



PARISH
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Lent
March 15th, 2026

Quotes for reflection:

It often comes to pass that, by clipping a promise, we shear off a blessing which we might have had if our faith had accepted the Sacred Word in its entirety. Oh, for a comprehensive faith as to all that is in the gracious covenant! Have you looked long enough at the promise to see all that is in it? What sheaves of blessing are tied up in a single promise, though it may only consist of a dozen words!

—C. H. Spurgeon

God does not sleep through the misery of the world; God will shade us in the heats of the day; God will watch us as we journey; God will keep us. It's simple enough. But to get to those affirmations, we have to climb over a lot of rubble inside ourselves. We have to learn what is extraordinarily hard for us to learn: not to listen to our fears; not to be tossed around by whatever comes across our path; not to give credence to the lies that God has fallen asleep or just given up protecting us.

—John Webster

Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. Providence is the almighty and ever present power of God by which He upholds, as with His hand, heaven and earth and all creatures, and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty - all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but from His fatherly hand.

—*Heidelberg Catechism*

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—Isaiah 43:1–2

Thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”

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 107:1–3, 23–24, 28–29, 43

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble.

All: He has gathered us in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Reader 1: Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; we saw the deeds of the Lord, His wondrous works in the deep.

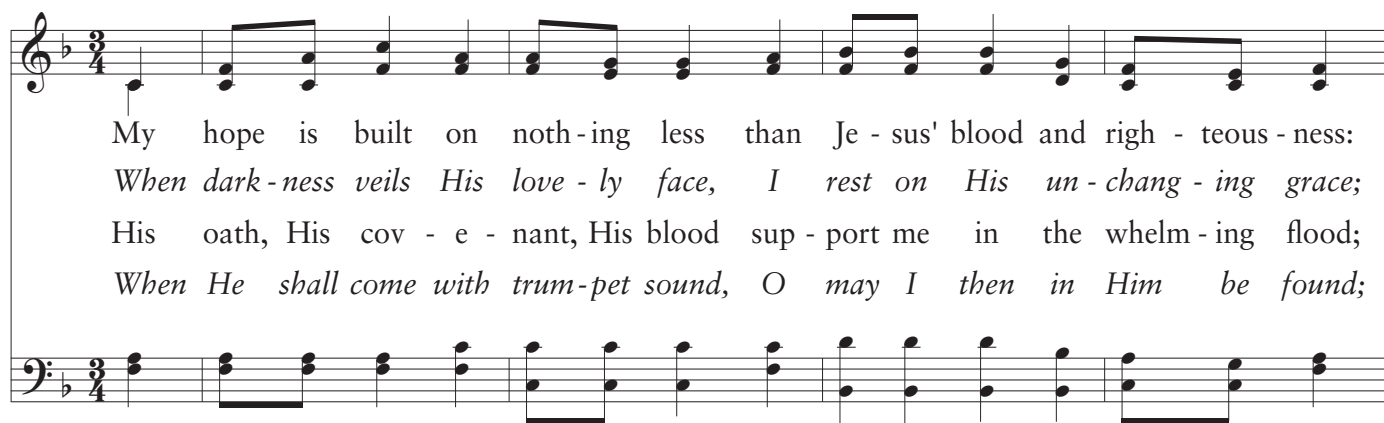
Reader 2: We cried to the Lord in our trouble, and He delivered us from our distress.

Pastor: Let us thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man.

All: Let us extol Him in the congregation of the people, and praise Him in the assembly of the elders.

Pastor: Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

Congregational Hymn—My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less



My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness:
When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on His un - chang - ing grace;
His oath, His cov - e - nant, His blood sup - port me in the whelm - ing flood;
When He shall come with trum - pet sound, O may I then in Him be found;

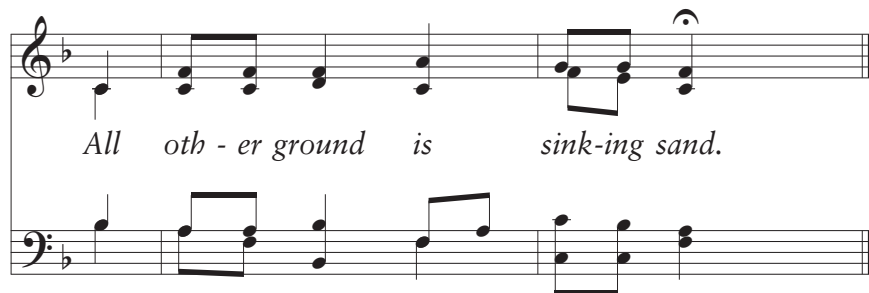


I dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
When all a - round my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
Dressed in His righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore the throne.

Refrain



On Christ the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand,



All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1834; Music: SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1863.

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.

Scripture Reading—Exodus 15:1–3, 13–18

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider He has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise Him, my father’s God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is His name...

“You have led in your steadfast love the people whom You have redeemed; You have guided them by Your strength to Your holy abode. The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of Your arm, they are still as a stone, till Your people, O Lord, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. You will bring them in and plant them on Your own mountain, the place, O Lord, which You have made for Your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which Your hands have established. The Lord will reign forever and ever.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Antiphonal Scripture Song—Song At The Sea

* REFRAIN

Leader



To the Lord I will sing for His glo-rious vic-to-ry; the horse and the ri-der He has thrown in-to the sea.

Congregation



Fine

To the Lord I will sing for His glo-rious vic-to-ry; the horse and the ri-der He has thrown in-to the sea.

Leader



The Lord is my strength and my song, sal - va - tion He brings to me;
 For Phar - aoh and all of his host, He cast them in - to the sea,
 The en - e - my vowed to pur - sue, to ru - in to rape to spoil;
 You led to Your ho - ly a - bode the peo - ple whom You re - deemed;
 You plant them on Your ho - ly hill, the moun - tain which You have made,



My fa - ther's God, He is my God, and I will ex - alt and praise.
 The floods went up; and in the depths their char - i - ots sank like stones.
 The sea rose up and cov - ered them; in wa - ter they sank like lead.
 The na - tions heard; they trem - ble still; all Ca - naan shall melt a - way.
 Es - tab - lished there by Your right hand, for - ev - er with You they'll reign.

Congregation



The Lord is a man of war; Je - ho - vah is His name. *
 Your hand shows your glor - ious pow'r to crush your en - e - mies.
 O who is like You, my Lord, in per - fect ho - li - ness? *
 On them shall great ter - ror fall till all Your folk pass by.
 Ma - jes - tic are all Your deeds, the won - ders of Your hand. *

Text: Exodus 15:1-21, Henry C. Haffner, 2022;
 Music: MIDNIGHT SUN, Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

Sermon Text—Acts 27:1–26

And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius.² And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.³ The next day we put in at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for.⁴ And putting out to sea from there we sailed under the lee of Cyprus, because the winds were against us.⁵ And when we had sailed across the open sea along the coast of Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra in Lycia.⁶ There the centurion found a ship of Alexandria sailing for Italy and put us on board.⁷ We sailed slowly for a number of days and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, and as the wind did not allow us to go farther, we sailed under the lee of Crete off Salmone.⁸ Coasting along it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near which was the city of Lasea.

⁹ Since much time had passed, and the voyage was now dangerous because even the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,¹⁰ saying, “Sirs, I perceive that the voyage will be with injury and much loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives.”¹¹ But the centurion paid more attention to the pilot and to the owner of the ship than to what Paul said.¹² And because the harbor was not suitable to spend the winter in, the majority decided to put out to sea from there, on the chance that somehow they could reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete, facing both southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there.

¹³ Now when the south wind blew gently, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to the shore.¹⁴ But soon a tempestuous wind, called the northeaster, struck down from the land.¹⁵ And when the ship was caught and could not face the wind, we gave way to it and were driven along.¹⁶ Running under the lee of a small island called Cauda, we managed with difficulty to secure the ship’s boat.¹⁷ After hoisting it up, they used supports to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along.¹⁸ Since we were violently storm-tossed, they began the next day to jettison the cargo.¹⁹ And on the third day they threw the ship’s tackle overboard with their own hands.²⁰ When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope of our being saved was at last abandoned.

²¹ Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul stood up among them and said, “Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and incurred this injury and loss.²² Yet now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship.²³ For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship,²⁴ and he said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’²⁵ So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.²⁶ But we must run aground on some island.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Jesus, Lover Of My Soul, Vs. 1



Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to Thy bo - som fly,
While the near - er wa - ters roll, while the tem - pest still is high:
Hide me, O my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
Safe in - to the ha - ven guide, O re - ceive my soul at last!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1740; Music: MARTYN, Simeon B. Marsh, 1834.

Sermon—*A Way Through the Depths of the Sea*

—Assistant Pastor, Brittain Brewer

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 Isaiah 41:8–10, 14; Psalm 115:4–8

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Despite Your very great and precious promises, we fear. We are dismayed, and we seek other comforts.

All: You are our helper and our deliverer, but we have run to idols of our own making, to gods of our creation who neither see nor hear.

Pastor: We become like them, and our hearts are hardened against You.

All: Behold, our idols are nothing, and their work less than nothing; we choose them to our own destruction.

Pastor: You, O Lord our God, hold our right hand; You are the one who helps us. Hear us and forgive us, that we might trust in You.

(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.

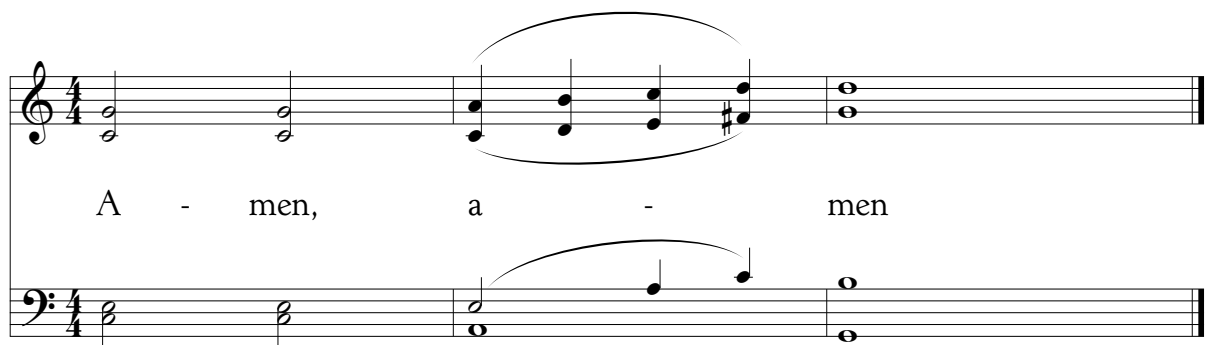
Assurance of Pardon— Hebrews 7:24–25; Mark 12:30

[Jesus Christ] holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

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

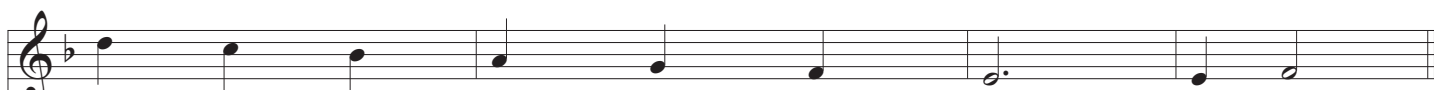


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

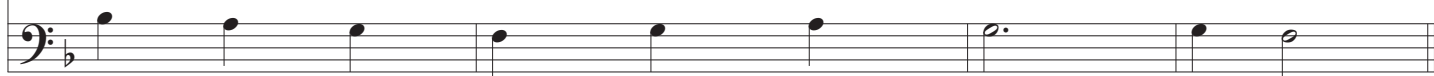
MEN



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 Psalm—Incarnate God! (Psalm 91)



In - car - nate God! the soul that knows Your name's mys - ter - ious pow'r,
In__ vain the fow - ler spreads his net to__ draw them from Your care;
No mid-night ter - rors haunt their bed, no__ ar - row wounds by day;
The an - gels' Lord Him-self is nigh to__ them that love His name;



Will dwell in un - di - sturb'd re - pose nor fear the try - ing hour.
Your time - ly call in - structs their feet to__ shun the art - ful snare.
Un - hurt on ser - pents they shall tread, if__ found in du - ty's way.
Is__ quick to save them when they cry, and put their foes to shame.



Your wis - dom, faith - ful - ness, and love to fee - ble, frail and worn,
When, like a bane - ful pest - i - lence, sin mows its thou - sands down,
An - gels, un - seen, at - tend the saints and bear them in their arms,
The__ Lord will an - swer when they call long as they so - journ here,



A__ shel - ter and a__ re - fuge prove from e - ne - my and storm.
On ev - 'ry side with-out de - fense His__ grace se - cures His own.
To cheer the spir - it__ when it faints, and__ guard their life from harms.
Be - cause the Lord is__ their de - fense what have the saints to fear?

Text: John Newton, *Olney Hymnal*, 1779; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

Congregational Hymn—How Can I Keep From Singing?



My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove Earth's la - men - ta - tion
What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth;
I lift mine eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a - bove it;



I hear the sweet though far off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion:
What though the dark - ness gath - er round! Songs in the night He giv - eth:
And day by day this path-way smoothes since first I learned to love it:



Through all the tu - mult and the strife I hear the mu - sic ring - ing;
No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that re - fuge cling - ing;
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A foun - tain ev - er spring - ing;



It finds an ech - o in my soul: how can I keep from sing - ing?
Since Christ is Lord of Heav'n and Earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?
All things are mine since I am His: how can I keep from sing - ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1860; Music: ENDLESS SONG, Robert Lowry, 1860,
arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2014.

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—There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood



There is a foun - tain filled with blood drawn from Em - man - uel's veins;
The dy - ing thief re - joiced to see that foun - tain in his day;
E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flow - ing wounds sup - ply,
Dear dy - ing Lamb, Thy pre - cious blood shall nev - er lose its power,



And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.
Re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.



Lose all their guilt - y stains, lose all their guilt - y stains;
Washed all my sins a - way, washed all my sins a - way;
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more;



And sin - ners plunged be - neath that flood lose all their guilt - y stains.
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins a - way.
Re - deem - ing love has been my theme, and shall be till I die.
Till all the ran - somed church of God be saved, to sin no more.

Text: William Cowper, 1771; Music: FOUNTAIN, Lowell Mason, 1830.

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—Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. *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:

Passing through stormy seas or tempestuous waters is a common motif in the Scriptures. Pharaoh's horses and riders are drowned in the Red Sea, while Moses and the Israelites cross over on dry land. Jonah attempts to avoid God's calling by sailing across the sea, only to be thrown overboard in a terrible storm and swallowed by a giant fish. The disciples are terrified during a storm on the Sea of Galilee, until Jesus wakes from His slumber and calms the winds and waves. And of course, Paul shows remarkable constancy during a stormy voyage across the Mediterranean on his way to Rome, a story told in this morning's sermon text. All of these examples illustrate mankind's trust (or lack of trust) in God's providential care: as the Lord comforts us in today's Gospel Invitation, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you" (Isaiah 43:2). Hymns like *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*, *When The House Of Israel Out Of Egypt Came* (Psalm 114), *The Song At The Sea*, *Jesus, Lover Of My Soul*, *Incarnate God* (Psalm 91), and *How Can I Keep From Singing* all use imagery of "storms," "floods," and "tempests" to convey our dependence on the Lord and His providential care. The closing hymn, *There Is A Fountain Filled With Blood*, also speaks of being plunged beneath a flood—though this time the "flood" is not destructive water but Jesus' cleansing blood. Sinners plunged beneath this flood lose not their lives, but all their guilty stains

—Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Sail, Ship, Sea, Danger, Tempest, Storm-Tossed, Take Heart

Keystone Verses: For this very night there stood before me an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said, "Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar. And behold, God has granted you all those who sail with you." (Acts 27:23–24)