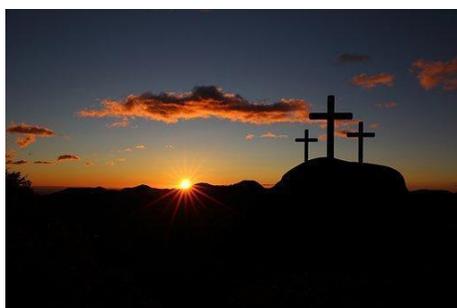


St. James Lutheran Church

1741 S State Street
Greenfield Indiana 46140

*Our congregation's mission statement is to bring people to Christ,
encouraging relationships with Him and others.*



Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2023

Meditation: Hope is not only a life and death matter, hope is a life in death matter. Hope finds its greatest challenge, and shines its greatest light, when life stands in the face of death and affirms that God remains trustworthy. Ezekiel is called to prophesy such hope in a valley of dried bones and lost dreams. The psalmist proclaims hope from the depths, as one who waits for the gift of a morning yet to dawn. And Jesus, stricken with a grief born of love, speaks hope into Lazarus's tomb, calling his friend forth as a sign of God's glory and of our hope.

Today's flowers are given for the glory of God.



1741 S. State Street
Greenfield, IN 46140
Phone: 317-462-7340
Email: office@stjamesnalc.org

Welcome to St. James Lutheran Church

The mission statement of our congregation is:

To bring people to Christ, encouraging relationships with Him and others.

*Rev. Dr. Richard Blue, Jr. Pastor
Dan Petry, Music Director
Angela Rodgers, Asst Music Director*

TO ALL GUESTS...

- **THANKS** for joining us for worship today. We hope your experience will be one of being touched by God and of being enriched through our experience of fellowship. **Please fill out the Connection Card found in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.** And please come again!!
 - **PARTICIPATE**
 - The worship service is printed in the bulletin and can also be viewed on the video screen for your convenience. Bulletins are emailed to all members each week.
 - **Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices during the worship service.**
 - The service is streamed live and available online afterward on YouTube. Links can be found on the [St. James website \(www.stjamesnalc.org\)](http://www.stjamesnalc.org) and [Facebook page](#).
 - **COMMUNE** — All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is present with his body and blood in the bread and wine are invited to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table. The ushers will direct those receiving the sacrament down the center aisle to the altar rail. **If you require gluten free host, please let the servers know.**
 - **NEED ASSISTANCE?**
 - **Hearing devices** are available for those who have trouble hearing through the loudspeaker system.
 - Hand sanitizer is available on the tables in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Please feel free to ask an Usher for assistance, they will be happy to help you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Browder

Please Stand

† We Lift Our Hearts in Worship †

INVOCATION AND PRAYER

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.+

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Gracious God, as we gather together on this fifth Sunday of Lent, we come before you with humble and contrite hearts, seeking your mercy and forgiveness. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and that we are in need of your grace and your love.

We thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins and rose again on the third day, that we might have eternal life. We pray that you would give us the courage and the strength to follow in His footsteps, to love as He loved, and to serve as He served.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, we ask that you would guide us and direct us, that we might be more fully conformed to the image of Christ. We pray that you would give us the wisdom to discern your will, the courage to obey your commands, and the compassion to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray for those who are in need, both in our own community and around the world. We ask that you would be with those who are sick, those who are suffering, and those who are grieving. We pray for peace in our world, and for an end to violence and oppression.

We offer these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and your love, and we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Ezekiel 37, Psalm 130, John 11)

**All: Forgive us, O God,
when we see the world
through rose-colored glasses
rather than as it really is,
much less the way you seek it to be.
Forgive us, Holy One,
when we forsake lively and risky faith
calling us to be agents of change in our world
for the bland conviction that all will be well.
Renew us with your grace
and ground us with your Spirit,
that we might be empowered to live,
in word and deed,
as testimonies to the power
of your love over the grave.
In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

(Ezekiel 37, Romans 8)

Pastor: The God we serve is the God of life,
the God of hope, the God of new beginnings—
even for dried-up bones and shattered dreams.
That rattling of bones in Ezekiel's vision
may be heard as the shackles that once held us down
in fear, sin, prejudice, and guilt.
God defies these deadly entanglements
with the power of life.
This we trust, and by this we live.
Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.



CALL TO WORSHIP

(Ezekiel 37, John 11)

Assisting Minister: Coming from places that have seen better days,

**Congregation: God bids us to celebrate this day,
 a day full of new possibilities.**

Assisting Minister: Coming with our breath taken away by grief,

**Congregation: The Holy Spirit breathes new life within us,
 renewing our connection with God
 and with one another.**

Assisting Minister: Coming to worship seeking a hope that will endure,

**Congregation: Christ unbinds the fetters that hold us in death,
 speaking in word and sacrament,
 and building community for holy service.**

OPENING PRAYER

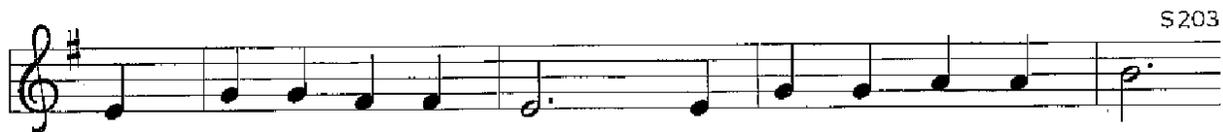
(Psalm 130, John 11)

God of life, present and promised,
you are the One to whom we call:
for you are the One who hears,
and you are the One who acts,
bringing us new life
with your grace and love and power.
Lead us in our time of worship,
that we may be prepared to follow your lead
in places where life is at risk—
places where hope seems far away,
places where dreams die during sleep.
When we leave these walls,
help us live the teachings we proclaim
within this place of worship,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

ELW Page 203

A Kyrie may be sung by all.



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Please be seated

† We Hear God's Word †

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath^[a] enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

LONGER

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE HOLY GOSPEL John 11: 1-45 (pages 923-924 in Pew Bible)

The Death of Lazarus

11 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

⁸ "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. ¹⁰ It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

¹¹ After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

¹² His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." ¹³ Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

¹⁶ Then Thomas (also known as Didymus^[a]) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles^[b] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Pastor: The Gospel of Our Lord

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Please Be Seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Tracy Guffey

Please stand

187 Give Of Your Best To The Master

H. B. G.

MRS. CHARLES BARNARD

1. Give of your best to the Mas - ter; Give of the strength of your youth;
 2. Give of your best to the Mas - ter; Give Him first place in your heart;
 3. Give of your best to the Mas - ter; Naught else is wor - thy His love;

REF.—Give of your best to the Mas - ter; Give of the strength of your youth;

Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ar - dor In - to the bat - tle for truth.
 Give Him first place in your serv - ice, Con - se - crate ev - 'ry part.
 He gave Him - self for your ran - som, Gave up His glo - ry a - bove:

Clad in sal - va - tion's full ar - mor, Join in the bat - tle for truth.

Je - sus has set the ex - am - ple; Dauntless was He, young and brave;..
 Give, and to you shall be giv - en; God His be - lov - ed Son gave;..
 Laid down His life with - out mur - mur, You from sin's ru - in to save;..

Give Him your loy - al de - vo - tion, Give Him the best that you have.....
 Grate - ful - ly seek - ing to serve Him, Give Him the best that you have.....
 Give Him your heart's ad - o - ra - tion, Give Him the best that you have.....

Please be seated

MESSAGE FOR OUR OLDER DISCIPLES

Rev. Dr. Richard Blue

Please Stand

† We Respond to God's Word †

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Congregation: 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 power of 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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Response of Congregation: Hear Our Prayers

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Now we join with Christians all over the world in worshiping God through our giving of our financial resources. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. Instead, we hope that we are able to give something to you. We welcome you to give only as your heart desires. For members and friends, the vision and ministry of St. James depends on your giving. We thank you in advance for your generosity. This time of offering is a significant act of worship, and we now offer our offerings and tithes.

Please Stand

OFFERTORY MUSIC- special music

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost.

THE OFFERING PRAYER

(Ezekiel 37, John 11)

Pastor: From your hands, O God,
come the blessings that make life possible,
even the very gift of life itself.
In gratitude and thanks,
receive from our hands this portion of our labors.
By your Spirit's leading,
may we use these gifts to bless the life of others
with the assurance of love,
the promise of hope,
and the course of justice.
This we do to your glory. Amen.

† We Celebrate the Lord's Supper †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins

Pastor: The Lord be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.

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

Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. In these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may rediscover the grace of baptism and the joy of Easter. Through his fasting, prayer and acts of mercy, you have given us an example to follow as we strive to resist temptation and grow in holiness.

And so, with all the angels and saints we proclaim Your glory, as with one voice we sing:

Sanctus

People: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Jesus

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper, saying, "This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The Lord's Prayer

People: 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. Amen.

Invitation

(Ezekiel 37)

Pastor: Ezekiel prophesied life to broken and scattered bones.

Congregation: Jesus offered the bread of life to soon-to-be-scattered disciples.

Pastor: In a field where life had been poured out, Ezekiel promised the outpouring of God's Spirit.

Congregation: At this table, in a cup poured out, and in bread broken, Jesus promises new life in God's kingdom.

Pastor: Let us gather at God's table, and remember.

Let us gather at God's table, and hope.

Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, we thank you for this opportunity to come together and share in your holy sacrament. May we be nourished by the bread and cup we receive, and be filled with your Spirit as we go forth to serve you in the world. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

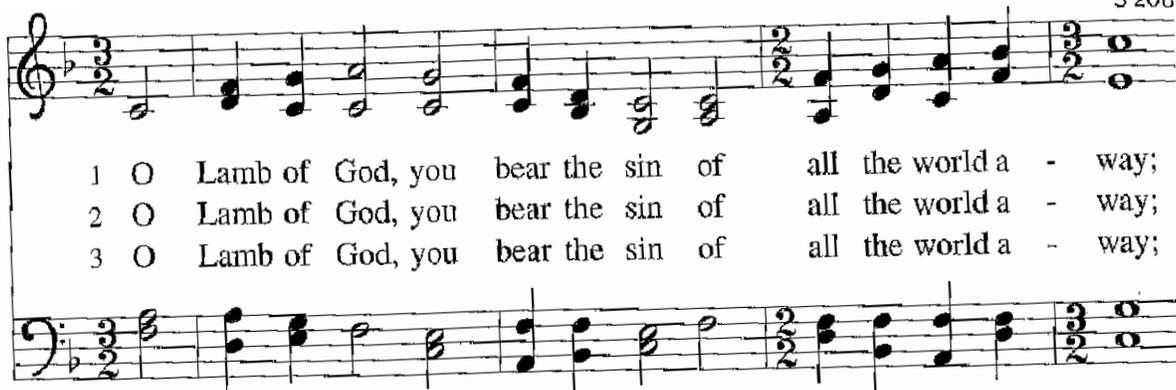
Pastor: Please come forward to receive the bread and cup, and return to your seats for a time of prayer and reflection.

Communion

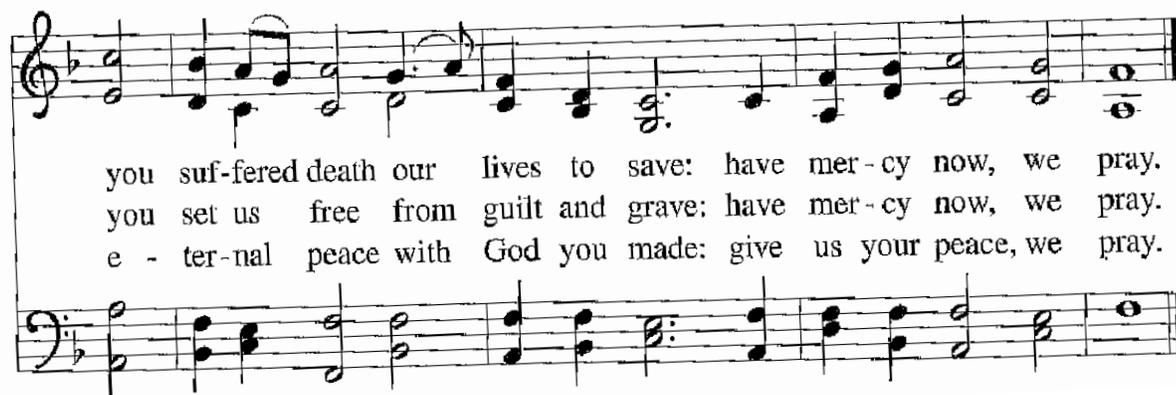
Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

S 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

THE DISTRIBUTION

I Am the Bread of Life



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less . . . you . . . eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion, . . .
 5 Yes, Lord, . . . I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, . . . and if you
 flesh of the Son of Man . . . and . . .
 I . . . am the life. . . If you be -
 you . . . are the Christ, . . . the . . .



lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat . . . of this bread, and you shall . . . live for -
 drink . . . of his blood, and drink . . . of his
 lieve . . . in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
 Son . . . of . . . God, who . . . has . . .



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, . . . you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to . . . the . . . world. . .



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."

Text: John 6, adapt. Suzanne Toolan, SM, b. 1927
 Music: BREAD OF LIFE, Suzanne Toolan, SM, b. 1927

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Please Stand

THE BLESSING AFTER THE MEAL

Pastor: Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for this holy sacrament of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. May the bread we have eaten and the cup we have shared be a sign of our unity in Christ and a source of nourishment for our journey of faith.

As we go forth from this holy place, may we be strengthened by your grace and empowered by your Spirit to serve you faithfully in the world.

And now, may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

All: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

(Psalm 130, Romans 8)

Pastor: We are a people loved by God.

Congregation: We will live as signs of this love.

Pastor: We are a people blessed with hope.

Congregation: We will live in light of this hope.

Pastor: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God's love with all.

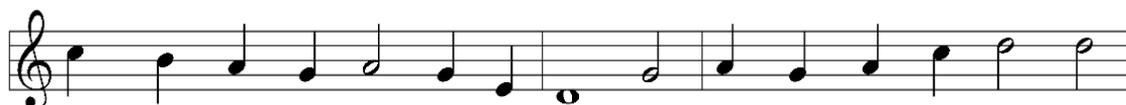
All: Amen and amen!

† We Depart in Peace †

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this that
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down be-
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
 is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 sing his love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: American folk hymn, alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE. W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

THE DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Worship Volunteer Schedule	Sunday 3/26/23	Wednesday 3/29/23	Sunday 4/2/23 Palm Sunday
Assisting Minister	Debbie Mowrey	Ben Black	Tracy Guffey
Lector	Dawn Hahm	Christian Gries	Maggie Bode
Ushers	Linda Hess Wanda Stephens-Wooten		Jim Jackson Deb Jackson
Greeters	Terry Clark Liz Clark		Jeanette Berkshire Alan Berkshire
Altar Guild	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott	Diana Clements-Scott
Communion Assistant	Karen Bell	Karen Bell	Tina Beck
Acolyte	Luke Stearns		Benjamin Black
Sound Technician	Dan Ivers	Ronald Kissell	Ronald Kissell
Video Technician	Geoff LaFlower	Neal Guffey	Neal Guffey
Bread Baker	Terri Gast	Karen Bell	Debby Brooks
Women's Bible Study Snacks	Kenya Ostermeier- 3/27/23	-	Sherry Coomes-4/3/23
Slide Creators	Bill and Sherry Coomes	Bill and Sherry Coomes	?
Children's Sermon	Tracey Guffey	-	Allison LaFlower
Counters (Monday)	Maggie Bode Christian Gries	-	Linda Hess Maggie Bode