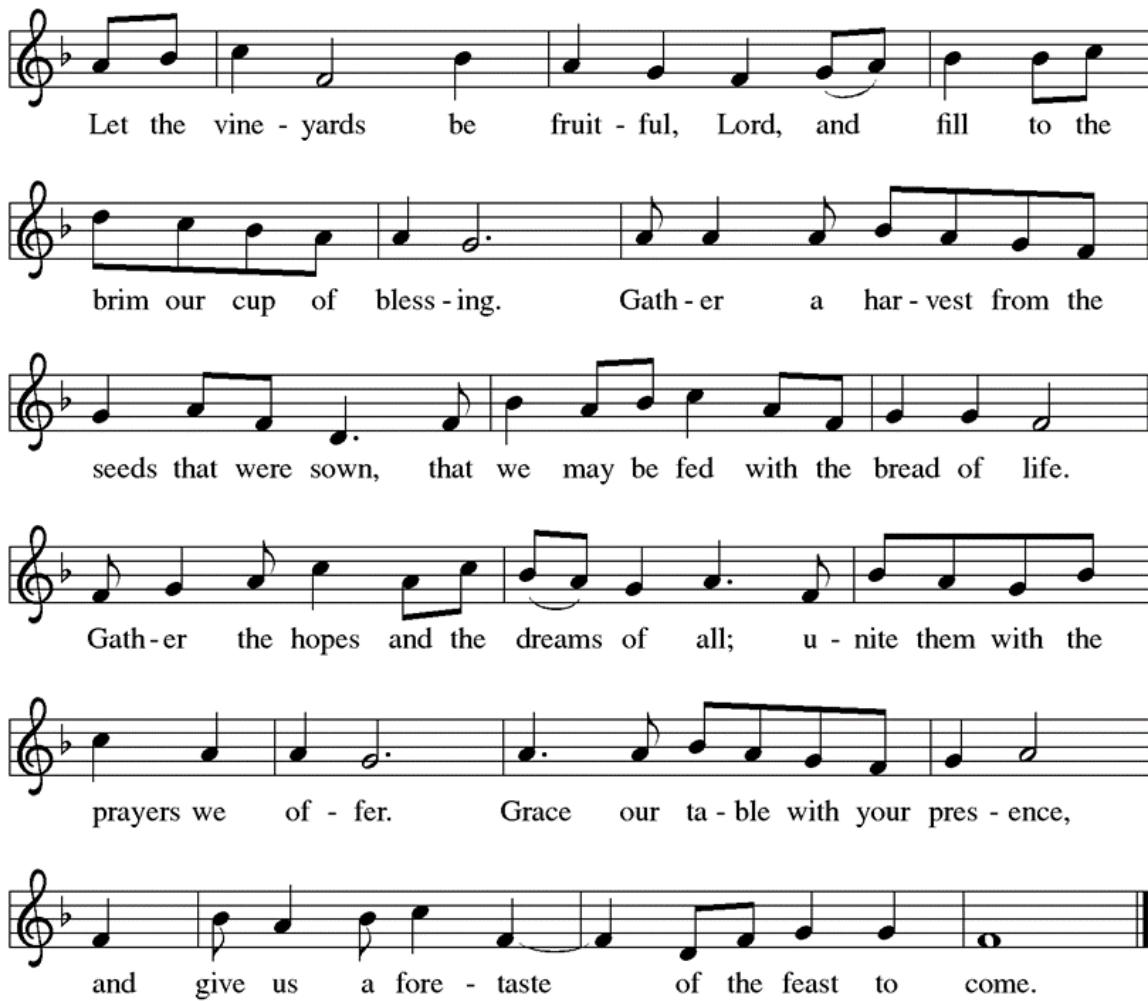
ANTHEM

“God So Loved the World”

John Stainer
Virtual Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE (*Stand*)

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Holy and generous God, empower us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

We unite our voices in this time, joining in the prayer that our Lord taught us:

Our Fa - ther, who art in heav - en,
hal - low - ed be thy name; thy king - dom come; thy
will be done on earth as it is in heav - en.
Give us this day our dai - ly bread; and for -
give us our tres - pass - es as we for - give those who
tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to temp -
ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.
All:
For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er - - more. A - men.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR A TIME OF PANDEMIC

We continue to lift our prayers and hopes to God, trusting in the mercy of the Almighty.

Healing Lord, you know our pain. We pray for all those who suffer from this pandemic. Hold close those who are sick, care providers, and those who have been harmed in any way. Let us all find our strength renewed by your presence in our darkest hours. Bless us with vaccines, and hearts that care for one another. Make our whole lives a witness in this time, so that your grace may be seen by all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

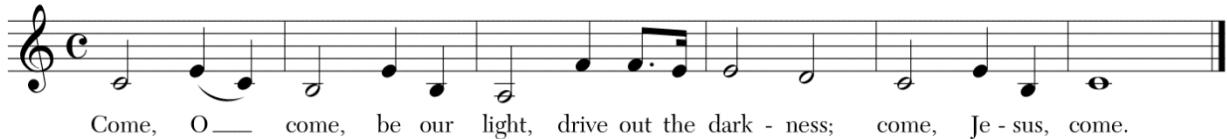
Almighty God, Father, [☩] Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

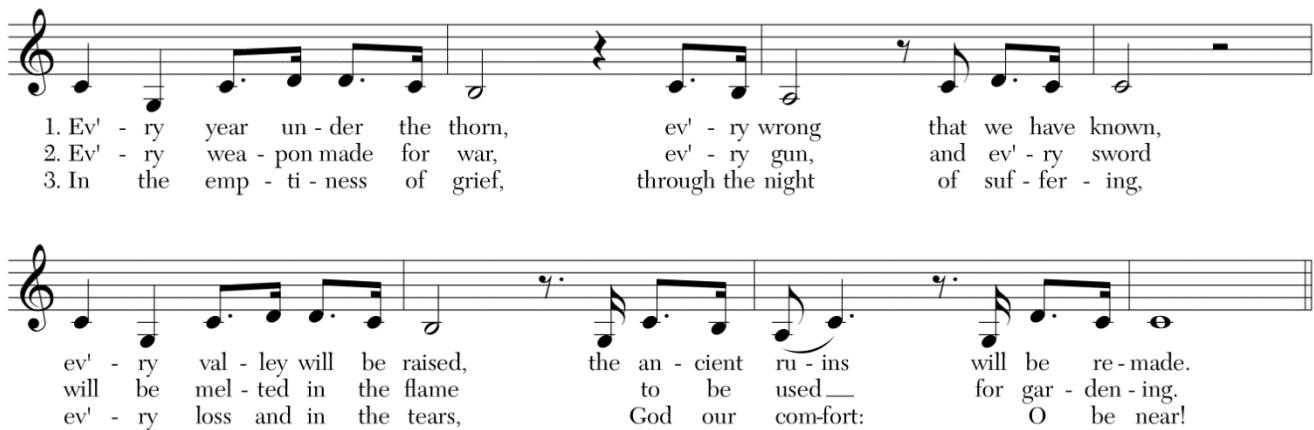
“Drive Out the Darkness”

Refrain



Come, O — come, be our light, drive out the dark - ness; come, Je - sus, come.

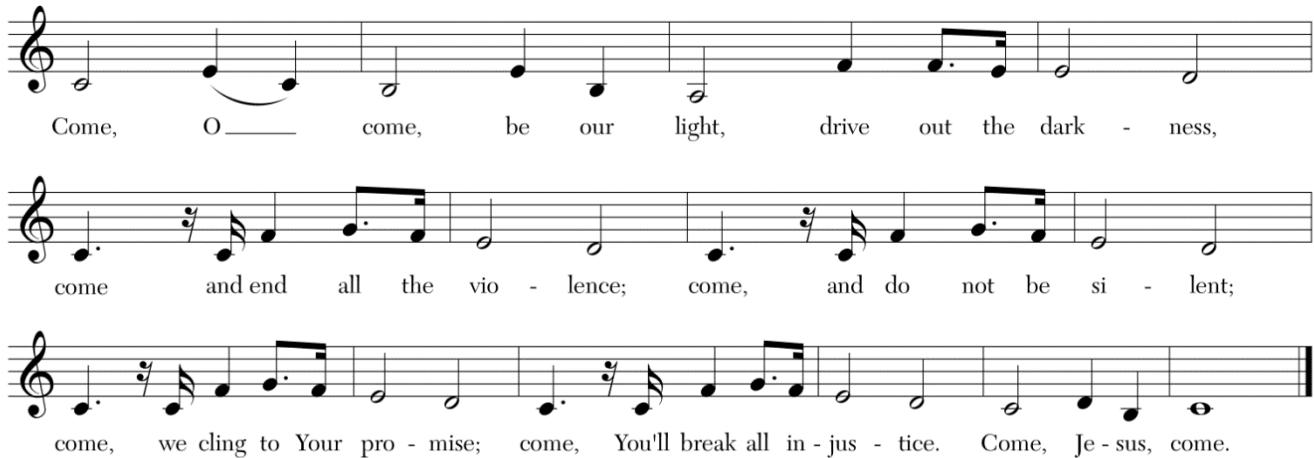
Verse



1. Ev' - ry year un - der the thorn, ev' - ry wrong that we have known,
2. Ev' - ry wea - pon made for war, ev' - ry gun, and ev' - ry sword
3. In the emp - ti - ness of grief, through the night of suf - fer - ing,

ev' - ry val - ley will be raised, the an - cient ru - ins will be re - made.
will be mel - ted in the flame to be used — for gar - den - ing.
ev' - ry loss and in the tears, God our com - fort: O be near!

Coda



Come, O — come, be our light, drive out the dark - ness,
come and end all the vio - - lence; come, and do not be si - - lent;
come, we cling to Your pro - mise; come, You'll break all in - jus - tice. Come, Je - sus, come.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

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Presiding Ministers	<i>The Rev. Gregg Hoffman</i> <i>The Rev. Rachel Hoffman</i>
Musician	<i>Dr. Jeremy Mims</i>
Video Editor	<i>Craig Allen</i>
Cantors	<i>Chris Porth, Amy Cassidy, Olga-Maria Cruz</i>
Bulletin	<i>Michelle Cunningham</i>
First Lesson	<i>Kathy Schwandt</i>
Second Lesson	<i>Cindy Rowan</i>
Pictures	<i>Members of Grace</i>
Sanctuary Candle	<i>Mary & Eddie Hinson, In memory of Sewell Mason</i>

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Grace Lutheran Church
426 Oakland Avenue
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
(803) 324-5295 · www.gracerockhill.com