

**Worship Plan for Sun, March 19, 2023 - 4 Lent WOV Four: Light of Christ
Treaty 4 Territory**

We are privileged to gather today in Treaty 4 Territory and the traditional homeland of the Metis.

Welcome Statement

You are welcome here, you, whose face does not resemble mine, whose spirit I may not define,

you, whose eyes have seen, what I will never dream. You, whose frame is bent or broken,

whose mind fears the unspoken. You are welcome here.

Regardless of your race, your age, your gender identity or expression, your marital status, physical and mental ability, your sexual orientation, country of origin, economic and religious status, you will be honoured here.

For Christ has made us whole and Christ has set us free. His daily grace enables us to live in harmony.

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (WOV p. 10)

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. **Amen**

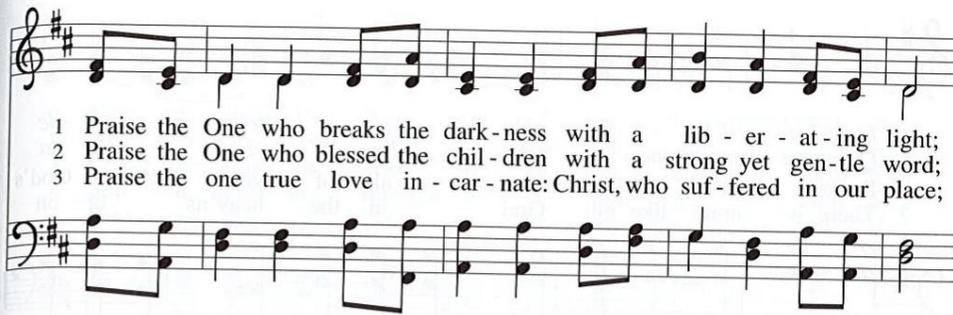
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *Kneel/Stand ... Silence*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

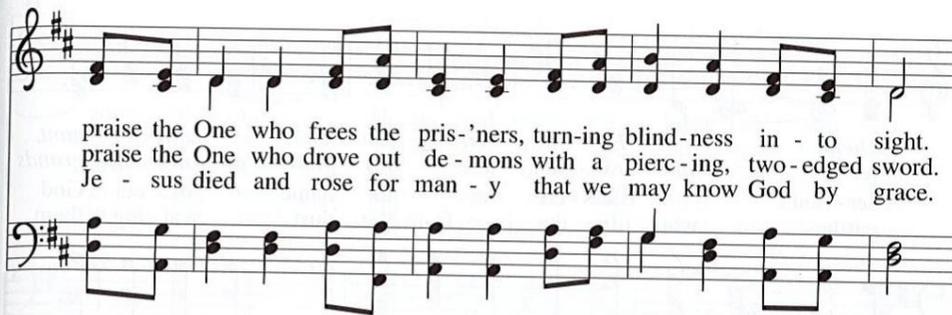
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

ENTRANCE HYMN *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* (ELW 843)

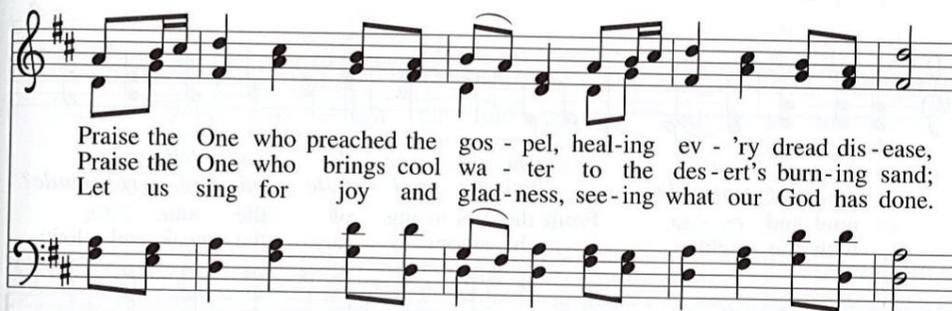
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 843



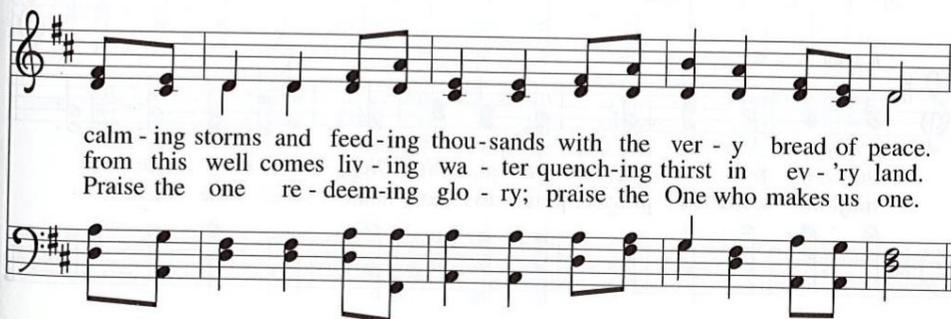
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
 Music: J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
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NETTLETON
 87 87 D

GREETING (WOV p. 12)

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.**

KYRIE (WOV p. 12)

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

G Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the

G Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

G Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

G A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 16). The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 A reading from 1 Samuel.

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics.

With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM - SUNG FROM ELW 780: Psalm 23

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
- ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
- ³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no
evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14. A reading from Ephesians.
Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 17)



☞ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra-cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41. The Holy Gospel according to _____, the _____ chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one

can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone

opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON (WOV p. 18)

HYMN OF THE DAY - WITH LENTEN VS 4 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)

LENT

334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

1 Tree of Life and awe-some mys-t'ry, in your
2 We re-mem-ber truth once spo-ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol-low, love passed stum-bling

death we are re-born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev-'ry per-son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and

his-t'ry, still you rise with ev-'ry morn, still you
bro-ken wears the bod-y of our Lord, wears the
sor-row, we the riv-er, you the sea, we the

rise with ev-'ry morn.
bod-y of our Lord.
riv-er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as the final stanza at the appropriate time.

<i>General</i> Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word.	<i>Lent 3</i> Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul; springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole.
<i>Lent 1</i> From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own; stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.	<i>Lent 4</i> Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light. Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

CREED (WOV p. 18)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

THE PRAYERS

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of
Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for
justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of
heads of state and elected officials - our Mayor, Premier, & Prime Minister
- & Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede
the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls.
Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those
who grieve *Stacie, Debbie, Elaine, Beth, Lynne, Paul, Harley, Emma, Kevin, Jane,
Terri, Todd, Shirley, Lorraine, Shaadie(Shawdee), & Sunshine.* Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask.
Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this
congregation and community *especially* Indigenous Christian Fellowship,
and the Trinity Pantry. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who
cared for your people and showed us how to walk in faith – we remember

especially today Vern Buck – friend of Pastor Stewart – and his family. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

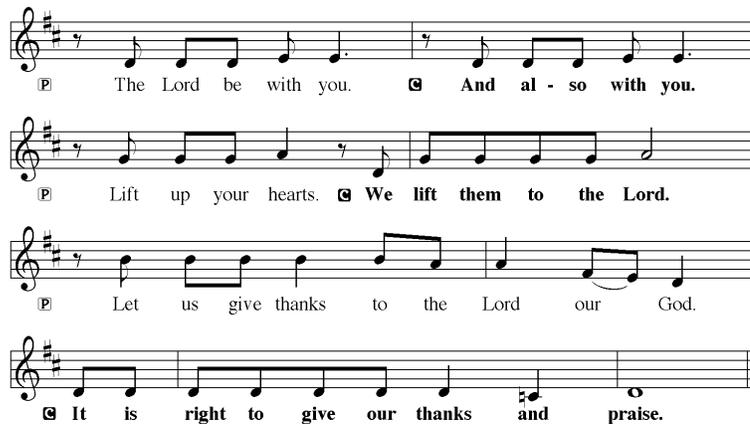
We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE (WOV p. 20)

OFFERING & OFFERTORY PRAYER (WOV p. 21)

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (WOV p. 22) - S



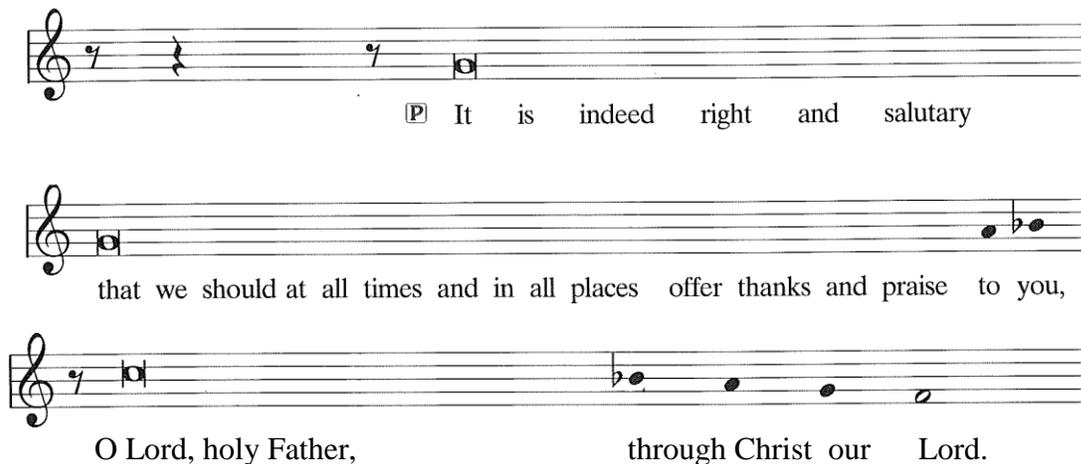
Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

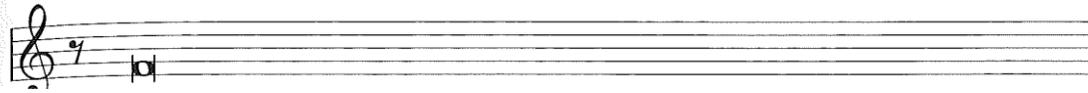
PREFACE (WOV p. 22)



Ⓟ It is indeed right and salutary

that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you,

O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.



You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy
For the paschal feast.



Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace



that belongs to the chil- dren of God.



And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

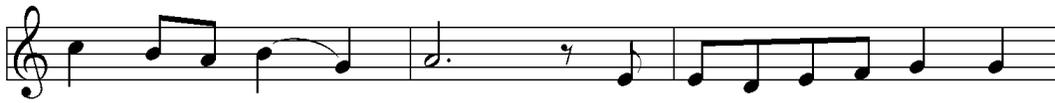
SANCTUS (WOV p. 22)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are



full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (WOV p. 23)

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

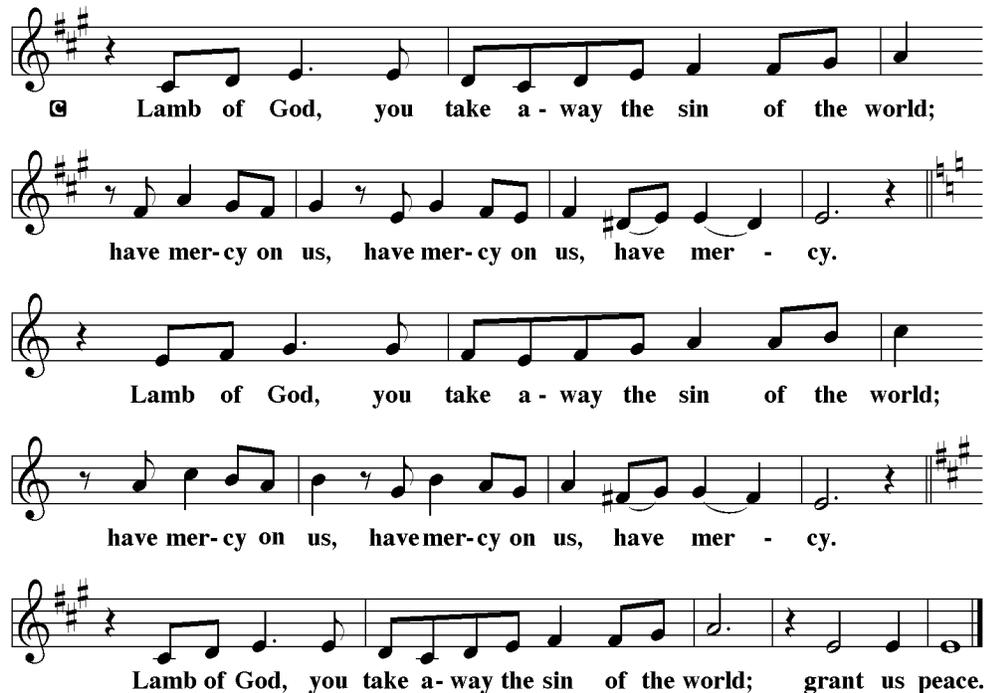
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 25)

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION (WOV p. 25) & COMMUNION HYMN (WOV p. 25)



The image shows five staves of musical notation for a Communion Hymn. Each staff is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final cadence on the fifth staff.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (WOV p. 27) - Assistant

Let us pray. Merciful God, constant source of all healing, we give you thanks for all your gifts of strength and life, and above all we thank you for the gift of your Son, through whom we have health and salvation. As we wait for that day when there will be no more pain, help us by your Holy

Spirit to be assured of your power in our lives and to trust in your eternal love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING (WOV p. 27) Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

INSERTED MUSIC *Lead Me, Guide Me* (ELW 768)

Lead Me, Guide Me 768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

DISMISSAL (WOV p. 27)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**