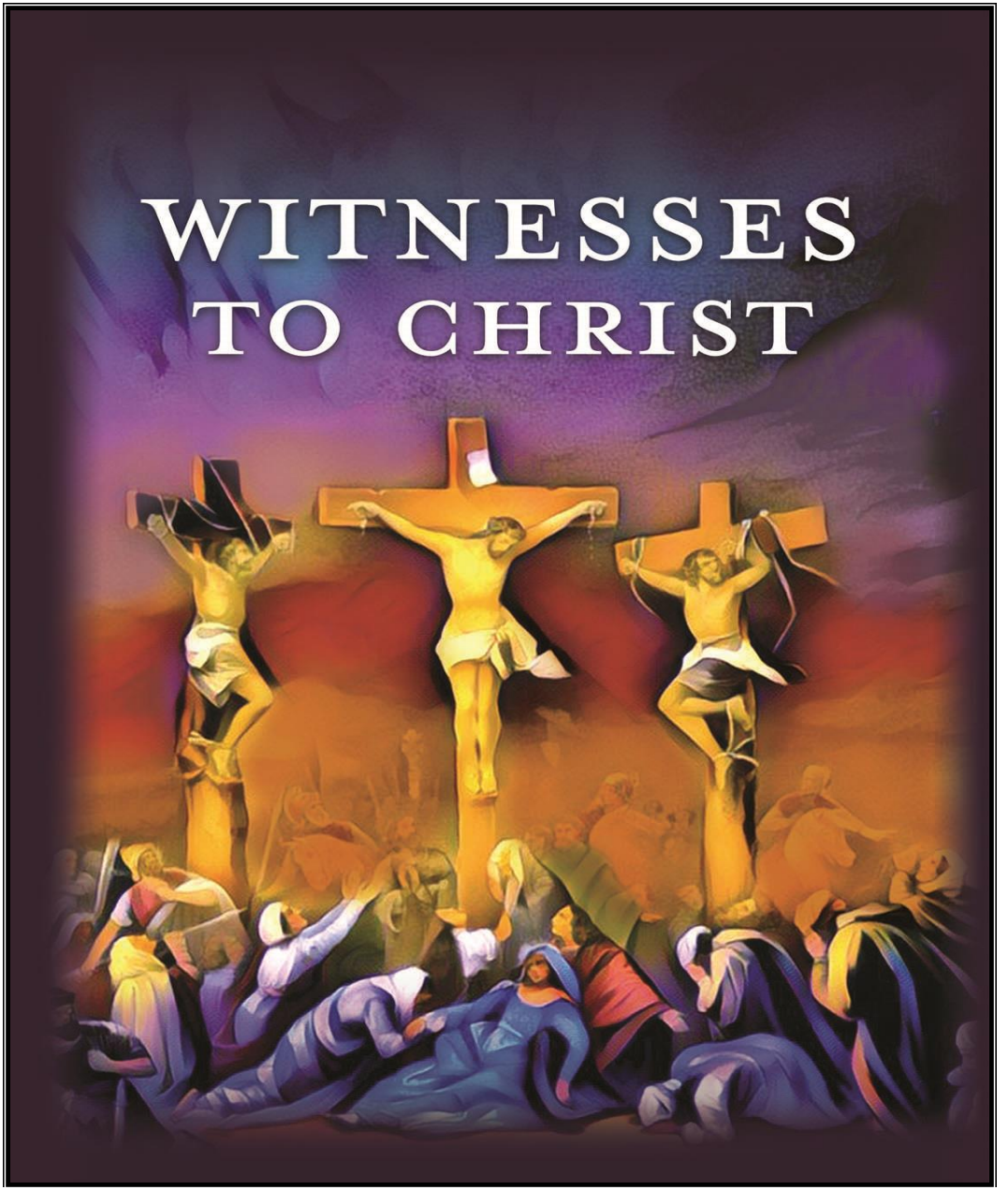


Barabbas
Midweek Lenten Service IV
Wednesday, March 30, 2022
6:30 pm

As We Gather

Barabbas was a heartless, brutal criminal with anger in his heart and blood on his hands. Custom dictated that Pontius Pilate should release one prisoner at the feast of Passover. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent and tries to get the crowd to ask for Jesus' release, but the crowd calls instead for Barabbas. The crowd condemns the innocent Jesus and demands that the guilty Barabbas receive a pardon. We are Barabbas. We are guilty and sinful and deserving of death. But we are also Barabbas in that Jesus takes our place, takes our punishment, and sets us free.

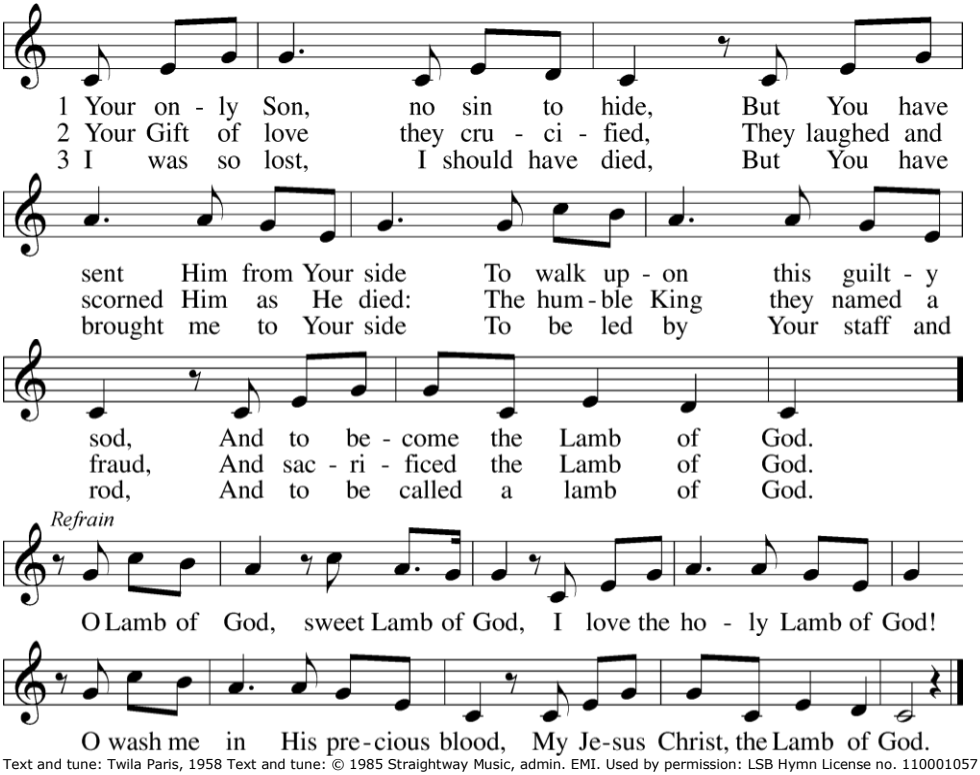
Preservice Music

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Please stand

Lamb of God *LSB 550*



Text and tune: Twila Paris, 1958 Text and tune: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001057

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

L: As we continue our Lenten journey, we watch as Jesus stands trial before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate.
C: Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent.
L: Pilate tries to set Jesus free,
C: but the people call for a thief and murderer named Barabbas.
L: Though Barabbas is guilty, he is set free.
C: Though Jesus is innocent, He is condemned to die.

Confession and Absolution

L: We are like Barabbas. We are guilty. We all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and seek His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

C: **Heavenly Father, we have sinned against You and against our neighbors in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have rebelled against Your rule and reign. We know our guilt. We know we deserve the punishment of death. But we seek Your abundant mercy on account of Jesus.**
L: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us. Jesus stands in our place and takes the punishment for our sin. He endures death for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.
C: **Amen. We are pardoned. We are set free because of Jesus.**

Psalmody *Psalm 57; antiphon: v. 10*

L: For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.
C: **Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,**
for in You my soul takes refuge;

L: in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.

C: **I cry out to God Most High,**
to God who fulfills His purpose for me.

L: He will send from heaven and save me;
He will put to shame him who tramples on me.

C: **God will send out His steadfast love and His faithfulness!**

L: My soul is in the midst of lions;
I lie down amid fiery beasts—

C: **the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,**
whose tongues are sharp swords.

L: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let Your glory be over all the earth!

C: **They set a net for my steps;**
my soul was bowed down.

L: They dug a pit in my way,
but they have fallen into it themselves.

C: **My heart is steadfast, O God,**
my heart is steadfast!

L: I will sing and make melody!
Awake, my glory!

C: **Awake, O harp and lyre!**
I will awake the dawn!

L: I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;
I will sing praises to You among the nations.

C: **For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,**
Your faithfulness to the clouds.
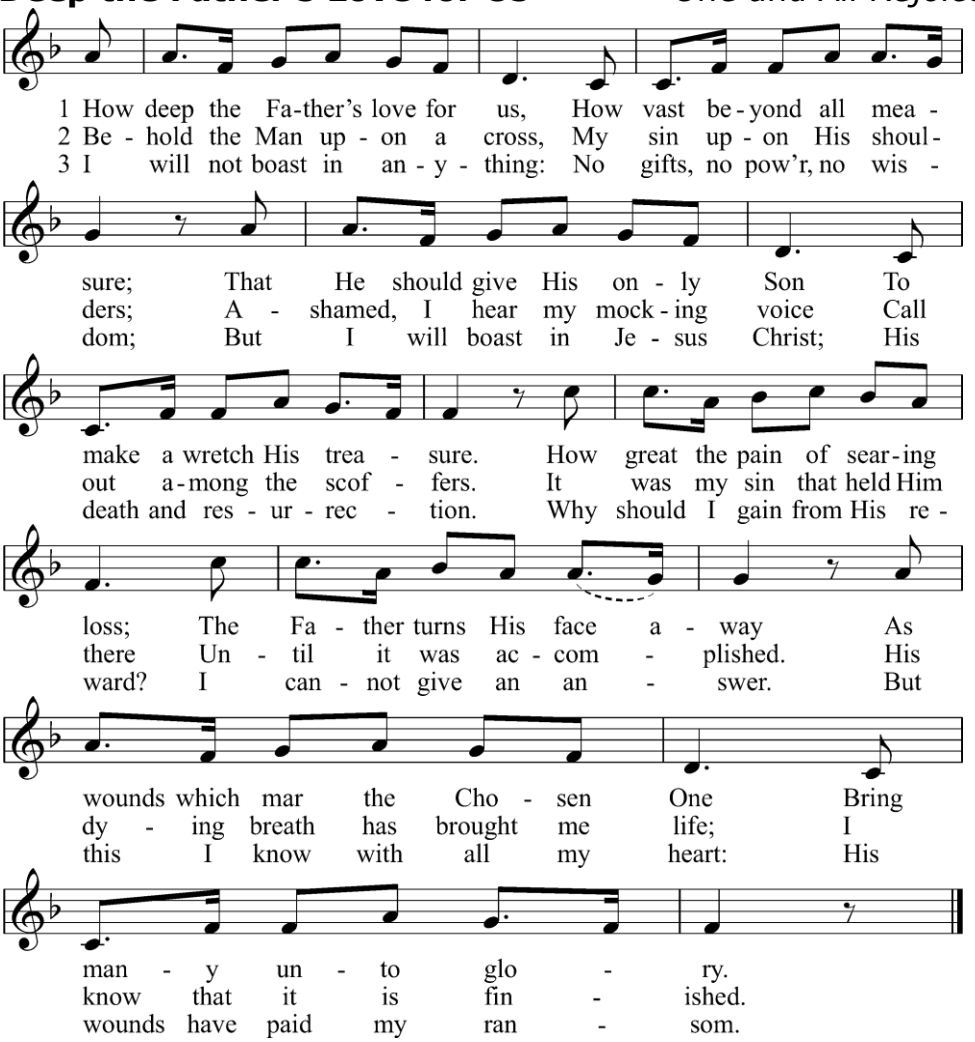
L: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let Your glory be over all the earth!

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

L: For Your steadfast love is great to the heavens,
Your faithfulness to the clouds.

Please be seated

How Deep the Father's Love for Us *One and All Rejoice 203*



Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963
Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963
Text and tune: © 1995 Thankyou Music (PRS), admin. at CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. 536023

Old Testament *Zechariah 9:11-12*

[11]As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
[12]Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
C: Thanks be to God.
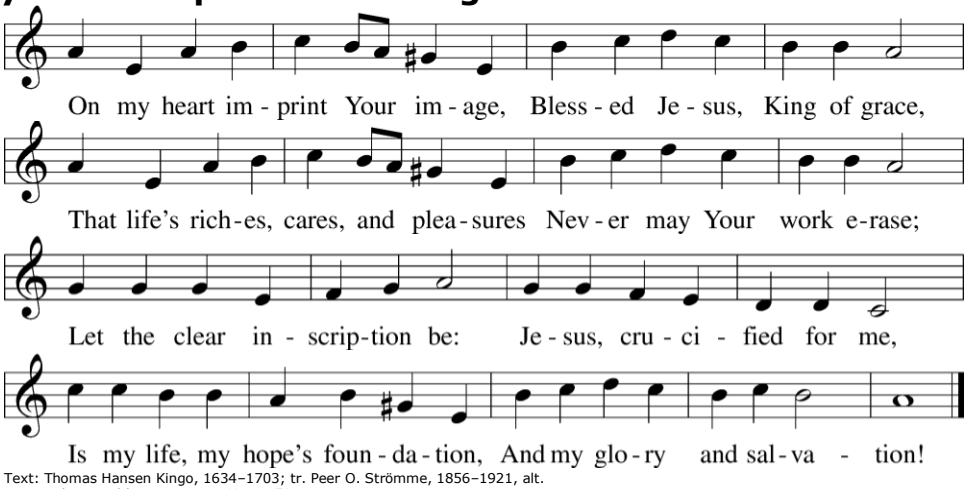
Epistle *2 Corinthians 3:15-18*

15Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16But
when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18And we all, with
unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the
same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the
Lord who is the Spirit.

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

On My Heart Imprint Your Image *LSB 422*



Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758
Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Gospel *John 18:33-40*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

33So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him,
"Are You the King of the Jews?" 34Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your
own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" 35Pilate answered, "Am I a
Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me.
What have You done?" 36Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If
My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I
might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the

world." [37]Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." [38]Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"
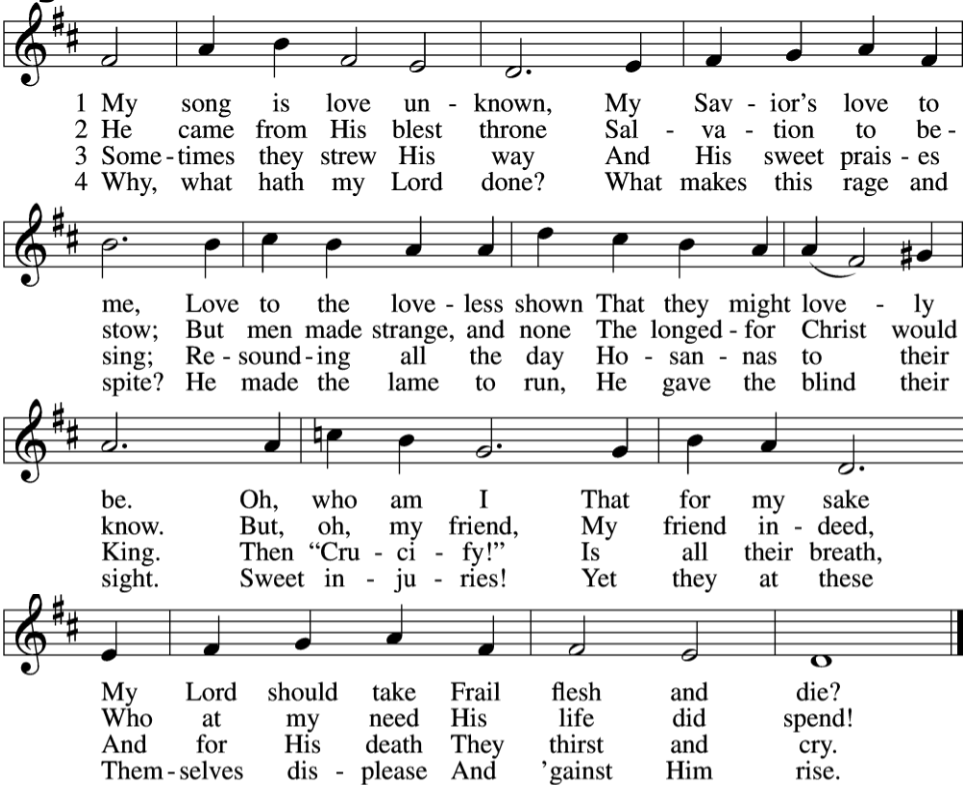
After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him. [39]But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. So do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" [40]They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

My Song Is Love Unknown

LSB 430



(more verses on the next page)

5 They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He
To suff'ring goes
That He His foes
From thence might free.

6 In life no house, no home
My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave.
What may I say?
Heav'n was His home
But mine the tomb
Wherein He lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683
Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879–1962
Text: Public domain
Tune: © John Ireland Trust. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001057

Sermon

At the Foot of the Cross ***Dawn Tayon, vocalist***

Please stand

Prayers of the Church

Psalm 102:1; Psalm 17:8; Psalm 17:15

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For all those who are incarcerated, that they might know the power of Your love that liberates them from enslavement to sin, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For all those who are on the margins of society and often overlooked, for the homeless, the orphaned, the poor, and the friendless, that we might follow Your example and show compassion to those most in need, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all who are lonely, shut-in, separated from family, or struggling to make friends, that You might be present with them and surround them with a loving community, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For those who struggle to accept Your grace and mercy, that You might soften their hearts to know that Your word of forgiveness and freedom is sure and certain, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all those who have rejected You, wandering off on their own, that You might draw them to Yourself and show them Your love that the world cannot give, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all those who are ill, injured, recovering, or preparing for surgery, to strengthen them with Your healing and patience through their afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For all those who grieve the loss of loved ones, to comfort them in the sure and certain hope that death does not have the final word, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

L: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Benedicamus

L: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benedication

L: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✢ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
C: Amen.

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing *TLH 155*

**Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross we spend,
Life and health and peace possessing
From the sinners' dying Friend.**

**Here we rest in wonder, viewing
All our sins on Jesus laid,
Here we see redemption flowing
From the sacrifice He made.**

**Here we find the dawn of heaven
While upon the cross we gaze,
See our trespasses forgiven,
And our songs of triumph raise.**

**Oh, that, near the cross abiding,
We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with Him our hearts dividing,
All for Him content to leave!**

**Lord, in loving contemplation
Fix our hearts and eyes on Thee
Till we taste Thy full salvation
And Thine unveiled glory see.**

WITNESSES TO CHRIST: PEOPLE FROM HIS PASSION

This Lent, our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witness of those in John's Gospel who journeyed to the cross. Along the way, we'll meet villains, such as Barabbas and Pontius Pilate, as well as sinners, such as Peter (who denied Jesus *three* times), Mary Magdalene (who was possessed by *seven* demons), and Judas Iscariot (who betrayed Jesus for *thirty* pieces of silver).

Please join us for worship as we hear the witness of these people in John's Gospel:

Lent 5: Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.

Pontius Pilate, John 19:1–16

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.

Judas Iscariot, John 13:21–30

Good Friday April 15, 12 noon with communion and Tenebrae, 7 p.m.

John, the Gospel Writer, John 19:25–37

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Sunday, April 17, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Mary Magdalene, John 20:1–18

Worship Leaders:	Pastor Chris A. Spelbring, Proclaiming Pastor Seminarian Mark Esser, Liturgist
Elder on Duty:	Kurt Wampole
Sound/Video/Camera:	Steve Grandcolas/Mark Goerger/Jill Hasstedt
Acolytes:	Dessa Schmidt, Caroline Kuhn

CCLI License:#536023

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.