

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 3, 2024  
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

## *Introduction*

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The ten commandments are one of the chief parts of Luther's catechism, a core piece of baptismal instruction. They begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods.

## *God's Zeal Makes Us Clean*

In this penitential season, we hear the words of God's law revealed on Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The law was given to guide Israel, newly rescued from slavery in Egypt, to become a community reflecting God's love and holiness. However, this law, no matter how full of love it is, will always carry the sting of accusation for us because our hearts have strayed from God's gracious purpose. We aren't capable of fully following the law because we are still captive to the powers of sin and death, so the commandments will always reveal our trespasses. We should not be surprised that God's word convicts even those who have been called into the community of faith. After all, Jesus cleansed even the temple, reacting against sin within the very heart of religious life.

These scenes on Mount Sinai and in the temple don't just concern people of times long past. They draw us in as well. In the mysteries of holy baptism and holy communion, we become the house of the Lord. Joined to Christ by grace, we are, together, the body of Christ and the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is zealous for the holiness of his body, desiring that those who have been united to him would walk in love and truth.

Our great assurance, though, is that the living Word of Jesus is greater even than the revelation on Sinai. Where the law can only convict, Jesus forgives. Where the law reveals our bondage to fear and pride, Jesus brings joyful freedom. In Christ, his body the church dies to sin and then, by grace, rises to new life, made clean and holy.

Let us not fear the one who calls us into holiness and cleanses the temple with zeal. The law reveals where sin has brought death to our souls. But Jesus has passed through death into a glorious resurrection to make us into a living temple, where God's mercy can be found in abundance for us and for the world.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

## \*\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*In remembrance of their baptism, all may make the sign of the cross.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the parent who rouses us from slumber, the shepherd who gathers us on the holy mountain, the deliverer who sets us free. **Amen.**

Let us come before the living God in confession.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation, **we open our hearts to you, O God. Search us and know us. Reveal all that we keep inside. To you, O God, we confess our sins, known and unknown. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways of justice and peace. Make us reflections of the radiant love of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved children of the Most High, you are gathered before the righteous judge who has mercy on all. Splash exuberantly in the waters of baptism, where sin is washed away in the river of life. Dwell peacefully in the loving arms of the one who nurtures all creation. Go forth boldly in the assurance that your sins are forgiven in the name of the one who is coming and is already here, † Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## BOLD WOMEN'S DAY LITANY

One Voice: Made in the image of a bold, beautiful God, we yearn to embody that grace in this world God so loves.

**Many: We long to tell our authentic truths, to hear and share stories, to nurture one another and serve God's creation. We crave healing and wholeness for all.**

One: But sometimes we are overwhelmed—seduced by what is frivolous, distracted from what is important.

**Many: Teach us when to care and when to step aside.**

One: We groan for renewal and change yet fear that we are not enough can immobilize us. Guilt and shame provoke us to be overly busy and to hide.

**Many: Teach us when to rest and breathe and when to rise to action.**

One: Where can we find rest? How can our lives make a meaningful difference?

**Many: Teach us when to be silent and still. Teach us when to shout and sing.**

One: Remind us you cherish us when we get it right and when we don't.

**Many: Embolden us to live fully in the freedom of your indestructible love.**

One: Show us the way. Stay with us while we practice and learn. Hold us always.

**Many: Amen.**

## \*\* GATHERING SONG

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (ELW 774)*



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?





what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

**\*\* GREETING**

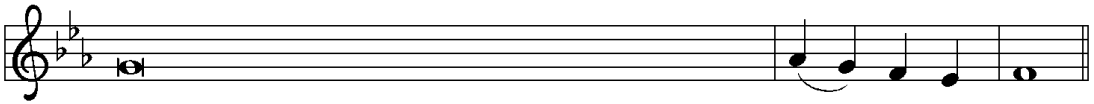
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



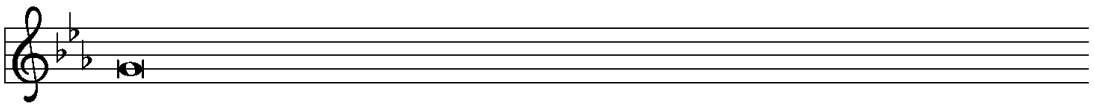
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



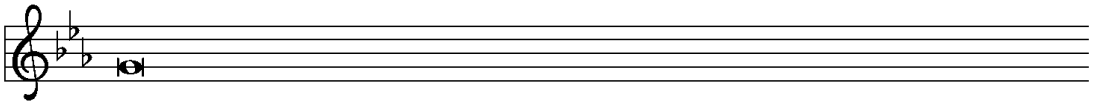
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## FIRST READING

**Exodus 20:1-17**

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

A reading from the book of Exodus.

God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalm 19**

*The commandment of the Lord gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)*

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,



**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,  
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of  
it again;**

**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can detect one's own offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your  
sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

*The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.*

A reading from the book of first Corinthians.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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



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

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

**John 2:13-22**

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

(Verse 1)

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

(Verse 2)

See from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

(Refrain)

O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find  
That I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross!  
All who gather here by grace  
Draw near and bless your name.

(Verse 3)

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love — so amazing, so divine —  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

(Refrain)

O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find  
That I may truly live.  
O the wonderful cross,  
O the wonderful cross!  
All who gather here by grace  
Draw near and bless your name.

**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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**

God our Creator, you made us in your image  
**And you call us from wherever we are in time and place to be your disciples.**

Through your Holy Spirit, we are empowered to bring the Gospel to all your people  
**by your grace, you listen to our prayers.**

Let us pray.

God of Generations, we celebrate the lives of the women who fought the good fight and stood up for the Gospel and the truth of Scripture, yesterday and today. Strengthen our voice of proclamation.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Life, we give thanks for the bold women among us today who serve with a sense of holy purpose in their vocations as daughters, mothers, grandmothers, sisters and mothers. Empower us by faith and bless our vocations at home and in the church. Inspire us to encourage one another in fellowship, laughter, hospitality and sharing.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for the men throughout the ages who support and encourage women in their quest to use their God-given gifts for your purpose. Give us courage to work together as equals to proclaim your grace and hope.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O God our Greatest Friend, surround us with your love and affirmation through the kindness of others, be they friend or stranger, young or old. Give us eyes to see the love you lavish on all your people. Make us bold to speak your truth and act on behalf of your kingdom with courage and strength of purpose.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Understanding, give us courage to stand up for the abused, the needy, the sick, the poor and the stranger. We pray for those who suffer in mind, body or spirit, that you might bring healing and comfort. Inspire us to be your hands to provide for those in need as we are able.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

O God, our Help through the Ages, we thank you for the gifts of wisdom and insight brought to us through the lives of your saints, [Katie, Argula, Katharina, Olivia, (add names of local bold women)]. Inspire us by their witness as we continue their legacy of faith.

**In your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Holy God of the Universe, throughout history you have given us the courage to form and reform your church against all odds and into pathways as yet unknown. By your Spirit and in unexpected ways, you have brought us to this place in the circle of your love. Guide our ways that we may grow in faith and hope.

**Make us your bold and faithful servants, this day and forevermore through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord. Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## \*\* THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

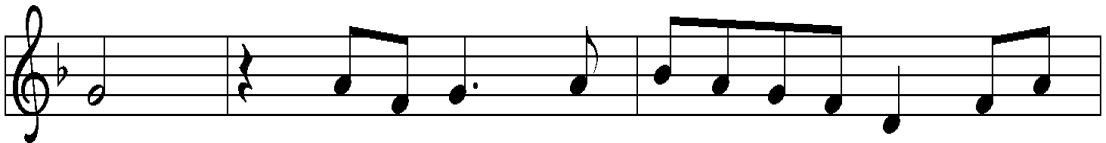
**COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

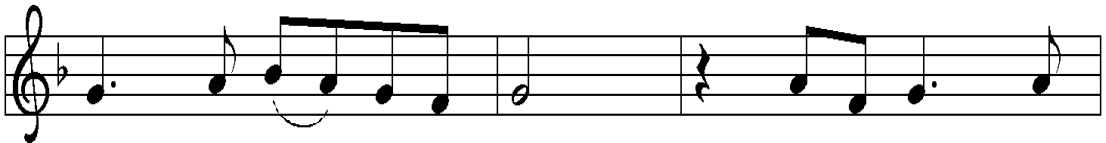
**\*\* LAMB OF GOD**



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.

*Refrain - All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

*Leader or All*

1 I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall  
al-ways be on my lips; my soul shall glo-ry in the  
Lord; for God has been so good to me.

*Refrain*



2 Glo-ri - fy the Lord with me. To - geth - er let us

all praise God's name. I called the Lord, who an - swered

me; from all my trou- bles I was set free. *Refrain*

3 Wor- ship the Lord, all you peo- ple. You'll want for

noth- ing if you ask. Taste and see that the Lord is

good; in God we need put all our trust. *Refrain*

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*How Great Is Our God*

**(Verse 1 - All)**

**The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;  
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.  
He wraps himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,  
And trembles at his voice, and trembles at his voice.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**And age to age he stands, and time is in his hands;  
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.  
The Godhead, three in one: Father, Spirit, Son,  
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb.**

**(Refrain - All)**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!**

**(Music Ministers/All)**

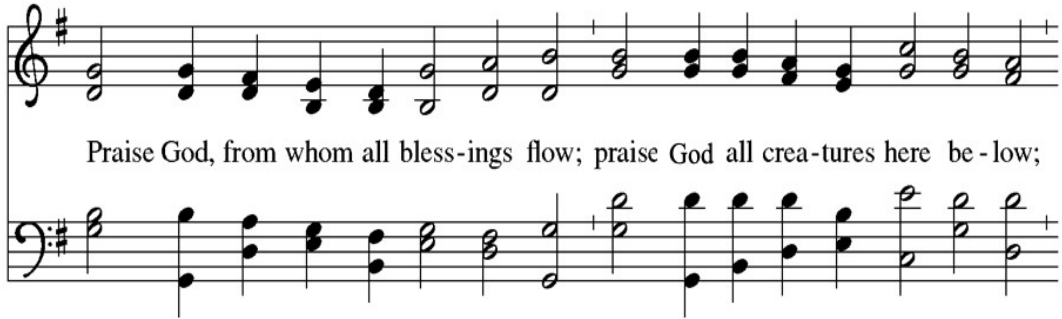
**Name above all names, worthy of all praise.  
My heart will sing: How great is our God!  
Name above all names, worthy of all praise.  
My heart will sing: How great is our God!**

**(Refrain - All)**

**How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!  
How great is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God!  
And all will see how great, how great is our God!  
And we rejoice for the river is here,  
Yes, we rejoice for the river is here.**

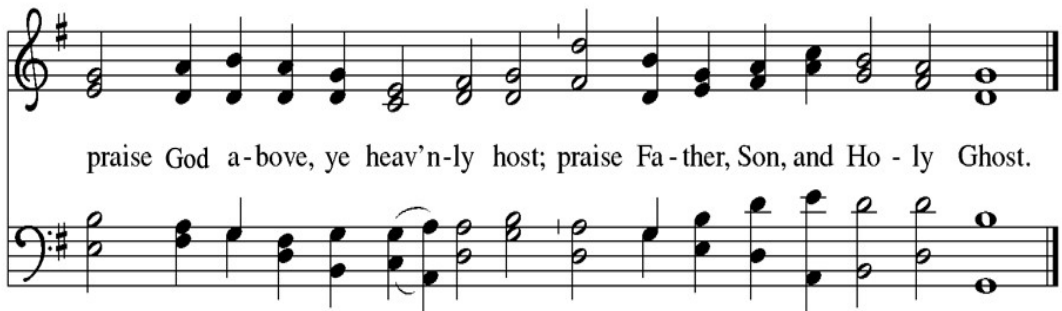
**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature. The top staff continues the melody, and the bottom staff provides the accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line.

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202 Thursday, March 7, 2024**

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22920.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.