



## **Come to Believe † Come to Belong**

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

**PRELUDE**

Rob Aaron

*“Come to believe, Come to belong, Come to receive, the promise of God”*

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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. Therefore, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence for self-reflection)*

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 unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*Amen.*

## GATHERING SONG

*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"*



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

## GREETING

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** (*Lord, Have Mercy*)

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

*Refrain*

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.

*Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray together. . **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM

*“It is Well with My Soul”*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON



## FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”  
<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills.

**From where does my help come?**

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
**he who keeps you will not slumber.**

<sup>4</sup> Behold, he who keeps Israel  
**will neither slumber nor sleep.**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is your keeper;  
**the LORD is your shade on your right hand.**

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
**nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
**he will keep your life.**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
**from this time forth and forevermore.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

The holy gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

### Glory to You, O Lord!

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I

said to you, ‘You must be born again.’<sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?<sup>11</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony.<sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things?<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.<sup>14</sup> And 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.

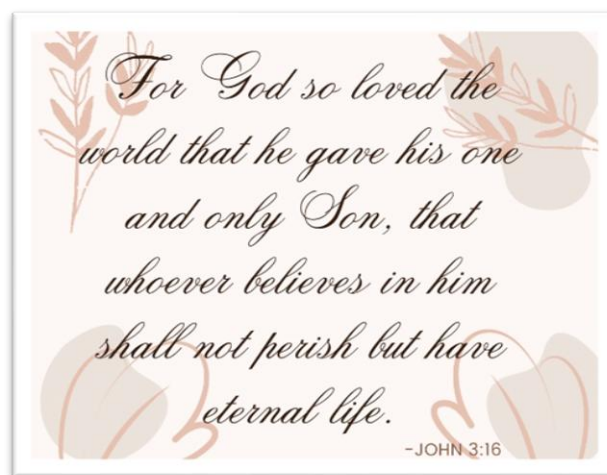
<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The gospel of the Lord.

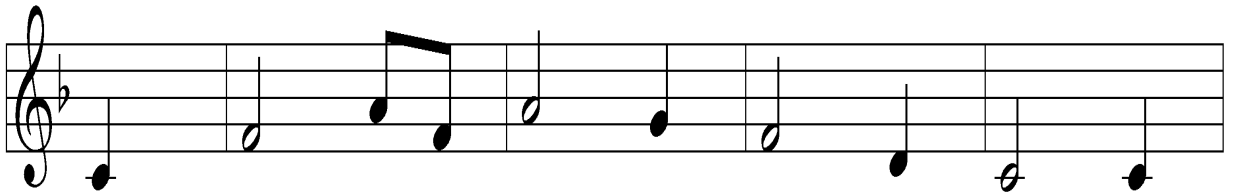
**Praise to You, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

Pastor Gary Heltsley



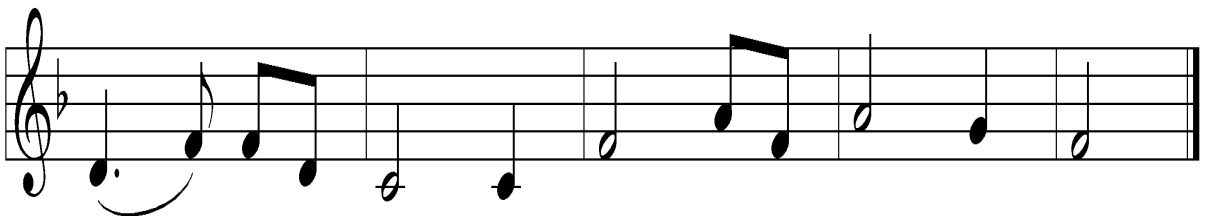
**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *“Amazing Grace”*



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
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  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
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.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 Christian church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

*Amen.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P) Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence*

Heavenly Father, Your Son has shown Your love to the world in His death and resurrection. Give Your people hearts to remember Your gracious works and to proclaim Your name in all things.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord God, heavenly Father, You promise us an inheritance not because of Your law but because of Your promise to Abraham and to us. In Your grace, nourish us in the faith unto life eternal.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, You made Your servant Abraham the father of us all through faith, and You have given all fathers and mothers the calling of Abraham to hand down the Gospel of Christ. Fill their hearts with the words of Christ, and remember them according to Your great mercy.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, remember our nation and its leaders. Bless all who make, administer and judge our laws, and enable us to be good and responsible citizens.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Gracious Lord, be near to the sick and the suffering, especially those we name aloud or silently in our hearts (*allow time for silent and spoken prayers*). Comfort them with Your divine promises, and grant healing according to Your will.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Heavenly Father, Nicodemus was led by the word of Jesus to the cross, and from the cross he received the body of Jesus. Grant us faith like his to trust Your Word and receive Christ's body and blood in the Holy Sacrament for forgiveness, life and salvation.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

Lord God, You give life to the dead and have united the faithful of all ages in the Body of Christ. As You shelter all the saints in the arms of Your mercy, so comfort us who await Your final victory over death and the life of the world to come.

Lord, in Your mercy, *hear our prayer.*

P) All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. *Amen.*



## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also 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 Him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right... and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER *(SPOKEN)*

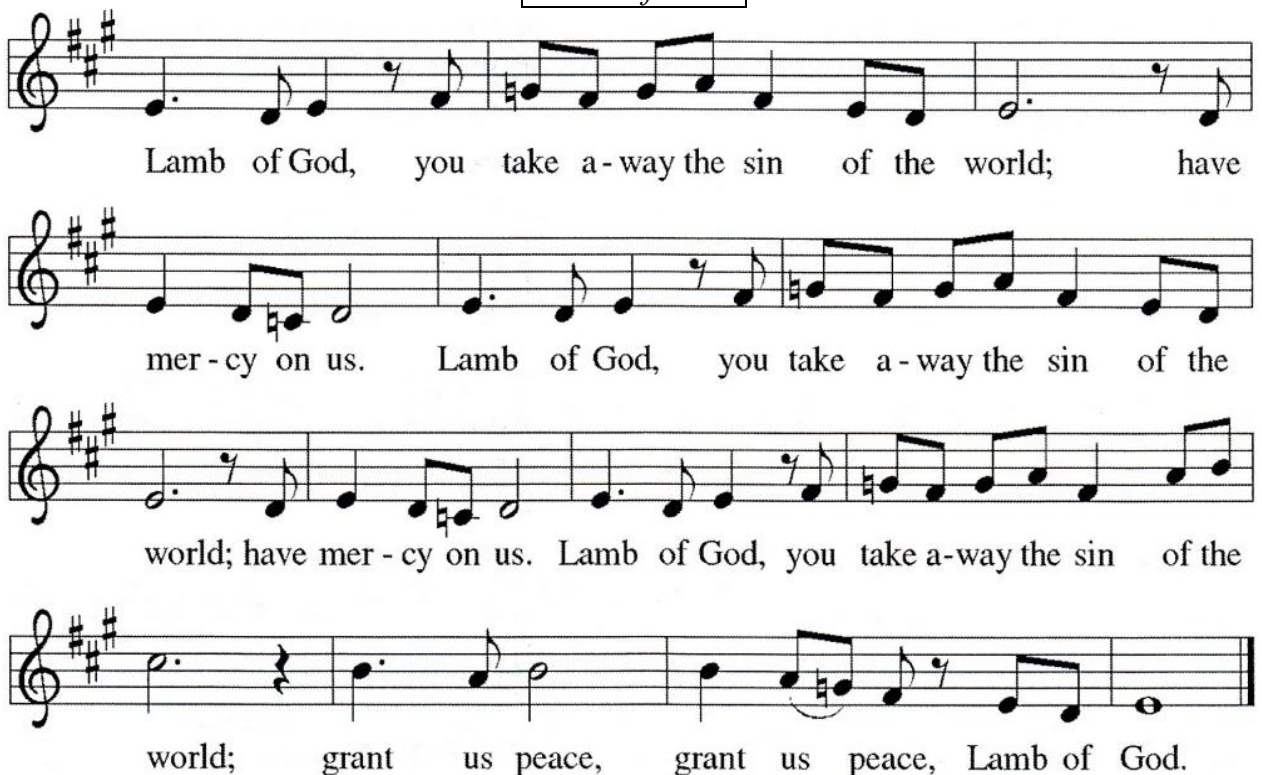
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.***

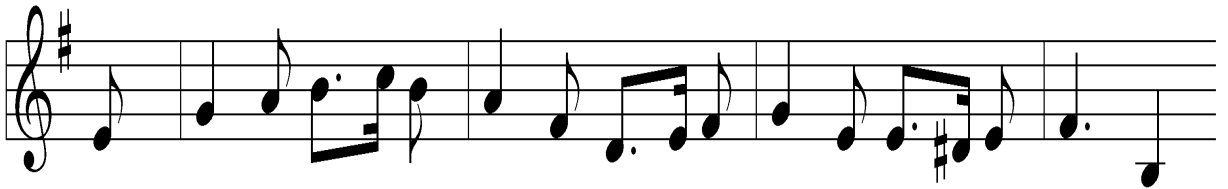
**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** – We believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine/juice, which are his body and blood. All who trust in Christ are welcome at the Lord's Table (*the red liquid is wine; the white liquid is grape juice*).

### "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, Lamb of God.

*“What Feast of Love”*



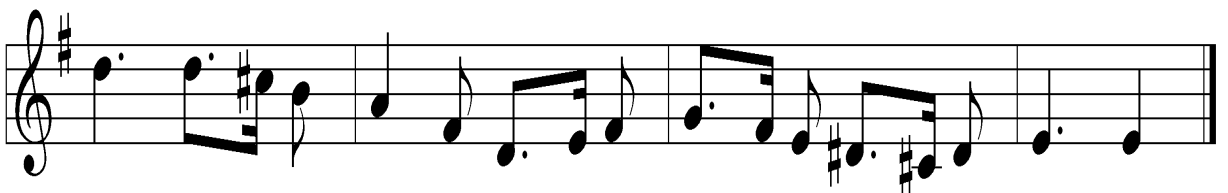
1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what ho-ly drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.

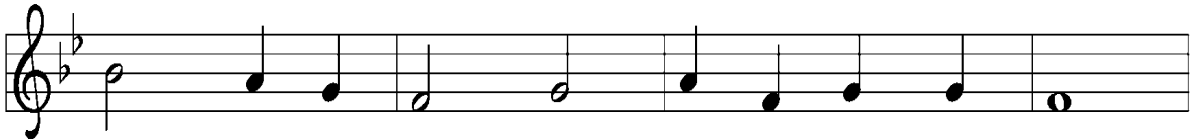


Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

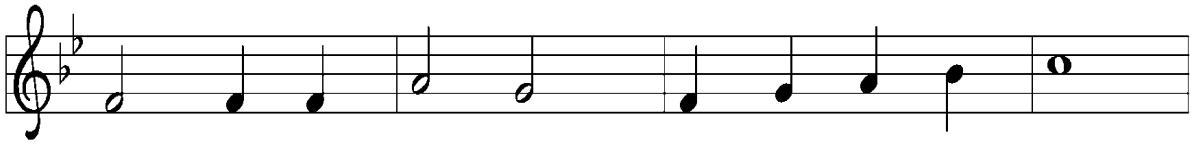
*"Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart"*



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see Je -  
sus, to reach out and touch him, and  
say that we love him. O - pen our ears,  
Lord, and help us to lis - ten. O - pen our  
eyes, Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you, and keep you in His grace. *Amen.*

## PRAYER

Let us pray together... **We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you, and in fervent love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

## BLESSING

## SENDING SONG

*“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”*



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Rob Aaron – piano ~ Nancy Martin - choir ~ Pr. Gary Heltsley – presiding

**TODAY'S WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**Greeters:** Deanna Smith & Janet Wright

**Ushers:** The Usher Team

**Reader:** Rob Aaron

**Sacristans:** Shelley Marion & Char Pedersen

**Communion Assistants:** Sandy Flett & Deanna Smith

**Sunday School Teacher:** Addy Walker

**Sunday School Assistant:** Catie Hughes

**Barista:** Barb Evans      **Close Up:** Dave Severeid



**Altar Flowers:** Cathy Moen

**Last Week's Attendance:** 80    **Last Week's Offering:** \$2,375.75

**READINGS FOR MARCH 8, 2026**

Exodus 17:1-7 ~ Psalm 95 ~ Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

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