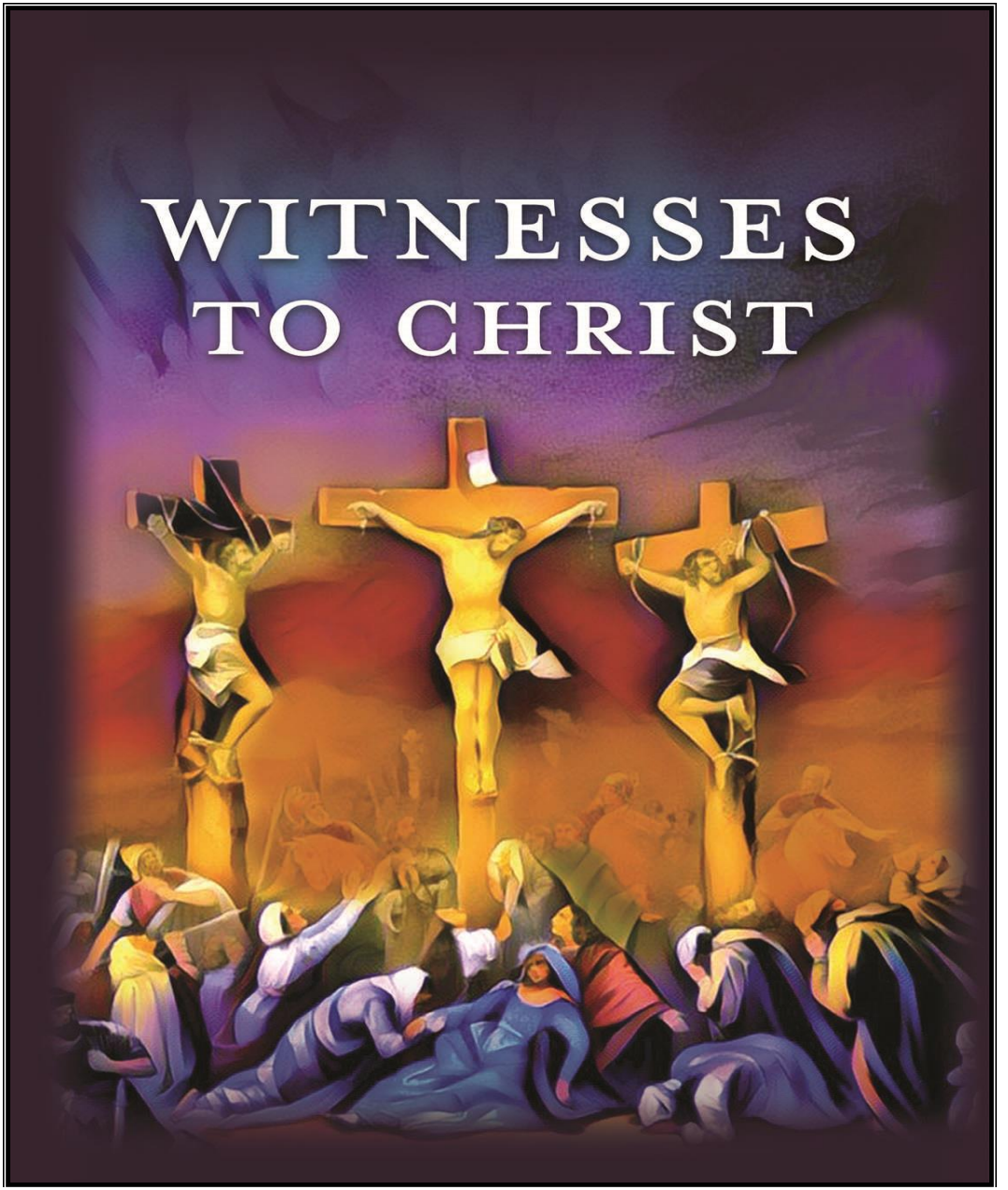


Peter
Midweek Lenten Service III
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
6:30 pm

As We Gather

Simon Peter witnessed much of Christ's ministry on earth. He is featured in many highlights of the four Gospels, but today we see Peter at his lowest point, as he denies Jesus three times. The result of Peter's denial is a massive amount of guilt. Each of us can relate to that unwanted flood of self-disgust that comes when we remember past sin. But guilt is not the final word for Peter, and it is not the final word for us. After His resurrection, Jesus restores and forgives Peter. Jesus offered Peter grace. Jesus also gives us grace, forgiveness, and restoration at the cross.
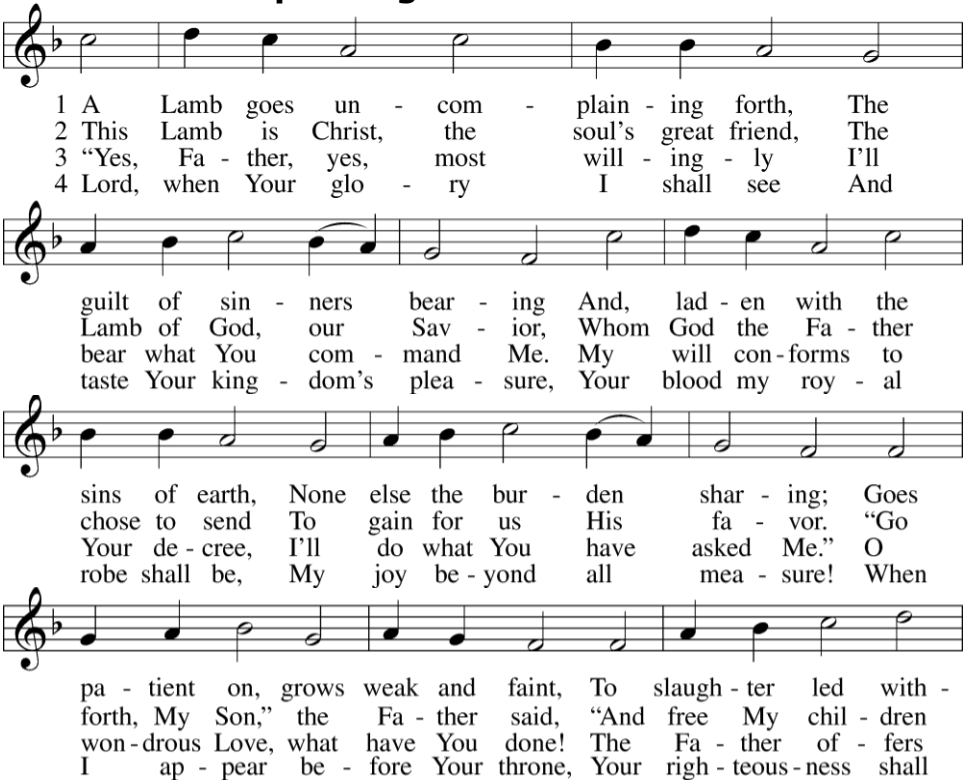
Preservice Music

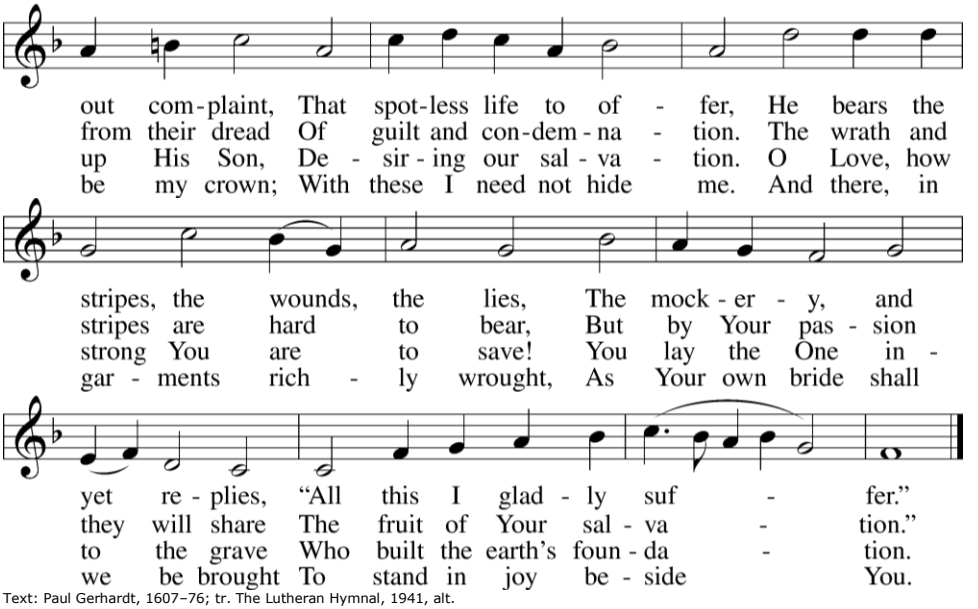
Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Please stand

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth *LSB 438*





Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001057
Tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

P: As we continue our Lenten journey, we witness Peter's denial of Jesus.
C: Three times Peter denies his Lord.
P: When the rooster crows and Peter realizes what he has done,
C: he is overwhelmed with guilt.
P: Yet when Jesus is raised from the dead, He restores Peter.
C: Three times Jesus tells Peter to feed His sheep.
P: Though Peter had sinned and was filled with guilt,
C: Jesus forgives and fills Peter with grace.

Confession and Absolution

P: Like Peter, we have all experienced the pain and guilt of past sins. We know that we have been far from perfect. Though we follow Jesus, our thoughts, words, and actions have been poor representations of Christ to the world. Yet, in His infinite mercy, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him for forgiveness and restoration.

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

C: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have denied You in what we have done and in what we have failed to do. We have failed to trust You in all things. Lord, forgive us, restore us, and remove our guilt.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. On account of Jesus, all of your sin has been forgiven—all of the guilt you feel has been made powerless by God's grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven and restored by God's abundant grace.**

Psalmody

Psalm 130

P: Out of the depths
I cry to You, O LORD!

C: O Lord, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

P: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with You there is forgiveness,
that You may be feared.

P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in His word I hope;

C: my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
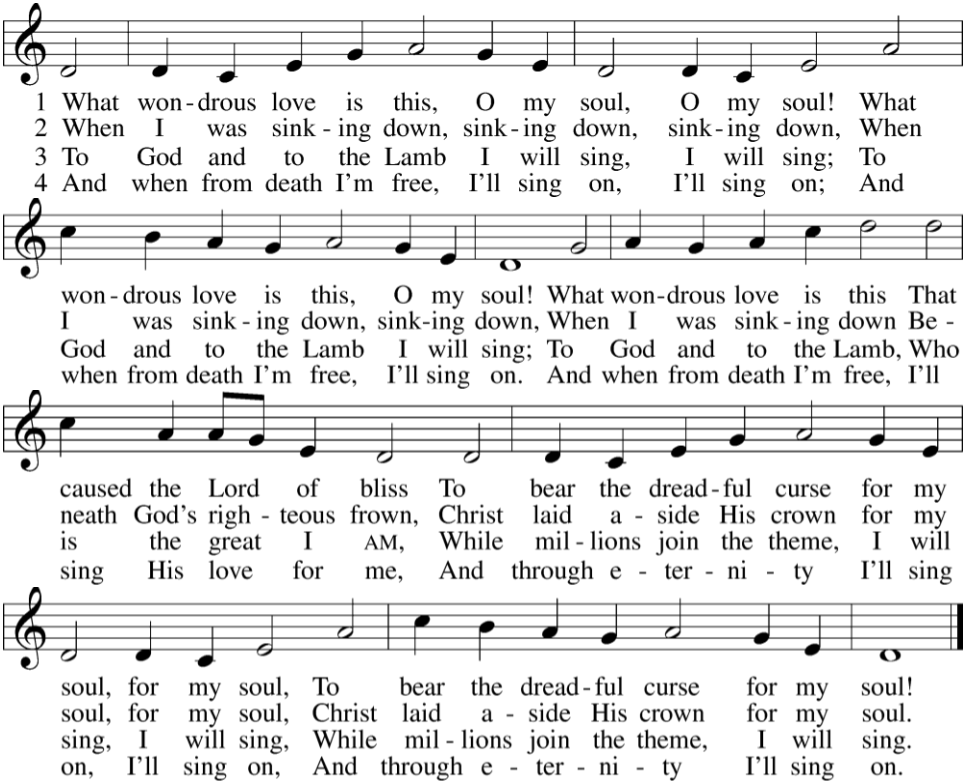
P: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with Him is plentiful redemption.

C: And He will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

All: 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.

Please be seated

What Wondrous Love Is This *LSB 543*



Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, Lynchburg, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

Old Testament *Zechariah 12:10-14*

10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem
a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him
whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only
child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn. 11 On that
day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-
rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. 12 The land shall mourn, each family by itself:
the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the
family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; 13 the
family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family
of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; 14 and all the families
that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves."

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

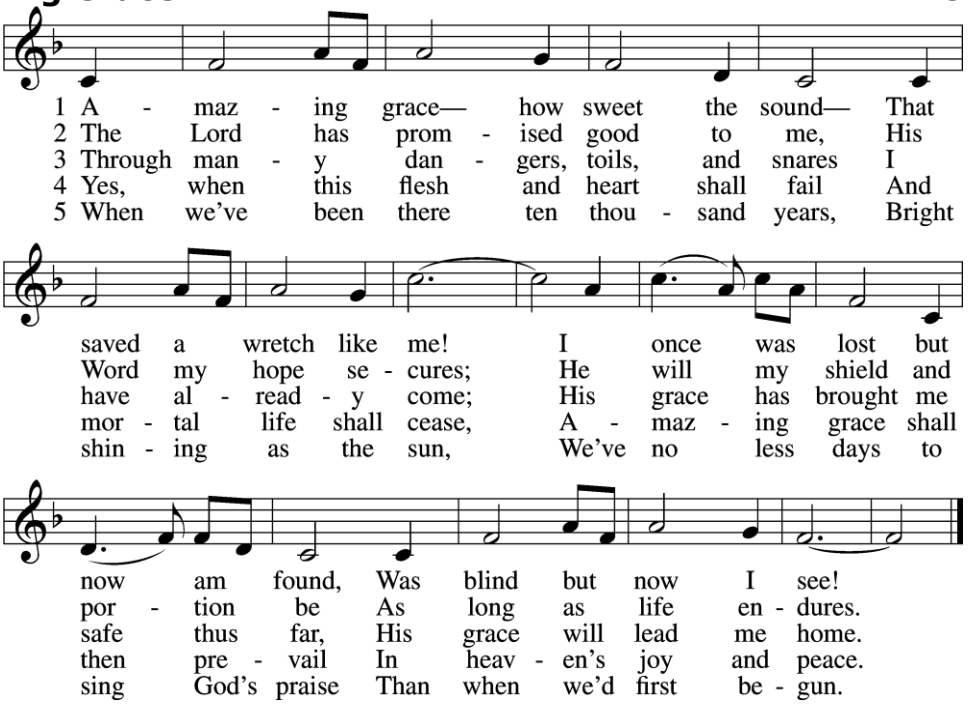
Epistle *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

[7]So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. [8]Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. [9]But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

[10]For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

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

Amazing Grace *LSB 744*



Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Holy Gospel *John 18:12-27*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[12]So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. [13]First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. [14]It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.

[15]Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, [16]but Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the servant girl who kept watch at the door, and brought Peter in. [17]The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." [18]Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves. Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself.

[19]The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teaching. [20]Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. [21]Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them; they know what I said." [22]When He had said these things, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how You answer the high priest?" [23]Jesus answered him, "If what I said is wrong, bear witness about the wrong; but if what I said is right, why do you strike Me?" [24]Annas then sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.
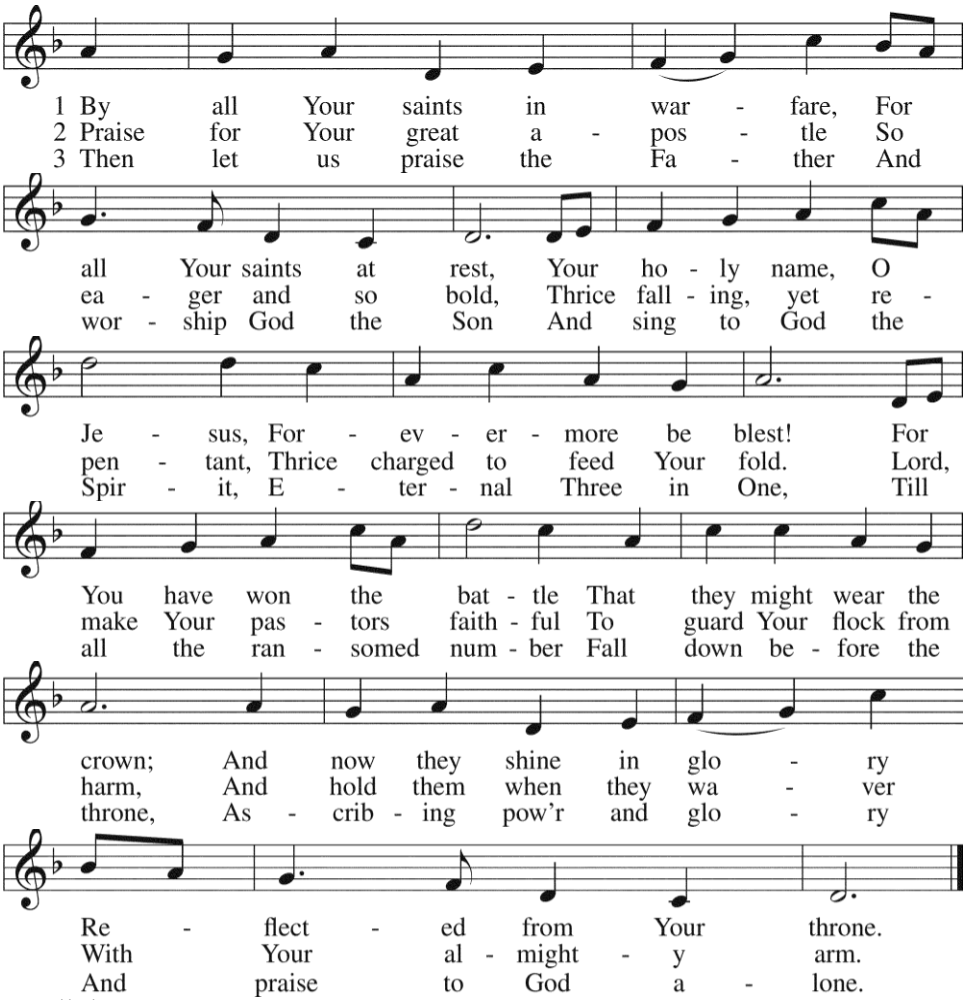
[25]Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." [26]One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" [27]Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

By All Your Saints in Warfare *LSB 517*



Text: Public domain
Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Create in Me a Clean Heart Melissa Papka and Monica Taylor, vocals

Please stand

Versicles and Collects

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

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C: listen to my cry.

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C: hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

P: In righteousness I shall see You;
C: when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

P: Lord, encourage all those who struggle with lingering guilt from past sins. Remind them that by Your death and resurrection, You have conquered sin and removed their guilt forever. O my Savior, help afford,
C: **by Your Spirit and Your Word.**

P: Lord, shield all those who suffer the attacks of Satan. Clothe them with Your full armor so that they might believe Your Word rather than the lies of Satan. O my Savior, help afford,
C: by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P: Lord, thank You for the gifts of community and friendship. Thank You for all the joy and laughter You have placed into our lives. Help us always to recognize these as Your good gifts. O my Savior, help afford,
C: by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P: Lord, comfort all those who worry about family and friends who have wandered from the faith. Give us patience, knowing that You continually pursue Your sheep. Help us welcome them back into Your fold with grace and love. O my Savior, help afford,
C: by Your Spirit and Your Word.

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P: 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.**
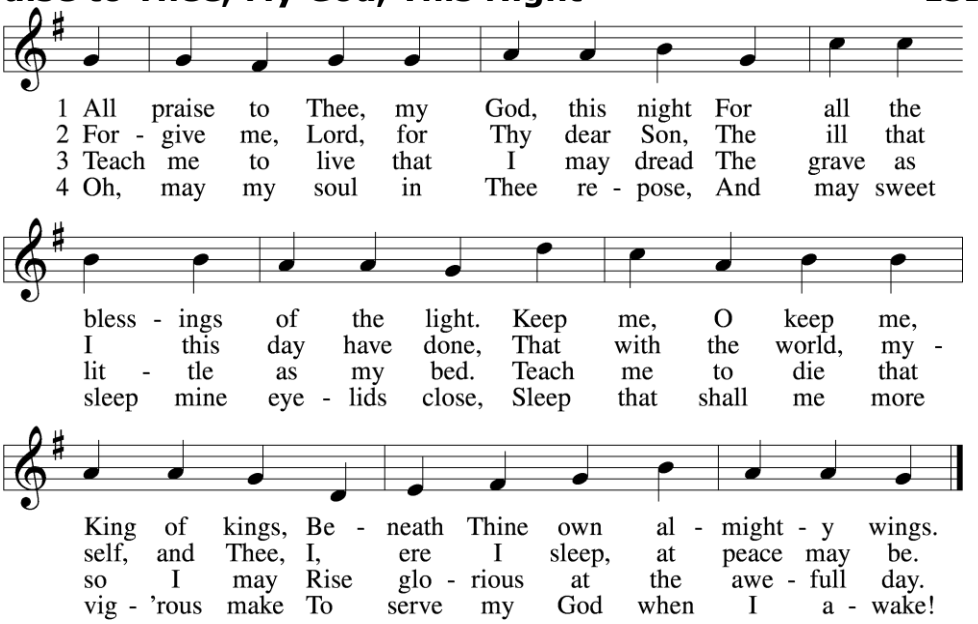
Benedicamus

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

Benedication

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C: Amen.

All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night *LSB 883*



5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.

6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Tune: Thomas Tallis, c. 1505–1585
Text and tune: Public domain

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 4: Wednesday, March 30, 6:30 p.m.

Barabbas, John 18:33–40

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

Pontius Pilate, John 19:1–16

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 pm:

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 Leader:	Pastor Chris A. Spelbring
Elder on Duty/Scripture Reader:	Ryan Schiffner
Organist:	Dawn E. Tayon, Director of Music
Sound/Video/Camera:	Bob Kienitz/Emalee Peters/Lisa Peters
Acolytes:	James Schiffner, Claire Haynes

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