

**St. John's Lutheran Church
Covington, OH
Church Office (937) 473-2170
Pastor's Home (937) 703-1788
5th Sunday in Lent
March 21, 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

[*Please Stand As Feels Comfortable]

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.
Amen.

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails.
The promise rests on grace:
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,
the wisdom and power of God,
your sins are ✝ forgiven, and God remembers them no more.
Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

Here I Am, Lord



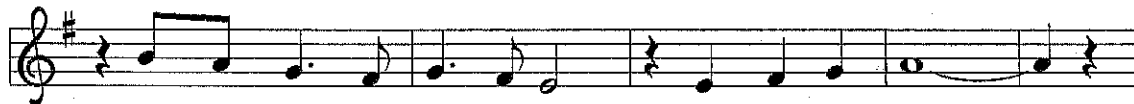
1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

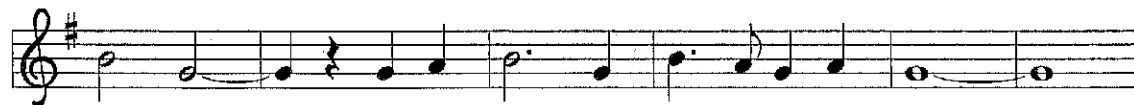
Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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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. [B] Lord, have mer - cy.

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

[B] 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.

[B] 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. [B] Lord, have mer - cy.

[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [B] A - men

*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



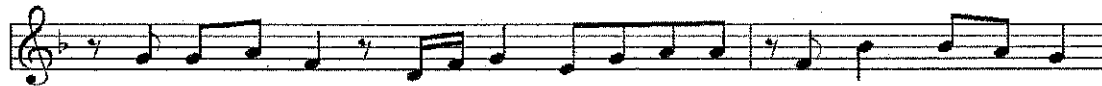
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



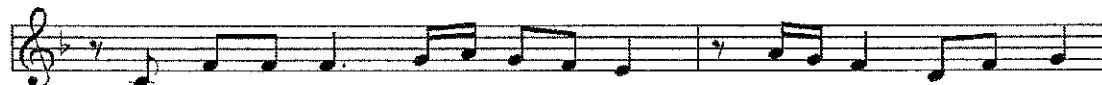
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



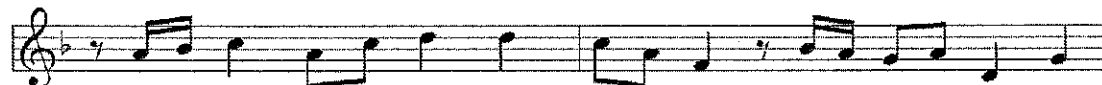
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



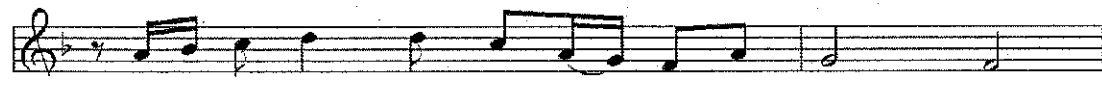
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

+ WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm Psalm: 51:1-12

(The Psalm may be read in unison or responsively)

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2Wash me through and through from my wickedness,

and cleanse me from my sin.

3For I know my offenses,

and my sin is ever before me.

4Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;

so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

5Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

a sinner from my mother's womb.

6Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,

and would have me know wisdom deep within.

7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

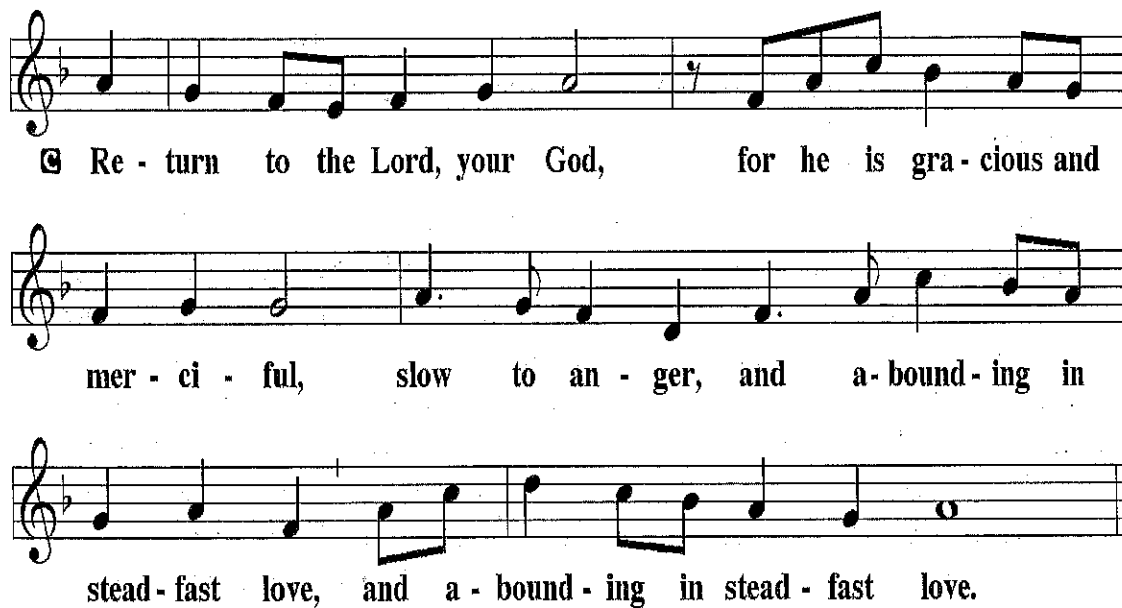
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

8Let me hear | joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

- 9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

***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 12th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. 21 They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." 22 Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

27 "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." 30 Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

*** READING OF THE GOSPEL**

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"A New Covenant of Hope for All"

John 12:20-33

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Day by Day"

746 blue book

Day by Day

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my

com - fort to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you
 serve and wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to
 bur - dens grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will

send me draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 guide me o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 hear me when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.

Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal mea - sure, brings to
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row, I will
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me, you will

naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior, lead me to the home I
 trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and
 hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to

trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936
 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882

Tr. © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

We are made God's 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**

“Create in Me”

732 blue book

During this time of the service we give thanks for all the blessings of God, reflecting on God’s mercies and singing God’s praises as we consider the ways we can give back to God.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

The second system continues the vocal line with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un-to me the

The third system features a vocal line with quarter notes G5, F5, E5, and D5, followed by a half note C5. The piano accompaniment provides a consistent harmonic background.

joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

The fourth system concludes the piece with a vocal line of quarter notes C5, D5, E5, and F5, followed by a half note G5. The piano accompaniment ends with a final chord.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

Arr. © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Help our systems to defend the vulnerable, and may the work in organizations such as Covington Outreach Association and other local institutions be blessed by you.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who grieve this day and those who are struggling to experience your love. We lift up those on our prayer list and are united with all who mourn. (We pray for Ann Horman and her family as they grieve the loss of her mother).

Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for Jesus' journey through death and to resurrection and for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The Lord Is My Song



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.



Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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***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.

Baptized in Water

1 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the
 2 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the
 3 Bap-tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the

blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's

prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
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ORGAN MEDITATION

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News.
 Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Our Financial Stewardship Gifts

Weekly Needs	Rec'd 3/14	YTD Rec'd
\$3,345.00 (Current)	\$ 1,547.00	\$27,585.93
\$ 313.00 (Benev.)	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,352.00

Last Sunday Attendance: Worship Service 52
Midweek Lenten (3/10) 25

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
Sunday	-	10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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	Norma Colby
Lector	Kate Shaffer
Tellers	Sandy Longenecker & Kathie Molesky

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

Worship:

Assisting Minister- David Larson, **Lector-** Rachel Larson,
Ushers- Open, **Altar Guild-** Betty McKibben & Dawn Flory,
Tellers- Sandy Longenecker & Kathie Molesky.

Floral Offering:

Ted & Krista Davis in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

CD recordings of this service are available.