



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Lent
March 1st, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

Til sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet.

—Thomas Watson

As the plough, when it breaks up the ground, fits it for the seed, so when the heart is broken up by repentance, it is fitted for remission, but it does not merit it. God will not save us without repentance, nor yet for it... Christ's blood only can merit pardon. We please God by repentance but we do not satisfy him by it. To trust to our repentance is to make it a savior.

—Thomas Watson

Man in misery needs hope. The Gospel, the good news that Christ triumphed over sin and all its effects, is the soil out of which hope grows; it is central to all hope.

—Jay Adams

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves: the King opens His gates and welcomes us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Hosea 6:1-2

Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Sung Response—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1

What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,

For my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?

Text: American folk hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker,
The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 16:1-2, 4-6, 7-11

Pastor: Preserve us, O God, for in You we take refuge. We say to the Lord, “You are our Lord; we have no good apart from You.”

All: The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup; You hold our lot. The lines have fallen for us in pleasant places; indeed, we have a beautiful inheritance.

Reader 1: The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood we will not pour out or take their names on our lips.

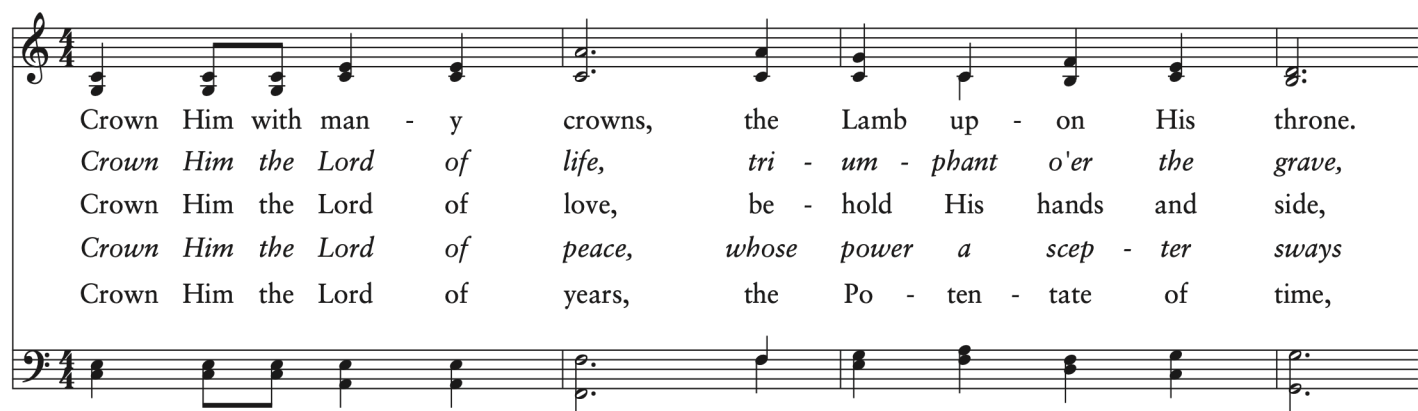
Reader 2: We set the Lord always before us; because He is at our right hand, we shall not be shaken. Therefore our heart is glad, and our whole being rejoices; our flesh also dwells secure.

Pastor: For You will not abandon our soul to Sheol, or let Your holy one see corruption.

All: You make known to us the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy

Pastor: At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

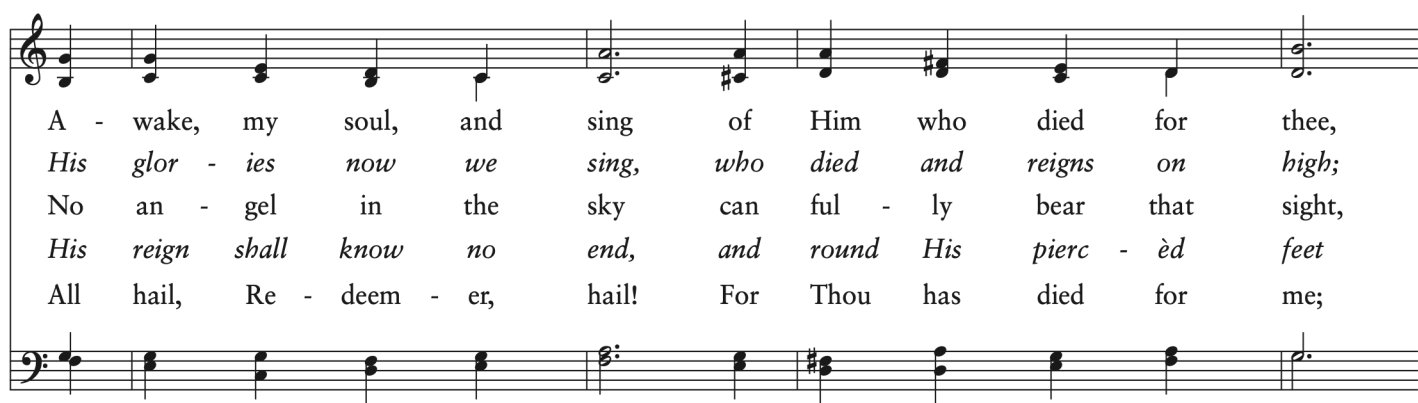
Congregational Hymn—Crown Him With Many Crowns



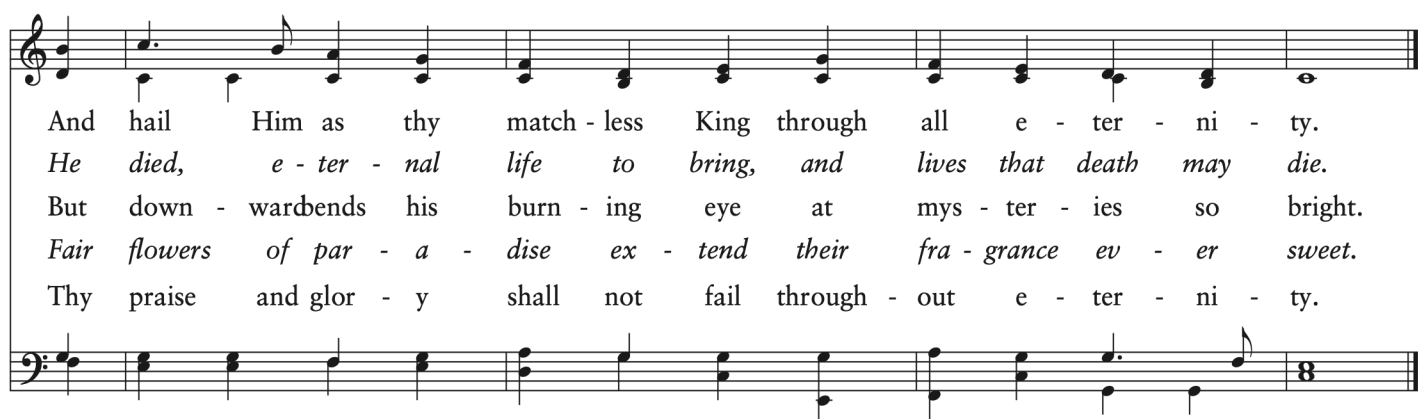
Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne.
Crown Him the Lord of life, tri - um - phant o'er the grave,
 Crown Him the Lord of love, be - hold His hands and side,
Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 Crown Him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time,



Hark! How the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mus - ic but its own.
Who rose vic - tor - ious from the — strife for those He came to save.
 Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied.
From pole to pole, that wars may — cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing — spheres, in - eff - a - bly sub - lime.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
His glor - ies now we sing, who died and reigns on high;
 No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou has died for me;



And hail Him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
He died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
Fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 Thy praise and glor - y shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. In His Word, God particularly calls us to sing psalms: while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to use the Psalter as the church’s songbook.

Congregational Psalm—When The House Of Israel Out Of Egypt Came (Psalm 114)



When the house of Is - ra - el out of E - gypt came, Ja - cob left a peo - ple of strange speech;—
When they stood be-side the sea, it looked back and fled, Jor - dan riv - er turned a - way to flee;—
What must ail the migh-ty sea, roll - ing back its waves? Why did Jor-dan turn a - way to flee?—



Ju - dah then be - came for him a sanct - u - a - ry place, Is - ra - el a place to rest his feet.——
Moun-tains, in their ma - jes - ty, were made to skip like rams, Migh - ty hills laid down like lit - tle sheep.——
Who could tell the moun-tain-tops to dance and skip like rams? Who lays down the hills like lit - tle sheep?——

Vs. 1 & 2, then Chorus



Is - ra - el a place...
Migh - ty hills laid down...
Who lays down the hills...?

Chorus



Earth shall trem-ble at the pres-ence of the Lord, To Ja - cob's God the earth shall sing;——



He makes wa-ter out of dry and dust-y rocks, From flint He makes a pure and flow-ing spring.

Text: based on Psalm 114:1-8, Henry C. Haffner, 2025;
Music: MORGANS STEEP, Henry C. Haffner, 2025.

Baptism of Elias Parolini, son of Evan and Ariel Parolini

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 42:5-9

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is My name; My glory I give to no other, nor My praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Come Down, O Love Divine



Come down, O Love di - vine, seek Thou this soul of mine,
O let it free - ly burn, til earth - ly pas - sions turn
And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,
And vis - it it with Thine own ar - dor glow - ing.
To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
Shall far out - pass the pow'r of hu - man tell - ing;
O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
And let Thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
For none can guess its grace, till he be - come the place
And kin - dle it, Thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes His dwell - ing.

Text: Bianco da Siena, 15th century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867;

Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

Sermon Text—Acts 26:1-23

So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

² “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, ³ especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ “My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. ⁵ They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, ⁷ to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸ Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

⁹ “I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹² “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴ And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵ And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen Me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

¹⁹ “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. ²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: ²³ that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, He would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, refrain



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, look full in His won-der - ful face,——



And the things of earth will grow strange - ly dim, in the light of His glo-ry and grace.

CCLI #2844402; Text and Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922.

Sermon—*Turning From Darkness To Light*

—Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-14

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You have called us to be imitators of God as dear children. You have called us to walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

All: For we were once in darkness, but now we must walk in the light of the Lord.

Pastor: You call us to walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

All: But we have fellowshiped with the unfruitful works of darkness.

Pastor: It is shameful even to speak of those things which we have done in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light.

All: Therefore You say: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Agnus Dei

UNISON



O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. ____



O Lamb of _ God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. ____



O Lamb of _ God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

Slightly Faster

WOMEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace.

MEN



Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy _ peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI,
Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

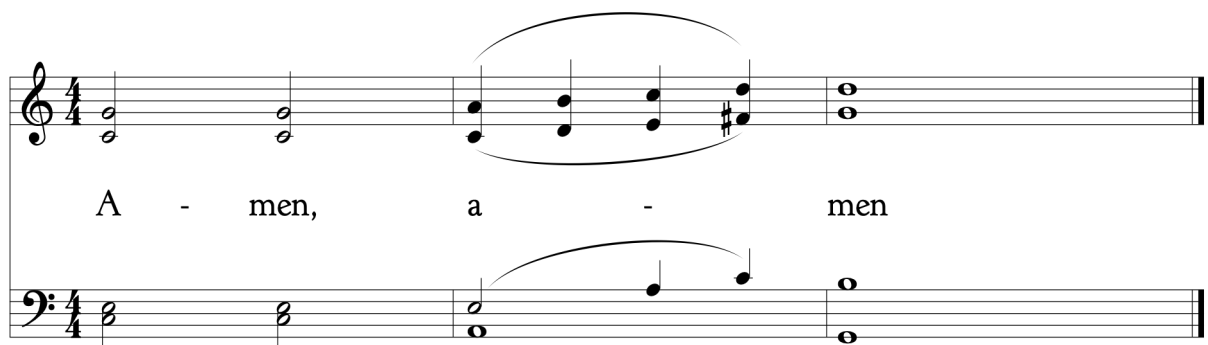
Assurance of Pardon—from Luke 1:76-79; Mark 12:30

The prophets of the Most High have gone before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Pastor: This is the promise of God. This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Therefore, let us love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our mind and with all our strength.

Sung Response—Twofold Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18th century.

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM

God feeds the faith of His people by giving them a meal. As God fellowships with them in faith, His people pledge their obedience to God and their love for one another.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.——

WOMEN



MEN



We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

We praise You, we bless— You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA,
Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Come Ye Souls, By Sin Afflicted



Come, ye souls by sin af - flict - ed, bowed with fruit - less sor - row down;
Take His ea - sy yoke and wear it; love will make o - bed - ience sweet;
Bless - ed are__ the eyes that see Him, blest the ears__that hear His voice;
Sweet as home to pil - grims wear - y, light to new - ly o - pened eyes,



By the bro - ken law con - vict - ed, through the cross be - hold__ the crown;
Christ will give you strength to bear it, while His wis - dom guides your feet
Bless - ed are the souls that trust Him, and in Him a - lone__ re - joice;
Or full springs in des - erts drear - y is the rest__ the cross__ sup - plies;



Look to Je - sus; mer - cy flows__ through Him a - lone.
Safe to glor - y, where His ran - somed cap - tives meet.
His com - mand - ments then be - come__ their hap - py choice.
All who taste__ it shall to rest__ im - mor - tal rise.

CCLI #2844402; © 2005 Greyfriars Press. Text: Joseph Swain, 1792;
Music: Gregory Wilbur, 2005.

Congregational Hymn—Precious Lord, Take My Hand



Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
When my way grows — drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; _____
When my life is — al - most — gone, _____
 And the day is — past and — gone, _____

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall: —
 At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home. _____
Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home. _____
 Take my hand, pre-cious Lord, lead me home. _____

Text: Thomas Dorsey, 1938; Music: MAITLAND, George Nelson Allen, 1844.

GOD'S PEOPLE GRATEFULLY RESPOND WITH THEIR PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS, AND PRAISE

Praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship, moving our faith from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings. Offering boxes for both tithes and alms are located in the foyer.

Pastoral Prayer

Corporate Prayer—*The Lord's Prayer*

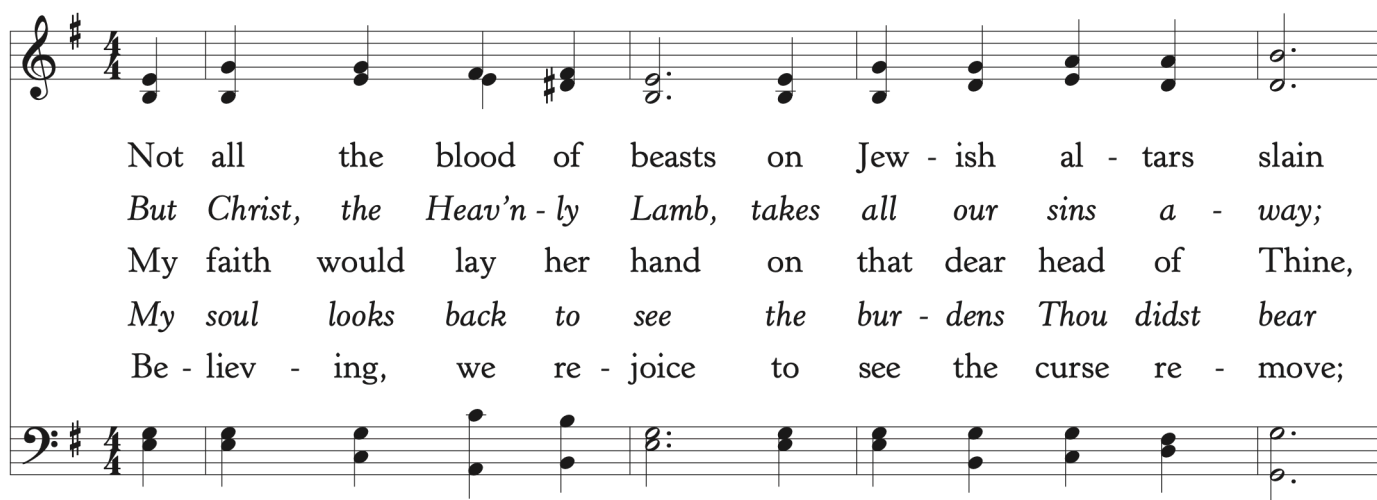
Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done,
On Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

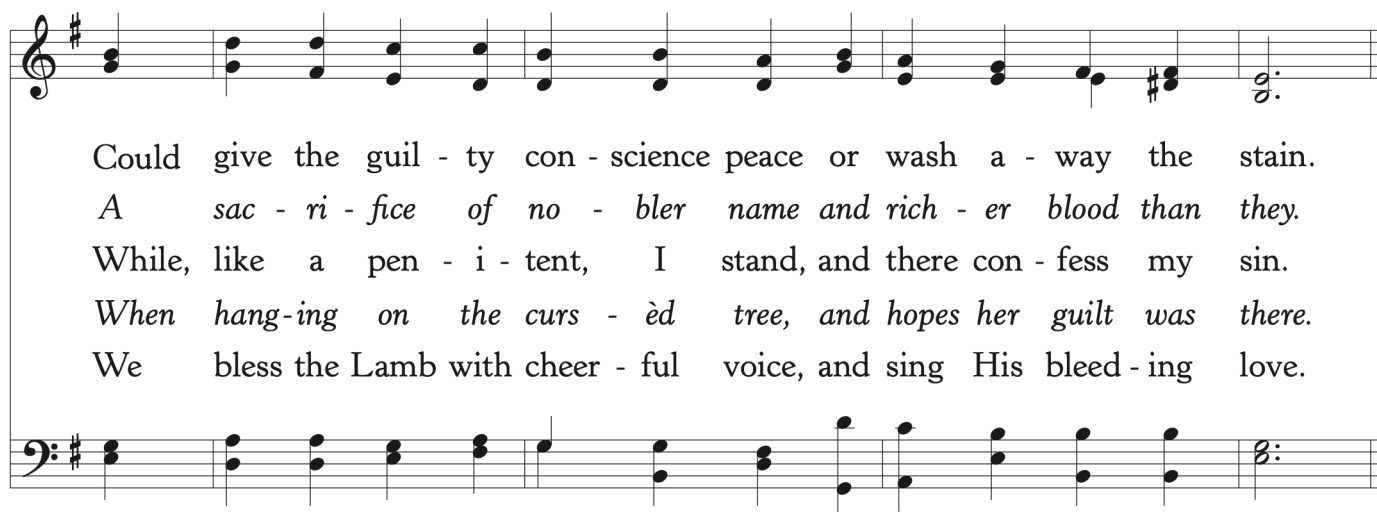
For Thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Congregational Hymn—Not All The Blood Of Beasts



Not all the blood of beasts on Jew - ish al - tars slain
But Christ, the Heav'n - ly Lamb, takes all our sins a - way;
My faith would lay her hand on that dear head of Thine,
My soul looks back to see the bur - dens Thou didst bear
Be - liev - ing, we re - joice to see the curse re - move;



Could give the guil - ty con - science peace or wash a - way the stain.
A sac - ri - fice of no - bler name and rich - er blood than they.
While, like a pen - i - tent, I stand, and there con - fess my sin.
When hang - ing on the curs - ed tree, and hopes her guilt was there.
We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful voice, and sing His bleed - ing love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1709, alt. 1961; Music: SOUTHWELL, William Damon, 1579.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Christ Be With Me



Christ be with me, Christ with-in me, Christ be-hind me, Christ be-fore me,



Christ be-side me, Christ to win me, Christ to com-fort and re-store me,



Christ be-neath me, Christ a-bove me, Christ in qui-et, Christ in dan-ger,



Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stran-ger.

Text: attr. St. Patrick, 5th Century, tr. C. F. Alexander, 1889;
Music: CLONMACNOISE, Traditional Irish melody,
arr. Richard Terry, *The Westminster Hymnal*, 1912.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Throughout the Lenten season we will be singing a new setting of Psalm 114. The rather short psalm includes some striking and unusual language, describing the mountains in the wilderness as “skipping rams” (vss. 4, 6) and directly questioning the sea and the Jordan river, “What ails you, that you flee?” (vs. 5). The musical setting MORGANS STEEP attempts to capture some of these unusual features in the poetry: the verses all end mid-sentence and without a solid musical resolution, as if searching for an answer that only comes with the Chorus. Who could tell the mountaintops to dance and skip? The Lord, who makes the very earth tremble and who can make water spring out of the desert for His people. The context here is a poetic description of the Exodus story—in fact, Psalm 114 is one of three psalms traditionally read during the Jewish Passover celebrations—but its placement near the end of the book of psalms suggests a prophetic hope for return from the Babylonian exile as well. We can also read this in light of its messianic fulfillment, as Christ, the greater Moses, led His people out of slavery to sin and death. In this time of year when we typically meditate on Jesus’ death on the cross to set His people free from bondage, I hope you find it fitting that we sing one of the psalms that Jesus Himself most likely sang on the night He was betrayed.

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Hope, Persecute, Light, Repent, Christ, Suffer, Resurrection

Keystone Verses: Open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. (Acts 25:19)