

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Christ, the Life of all the Living

Flor Peeters



St. Matthew's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
703-494-3090
www.stmatthewsva.org

The assembly stands.

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

C: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

C: 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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

HYMN

Christ the Life of all the Living

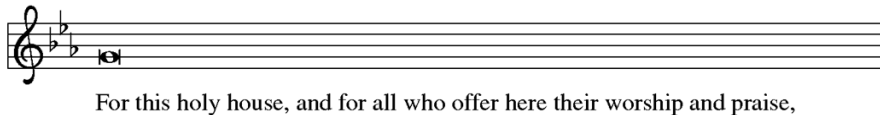
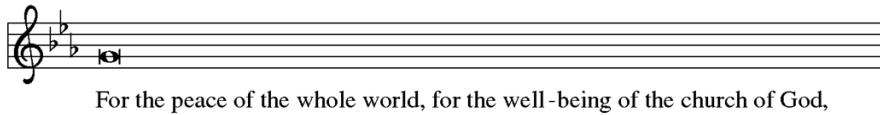
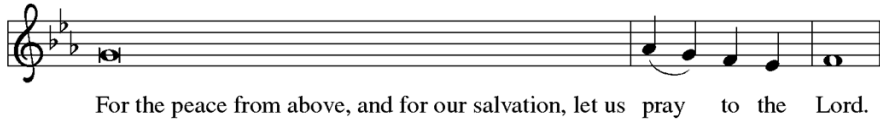
page 14

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE – Minister leads and the assembly responds.



HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's 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.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ANTHEM

All Night, All Day

arr. Patsy Ford Simms

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

L: A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the

house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

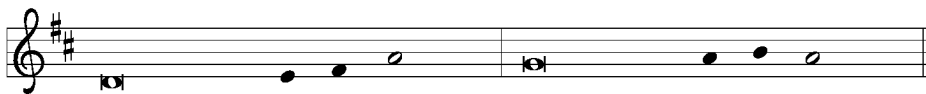
L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

PSALM 51

Psalm Tone



Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

**Against 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.**

Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

L: A reading from Hebrews.

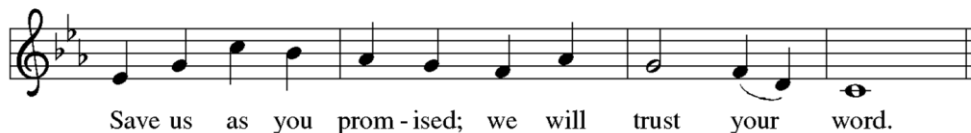
Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 12:20-33

P: The Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“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. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken

to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

There in God’s Garden

page 15

APOSTLES’ CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)

L: Hear us, O God, **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

From the Apple in the Garden
Choir

Roy Hopp

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

**C: Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

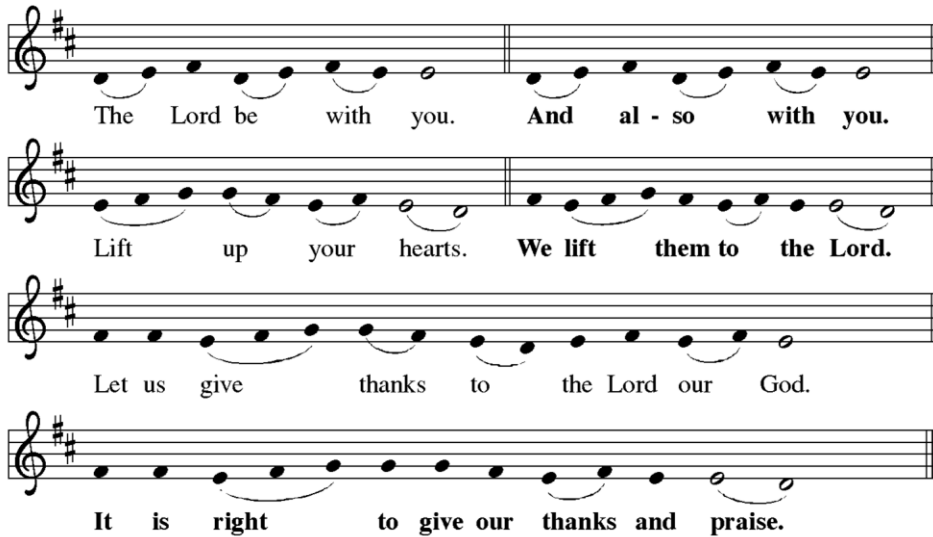
**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

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

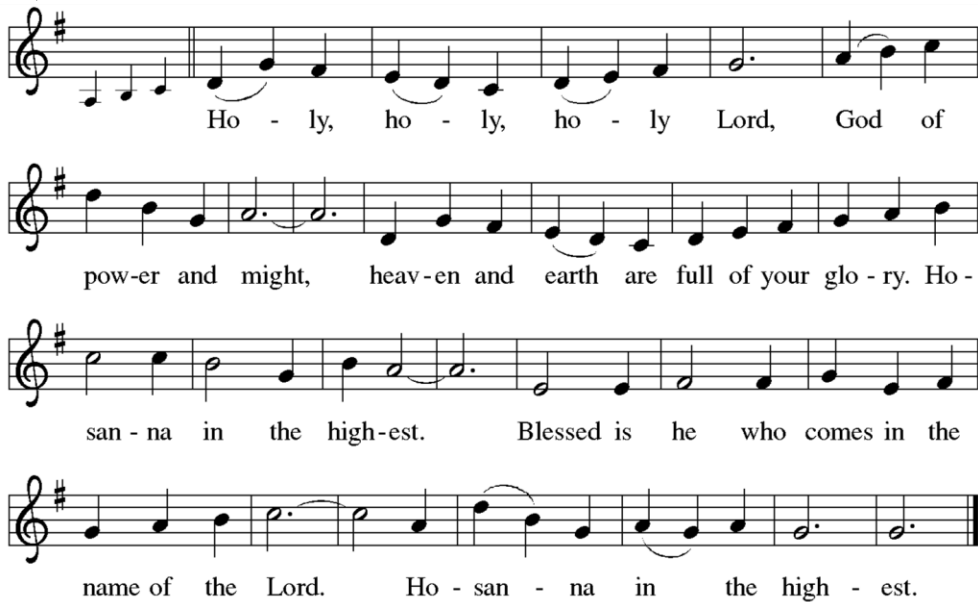
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

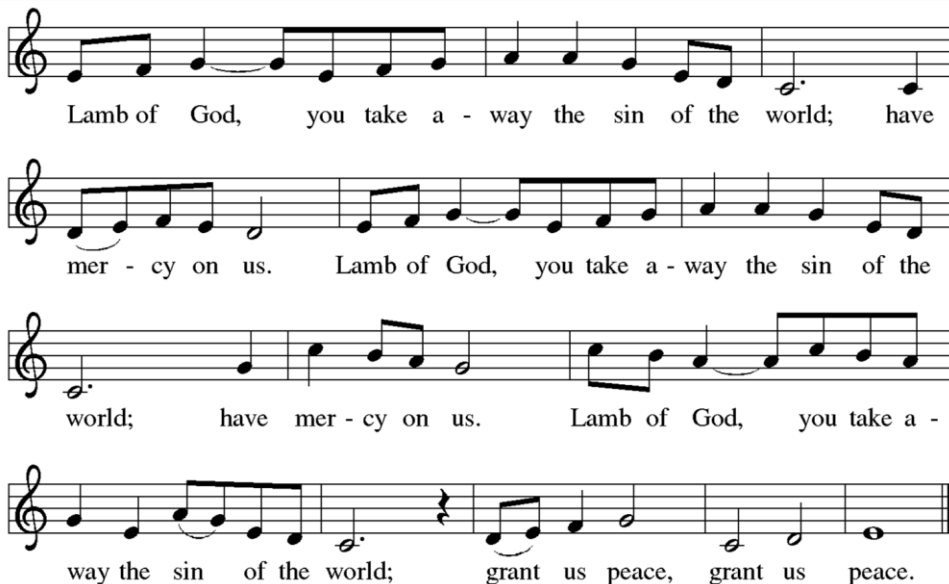
P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine.
Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and
kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.
Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving
communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS

***Jesus Loves Me
Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil***

page 16

page 17

The assembly stands.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

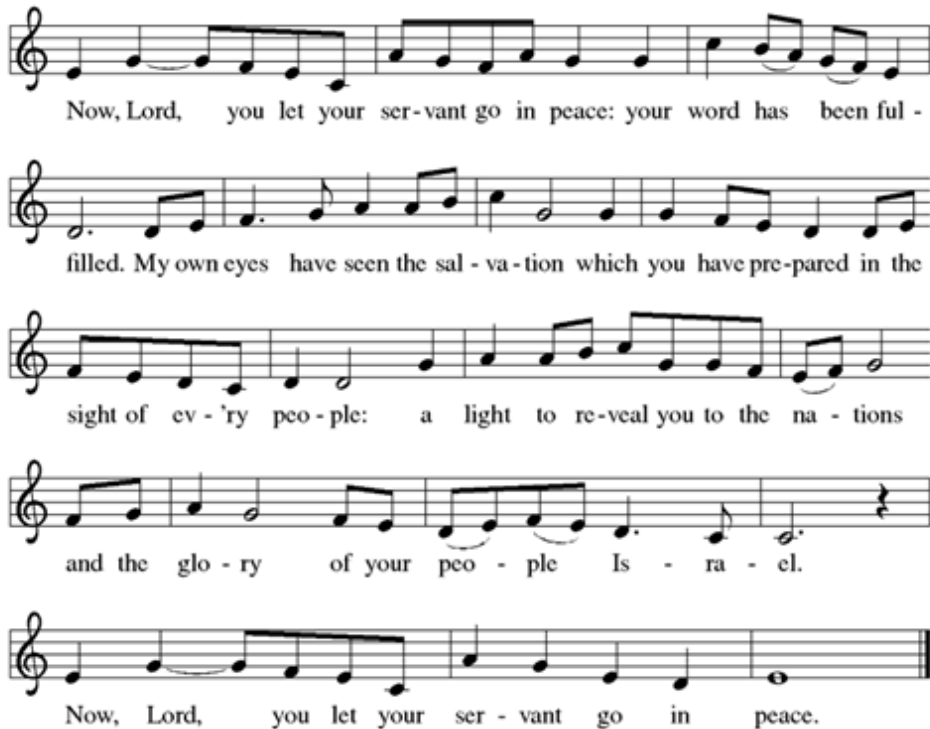
C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

page 18

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

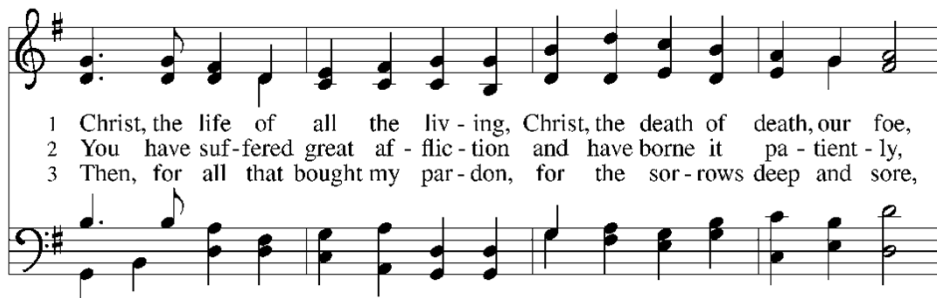
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

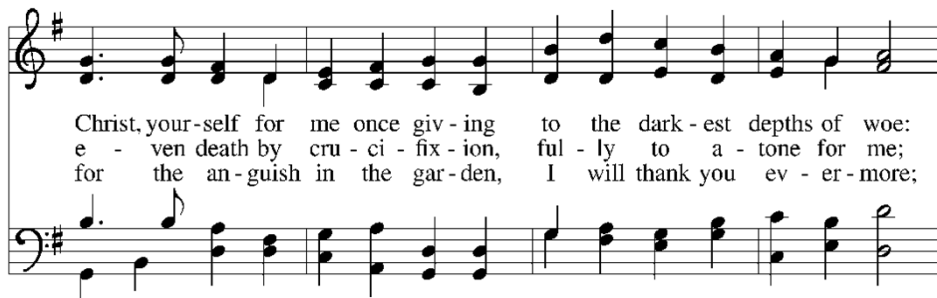
A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

Johann Pachelbel

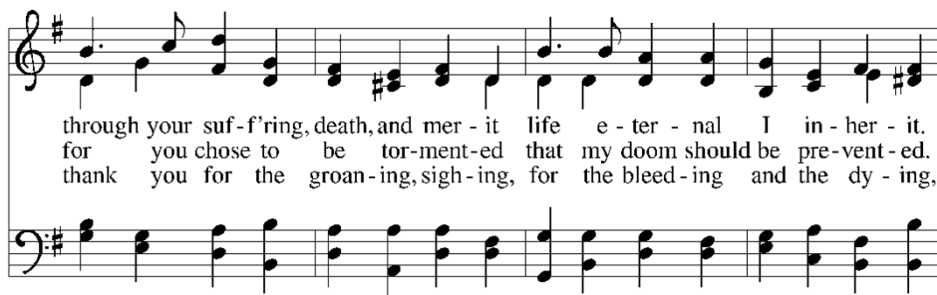
Christ the Life of all the Living, ELW 339



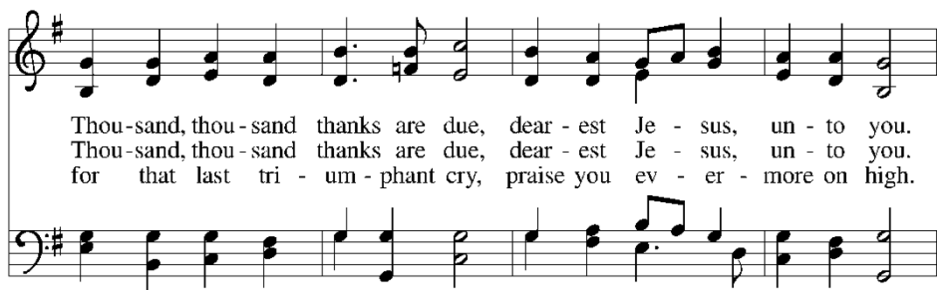
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



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.

return to page 2

There in God's Garden, ELW 342



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

return to page 8

Jesus Loves Me, ELW 595

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.

Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil, ELW 512



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing, ELW 545

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system contains three verses of the hymn. The second system contains two verses. The third system contains two verses. The piano accompaniment is a simple harmonic setting, primarily using chords and moving lines in the left hand.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen Bohannon

sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org

Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren

klundgren@stmatthewsva.org

Organist: Melvin Goodwyn

organist@stmatthewsva.org

Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson

stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org

Congregation Council President: Dave Strand

councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org

Lector: Ronald Trostel

Tech Volunteers: Joyce Forbes, Rebecca Lucast, Steve Payne, Mike Mazzucchi

Ushers: Mike Fink, Mark Victorson, Carl Lay

Church Council Members:

Dave Strand – President

Angela Allen – Secretary, Evangelism Chair

Hal Deadman –Property Chair

Gaye DeCesare – Finance & Stewardship Chair

Dick Gullickson –Fellowship Chair

Emily Hess – Christian Education Chair

Denise Riley – Worship & Music Chair

Cindy Schmitt – Day School Chair

Mark Victorson – Vice President, Social Ministry Chair

Pat Hartline – Financial Secretary

Darryl Lundgren – Treasurer

The Eternal Candle for the month of March
is sponsored by Kristin Humphreys,
*In loving memory of Virginia Altman, by her family,
Kristin, Rob, Amanda, and Tyler...*

The Altar Flowers are given by Jennifer Rice,
In loving memory of my sister Paulette Hill. ...

**For more announcements and upcoming events,
please go to our website at www.stmatthewsva.org**

TODAY – Sunday School classes will meet following our worship service.
High School Youth Group meets tonight at 6:00PM.

ONGOING – For the month of March, we are collecting diapers and pullups for ACTS.
We are focusing on child-friendly collections as we celebrate the Day School's 50th
anniversary.

March 20 – Our final Midweek Lenten service will be held; join us at 7:00PM for
worship. We'll have a soup supper in the narthex at 6:00PM.

March 23 – We're having a Property Work Day to get the church building and grounds
ready for spring. Join us 9-12 to lend a hand!

March 25 – We're providing a hot meal at the Ferlazzo Emergency Shelter for the
Homeless. Sign up to contribute on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

MARCH 30-31 – We will "Keep the Word Alive" at the foot of the cross by reading
from the scriptures the Easter Vigil, Psalms, prayers and the Gospel of Mark. Sign up to
participate on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

*We welcome children of all ages to engage in worship with us.
If you find you need to step out, we have an unstaffed nursery
located in the office hallway, past the restrooms.
We ask parents to please remain with your children.*

*St. Matthew's services are live streamed and recorded
to document the vibrant life of our church.
If you do not wish to be included, please notify an usher
and they can show you to seats
where inclusion in the video is greatly reduced.*

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