

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Covington, OH  
Church Office (937) 473-2170  
Pastor's Home (937) 703-1788  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 2021

**+ GATHERING+**

**PRELUDE & PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

*As we listen to the prelude music, we are invited to focus our attention on God and God's kingdom, praying silently or engaging in quiet meditation.*

**[\*Stand As Able]**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + One God, who forgives all our sins, whose mercy and promises endure forever.

**Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Holy God, hear our prayer:

**God of grace,**

**we confess that we have elevated  
the things of this world above you.**

**We have made idols of possessions and people  
and used your name for causes**

**that are not consistent with you and your purposes.**

**We have not always honored those who guided us in life.**

**We have participated in systems  
that take life instead of give it.**

**We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships.**

**We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not  
ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions.**

**Forgive us, O God,**

**for the many ways we fall short of your glory.**

**Help us to learn to live together according to your ways  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

**Amen.**

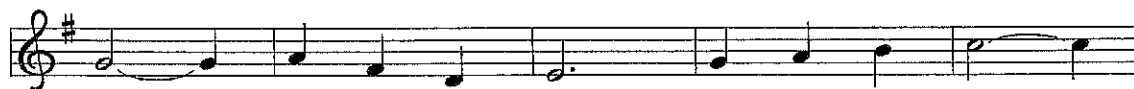
In the mercy of almighty God,  
 Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
 and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
 With the Lord there is mercy and full redemption. We are refreshed  
 and renewed in the living waters of Christ. Almighty God have mercy  
 on you, forgive you all your sin, and bring you to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG "Christ, Be Our Light" 715 red book**

**Christ, Be Our Light**



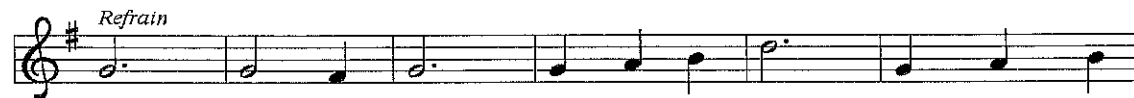
1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



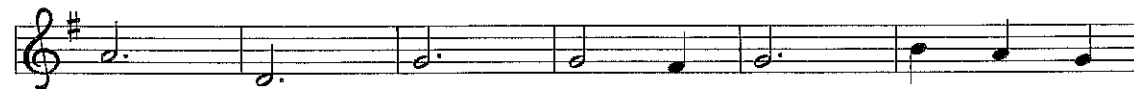
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
 Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
 Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
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## \*GREETING

We gather and live into the promises of God brought to us through the generations of God's people. **Amen.**

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

**And also with you.**

## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

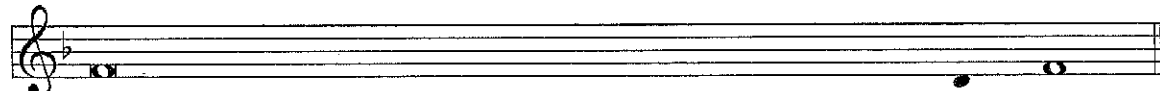
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE



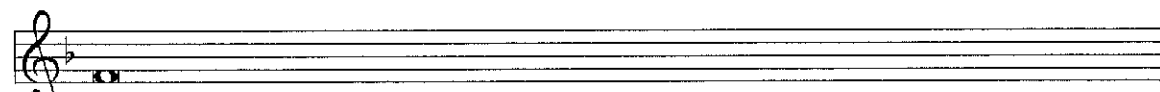
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



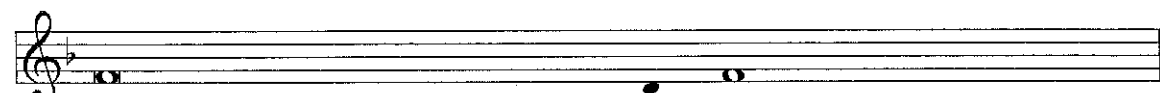
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



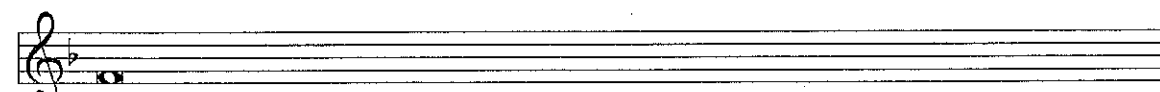
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



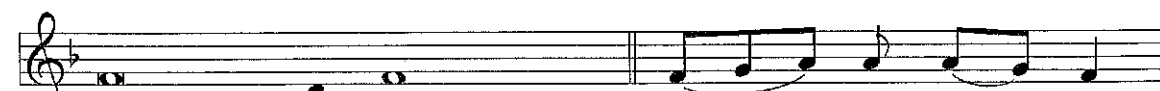
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



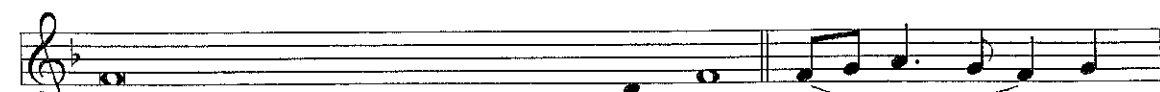
**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.



Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:



We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.



Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.



You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.



For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,



you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,



in the glory of God the Father. Amen

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

God who guides,

Remind us of the strength and hope you offer us each day. Release us of our fears, help us to hold steadfast to your teachings, and may we follow the example through your Son, that we may be a people who multiply love in the world.

Amen

+ WORD+

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## FIRST LESSON

## Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 107: 1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.  
<sup>2</sup>Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble  
<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.  
<sup>17</sup>Some were sick through their sinful ways,  
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;  
<sup>18</sup>they loathed any kind of food,  
and they drew near to the gates of death.  
<sup>19</sup>Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;  
<sup>20</sup>he sent out his word and healed them,  
and delivered them from destruction.  
<sup>21</sup>Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.  
<sup>22</sup>And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

## SECOND LESSON 2 Samuel 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. <sup>15</sup>But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **\*GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **\* READING OF THE GOSPEL**

**John 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The gospel of the Lord.

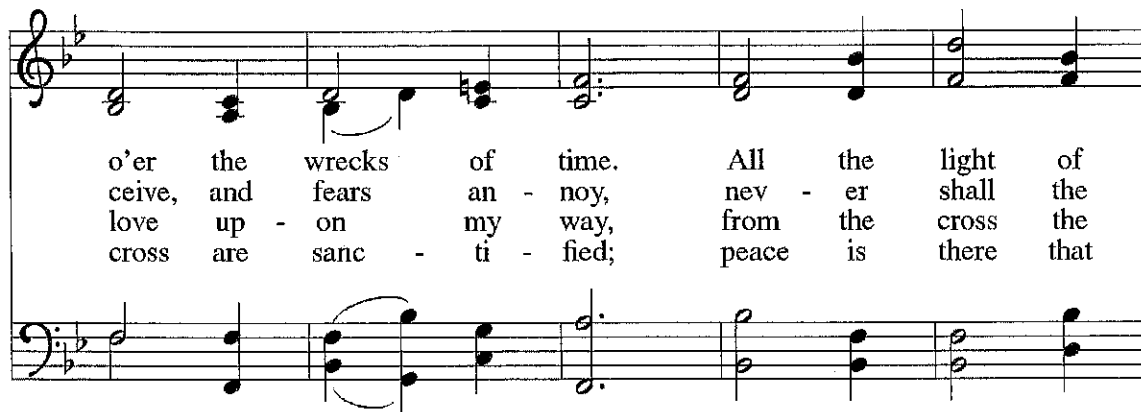
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON      "Fear, Triumph, and the Davidic Covenant"**  
2 Samuel 7:8-16

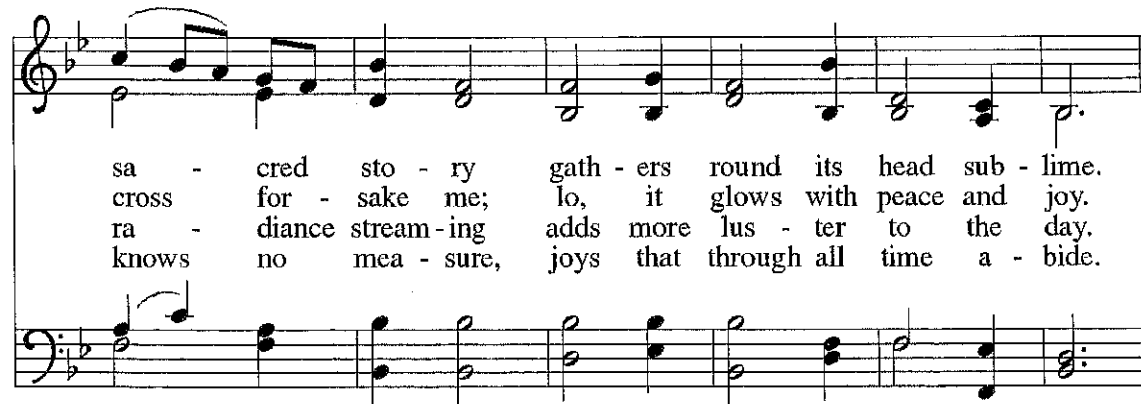
### In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872  
Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867



## \*APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through Our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

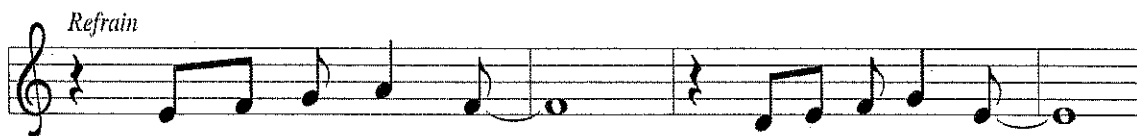
**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

## \*OFFERTORY "Change my heart, O God" 801 red book

### Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953

Music: CHANGE MY HEART, Eddie Espinosa

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## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Together we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Holy God we pray that we might become the story we tell, trusting in God's steadfast love, and guiding home to God's side those who have wandered, let us pray to the Lord,

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

For all followers of Christ in every land and nation, praying this day with Lutherans and believers around the globe for Bishop Eaton and the leaders and lay leaders of congregations, let us pray to the Lord,

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

That in our words, worship, and work we will honor the covenant made with God in baptism, let us pray to the Lord,

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

That the prayer, fasting, and intentions of Lent may bring forth a new springtime of faith in our lives, let us pray to the Lord,

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

For the nations and peoples of the earth, especially those in our hearts this week and those on our prayer list, and for all who struggle with attractions to wealth, power, and control, and that we may be led by the Spirit to serve as a sign and instrument of the Kingdom that has come near, let us pray to the Lord,

**Remember, O Lord, your faithfulness and love.**

For all these prayers lifted up to a gracious and loving God, we pray today. **Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

**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**

**+ SENDING+**

## \*BLESSING

The blessing of God, who brings you each day to new birth, who satisfies your thirst with living water, who breathes life into you by the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## \*SENDING SONG

“Christ, the life of all the living”

339 red book

### Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

## ORGAN MEDITATION

### \*DISMISSAL

Goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*POSTLUDE

## Our Financial Stewardship Gifts

<b>Weekly Needs</b>	<b>Rec'd 3/7</b>	<b>YTD Rec'd</b>
\$3,345.00 (Current)	\$ 2,741.50	\$26,038.93
\$ 313.00 (Benev.)	\$ 185.50	\$ 2,052.00

**Last Sunday Attendance: Worship Service 58**  
**Midweek Lenten (2/24) 28; (3/3) 24**

### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS/ ACTIVITIES THIS COMING WEEK:**

Today	-	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Tuesday	-	7:00 p.m. Zoom Lenten Book Study
Wednesday	-	7:00 p.m. Lenten Service 7:30 p.m. Church Council
Sunday	-	10:00 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Winter Congregational Meeting

### **Ministers serving in the worship service today:**

Ministers	The baptized of St. John's
Pastor	Pastor Rachel Patterson
Organist	Kristin Gephart
Choir Director	Norma Colby
Ushers	Open
Acolyte Coordinator	Briana King & Kate Shaffer
Altar Guild	Betty McKibben & Dawn Flory
Assisting Minister	Briana King
Lector	Betty Hollopeter
Tellers	Sandy Longenecker & Kathie Molesky

**Please remember that you will serve at next Sunday's 10:00 a.m.**

### **Worship:**

**Assisting Minister-** Norma Colby, **Lector-** Kate Shaffer,

**Ushers-** Open, **Altar Guild-** Betty McKibben & Dawn Flory, **Tellers-**Sandy Longenecker & Kathie Molesky.

### **Floral Offering:**

**Longeneckers to the Glory of God.**

**CD recordings of this service are available.**