



**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

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Introduction

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

arr. Robert A. Hobby

GATHERING

Greeting

Luke 6:35, 37

P: Love your enemies, and you will be children of the Most High; forgive, and you will be forgiven.

All: Alleluia.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

P: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn

Gathering Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

ELW# 779

Verses 1, 3, and 4 – Large print words found on page 22



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that

3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but

have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.

safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also, with you.**

Please be seated

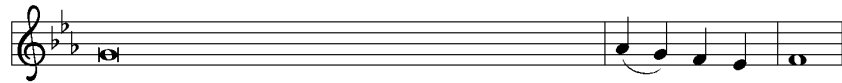
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



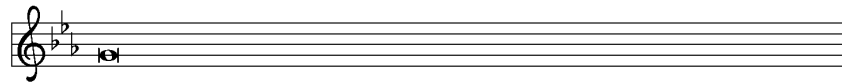
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



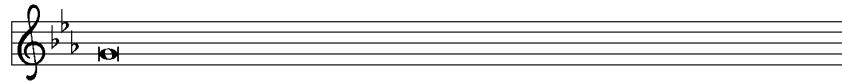
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.




Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

This is the Feast

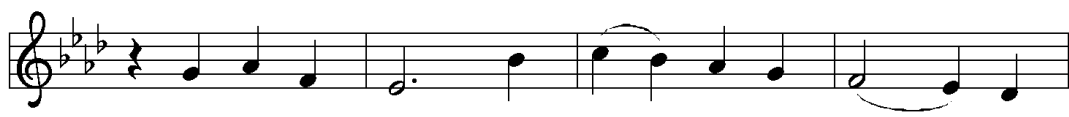
Refrain




This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



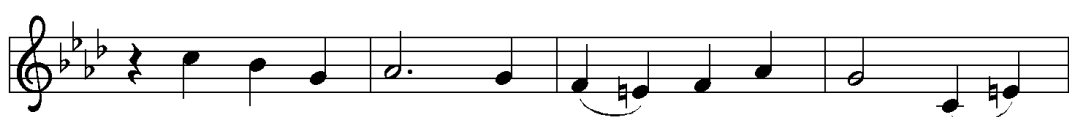
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.




1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

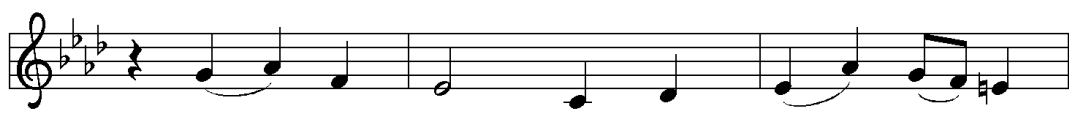


Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to




Refrain

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



Refrain

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

WORD

First Reading:

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Assisting Minister

Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 37:1-11, 39-40 Read responsively by whole verse

The lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace. (Ps. 37:11)

AM: ¹ Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

All: ² **For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

AM: ³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and ^l find safe pasture.

All: ⁴ **Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**

AM: ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.

All: ⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

AM: ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

All: ⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

AM: ⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

All: ¹⁰ **In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

AM: ¹¹ But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

All: ³⁹ **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O LORD; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

AM: ⁴⁰ You, O LORD, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in you they seek refuge.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶ Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

³⁷ And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gospel reading

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.

Jesus said: ²⁷ "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

³⁰ Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ If you lend

to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

P: The gospel of the Lord,
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Building Bridges-Not Fences

Pastor Orval Osmundson

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Hymn of the Day



Hymn of the Day

“Jesus Loves Me”

ELW #595

Verses 1, 2, and 3 Large print words found on page 23

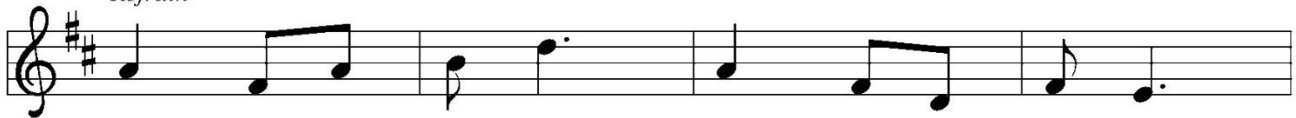


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;

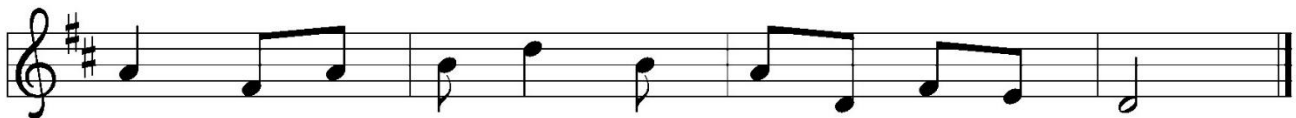


lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of Intercession

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creations.

AM: *Each prayer will end with:* God of grace,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

MEAL

Offering Music

“I Come with Joy” arr. Sally Drennan Mossing

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Offering Song.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offertory Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

All: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

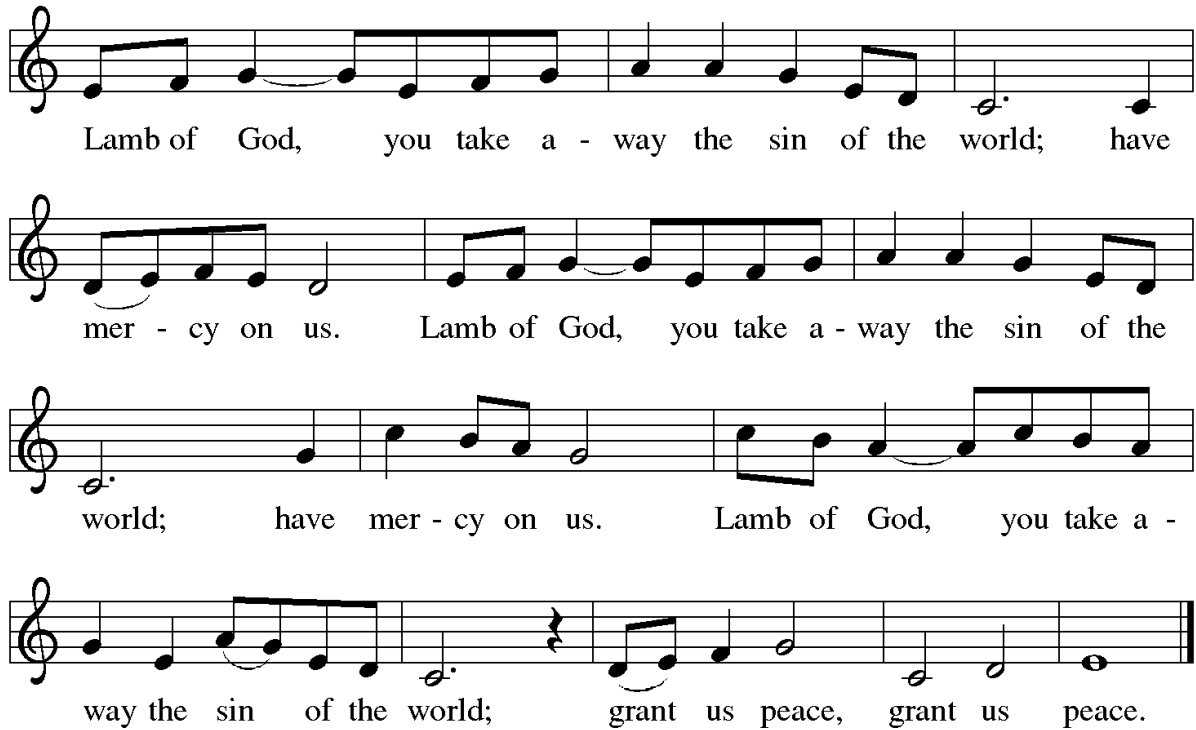
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

P: Come for all things are now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward.

Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine.

If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you.

Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.

Communion Anthem

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

arr. John Carter

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen

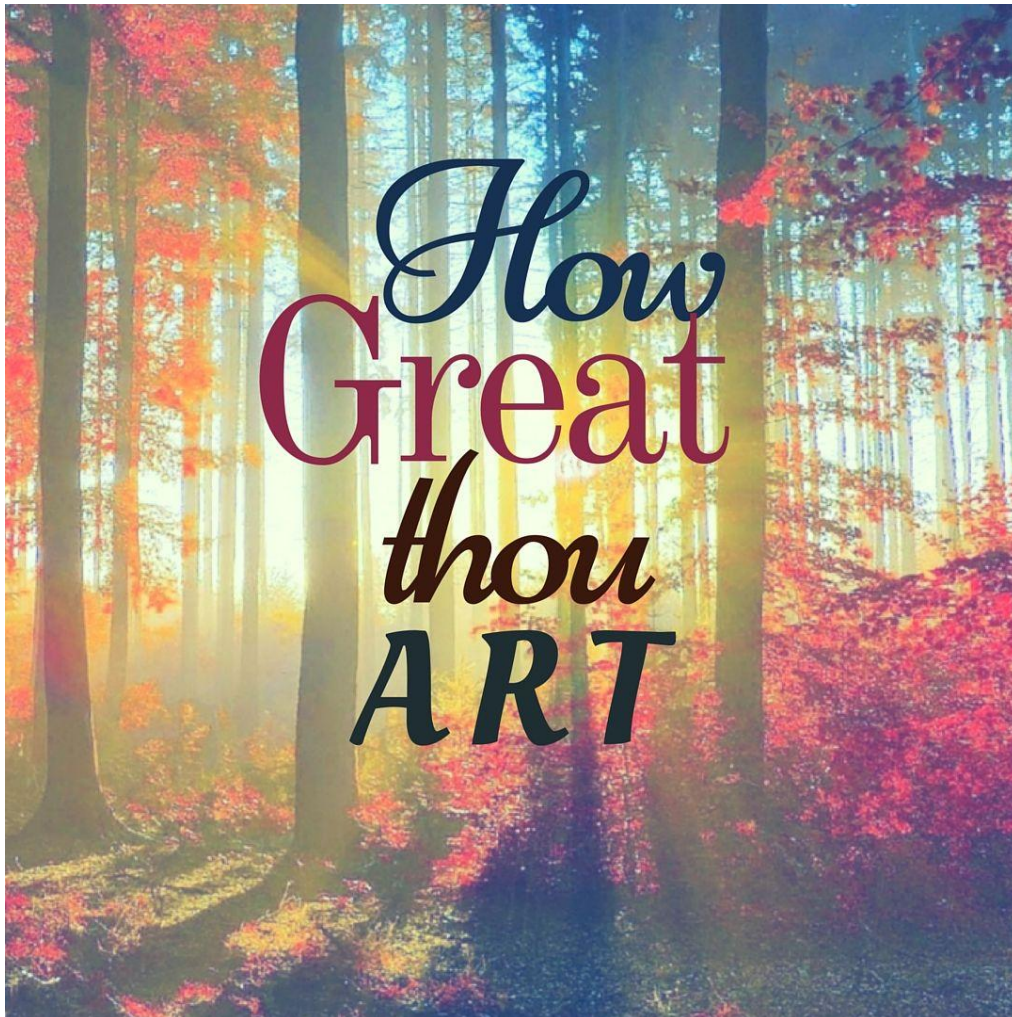
Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

Sending

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.



Verses 1, 3, and 4 - Large printed words found on page 24



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er

3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y

die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;

bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, “My God, how great thou art!”

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989
 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
 Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,
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Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude

“Postlude in G Major”

P. Branchina

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Orval Osmundson

Organ/Piano: Barbara Rossow

Assisting Ministers: Valerie and Orval Osmundson

Communion Assistants: Janine Almquist and Dana Nelson

Ushers: David Almquist and Elaine & Charles Rohrbach

Hospitality: Valerie and Orval Osmundson

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic, Jim Persoon or Mary Kowitz

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Dave Balfanz, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Velta Krauze, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

March Birthdays:

Carol Hansen	March 3
Nancy Swanson	March 6
Chris Anderson	March 6
Nancy Seagren	March 6
Teri Larson	March 6
Kathleen Martin	March 11
Ethan Peterson	March 12
Thomas Dolen	March 19
Cheryl Hollman	March 21
Carol Baldwin	March 21
Mryl Vietor	March 25
Linda McInerney	March 25
Justin Hanson	March 28
Esther Hallgren	March 29

March Anniversaries

Ron and Sharon Hanson	March 10
Kevin and Priscilla Wicken	March 12
Nancy and David Seagren	March 24

Concordia College Concert - The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, MN, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton will perform at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater on Saturday, March 15th at 2:00 p.m. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for tickets.

Prayer Prompts for the Upcoming Week. Let us pray together for....

February 23	MN Preparatory Academy
February 24	Tanzania
February 25	Alley Shoppe
February 26	All God's Creatures
February 27	God's Grace for You
February 28	People in Your life
March 1	March Birthdays

Security Protocols

We are making a few changes to our security protocols at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church. These changes are being made to ensure the security of our members, building users and visitors who enter our building as guests for the many ministries that we offer.

These changes are being made in collaboration with Open Door St. Paul Learning Center staff, Pam Wiehe regarding Alley Shoppe clients and with our other building users.

The results of our discussions are new security protocols listed below.

1. Alley Shoppe will now use the church's main entrance for volunteers, clients and donations to enter/leave the building. This change will be effective February 17th. Pam and Alley Shoppe staff are setting up procedures to allow the flow of clients to and from the Alley Shoppe when they have entered the building.
2. Open Door is issuing a green laminated card to their students. They will hold up this card so it can be seen on the camera in order for them to gain entrance into the building. This will let the office staff/volunteers at AHLC know that they are a part of Open Door St. Paul. They will also provide a volunteer to assist in our entry way to help with identifying students for entry into our building.
3. AHLC staff will work with our volunteers and members to review new protocols.

We believe these new protocols will ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers and those that enter our building for the services that we provide. Please contact the office if you have any questions.



Every Meal (formerly Sheridan Story) is a non-profit organization that provides 4-pound bags of food to any student who signs up. This enables them to have good meals over the

weekend when school breakfast and lunch are not available.

The East Side Collaborative (ESCo) Arlington Hills, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus, and Our Redeemer, have adopted Txuj Ci HMong Cultural School (formerly Phalen Lake and Harrison Elementary) 1089 Cypress St Paul 55106. ESCo is delivering over

200 bags of food to children's backpacks on the last school day each week, usually Friday starting at 12:30. We could use your help. You can volunteer on whatever schedule works for you, even just once to see what Every Meal is on Sign Up Genius. Or by email:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FADA82FA0F8C43-51760629-every#/DanBjorkquist@Outlook.com>

Ash Wednesday is March 5th. Service will be at 12:00 (noon) in the Sanctuary. Soup and Scriptures on Wednesday during Lent starting March 12th in the Reception Room.

Gathering Hymn

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

Hymn of the Day

Jesus Loves Me!

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. *Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

Sending Hymn

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
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how great thou art! How great thou art!

3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989.

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