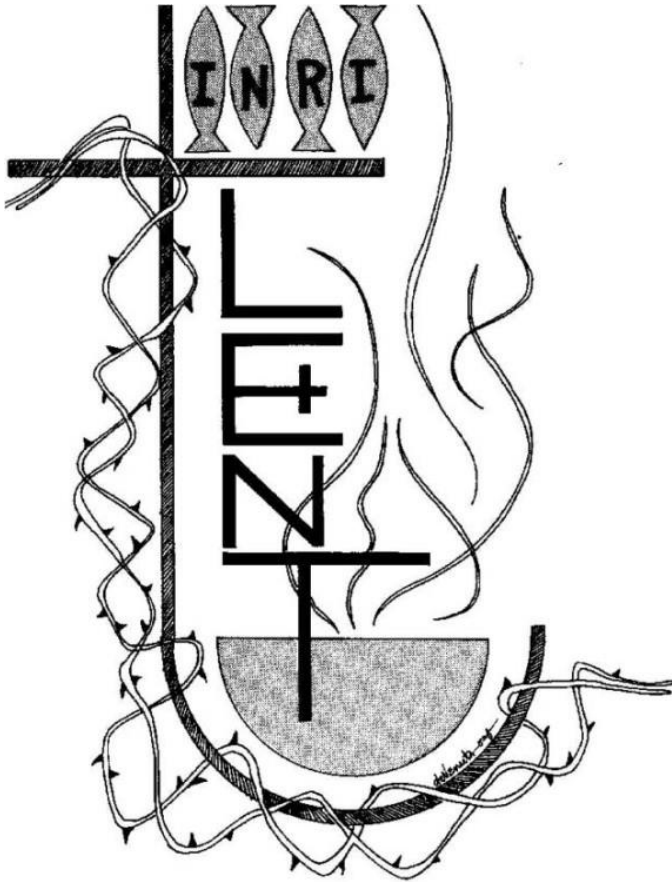


ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
SECOND WEEKEND OF LENT
Saturday, February 24, 2024
Sunday, February 25, 2024



2

The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

Please note: Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. If you prefer not to appear on camera please sit along the side aisles. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.

PRELUDE: 5:00 “The Way of the Cross Leads Home” -arr. F. Ritter

9:30 “Ah Holy Jesus” -Hungerford

Handbell Choir

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We are gathered in the grace of God.

C: Holy One, hold us in your love.

P: We journey with Jesus toward the cross.

C: Beloved, sustain us with your love.

P: We lay down our lives and follow.

C: Holy Spirit, fill us with your love. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #796 How Firm a Foundation

(please stand as able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ.

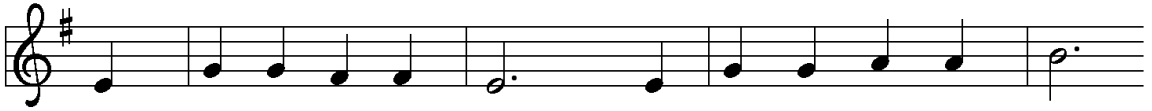
C: Amen.

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kelly Sachse

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be

the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as 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. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as able)*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL: MARK 8:31-38

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE:

Rev. Maren Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

APOSTLE'S 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 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

L: 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.

L: We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Care for those we name now, out loud or in the silence of our hearts (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

L: Your mercy is great.

C: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE *(please be seated after sharing the peace)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERINGS

Thank you for sharing your gifts. Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app.

More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org, or use the QR codes listed here.



CHOIR ANTHEM: “My Song is Love Unknown” -Schalk

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

C: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Partaking of the elements will occur after the Lord's Prayer.

You will have the opportunity to come forward to receive communion, otherwise prepare your elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and juice (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher).

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: “In the night...”

LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

AGNUS DEI:



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW #759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be sure to read the printed announcements on the insert.)*

BLESSING

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN: ELW #803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: 5:00: "Fantasia on Iste Confessor" -arr. L. Smith

9:30: "O God, My Faithful God" -setting by J. S. Bach

From sundaysandseasons.com

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Thank you to our guest pastor this weekend, Pastor Maren Hooper

Flowers are provided by Deb, Vic and Sam Barth

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP

Ushers: 5:00: Jim Hennessy and Patti Nelson

9:30: Dan Resterhouse, Mason Resterhouse and Tom Zuleger

Reader: 5:00: Heidi Hennessy **9:30:** Diane Moraza

Communion: 5:00: Set Up: Betty Kroll **Server:** Heidi Hennessy

(9:30): Set Up: Denise Sanders **Servers:** Denise Sanders and Kipp Zimmermann

Streaming Tec: Eric Sanders

Coffee Hour: (9:30): J.P. and Pam Maschke Hosts

Announcements

Food items collected in February will be donated to Unity Lutheran Church. Please consider purchasing some food items for the "campers" that do not require a can opener to open. Items such as peanut butter (jelly, too) and canned meats such as chicken or tuna are great sources of protein and are in high demand. If you prefer, cash donations can be placed in the offering plate. Please remember to indicate your contribution is for Food Pantries. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE. MARK YOUR CALENDARS. NO RESERVATIONS

NEEDED! COMING SOON: 2024 Easter Breakfast, Sunday March 31st. Join us for good food and fellowship. Stay tuned! Proceeds will go toward the youth fundraising effort. Friends and family welcome. The more the merrier. Volunteers are always welcome.

Don't forget your Lenten special envelopes. 60% of the funds received purple Lenten envelopes will go to Outreach for Hope. The other 40% of the funds received from all special envelopes goes to support the ministry of St. Stephen the Martyr which includes practical things like paying the electric bill and mission support built into our budget, like supporting our various partner churches. Special Lenten contributions can also be made through the Vanco app.

There will be a **Community Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, March 16th from 1:00pm until 3:00pm with fun crafts, treats and more. Invite your neighbors and friends and bring all of the kiddos in your life to enjoy the day.

This Week at SSM			
Monday, 2/26	5:30pm	Page Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Contest Presentation	
Wednesday, 2/28	10:15am	Women’s Bible Study	
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Holden Evening Prayer Faith Statement by Jenny Resterhouse	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
3 rd Weekend in Lent			
Saturday, 3/2	5:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Larry & Sue Stasiewski
			Reader: Bonnie Daleness
			Communion: Bonnie Court
Sunday, 3/3	9:30am	Worship	Ushers: Jack Kalman, Kim Sussman and Adam Woerpel
			Reader: Norah Hooper
			Communion Set Up: Faith O’Connell and Shelly Rosenstock
			Communion Servers: Faith O’Connell and Al Behling
			Sunday School

*Please join us for mid-week Lenten services, **Holden Evening Prayer**, every Wednesday at 6:30pm. Services will include Faith Stories featuring a different congregation member each week:*

February 28 – Jenny Resterhouse

March 6 – Patti Nelson

March 13 – Cathy Peterson

March 20 – Al Behling

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Penny Dowling, Mary Freiburger, Diana Gastrau, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Sally Kowalewski,
Carol Kucharski, Karen Palasz, Patrick Rafalski, Joan Retzlaff, Dick Rutzen,
Bob Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

<p>Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff Scott, co-worker of Mary Luedtke Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies Sandy Bell, friend of SSM – sister of Bill Bravner & friend of SSM Jim Bembenec, friend of Mike and Tracy Wholean Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese Jim Busta, friend of Carol and Don Manning Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese Tim Drover, son of John Drover Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally Kowalewski Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese James Haas, friend of Patti Winter Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt Dan Knapik, friend of Don & Carol Manning Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski Susan Kueny, friend of Mary Luedtke Mark Langhoff, friend of Shelly Rosenstock</p>	<p>Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus Joseph Pearson (husband of Cherish Pearson) and the “Iron Thunder” 4-27 Field Artillery as they are deployed Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller Sarah Reyes, daughter of Debbie and Vic Barth Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt Larry & Lori Sachse, family members of Kelly & Greg Sachse Tommy Schwietzer, friend of Deb Perl Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan Rick Sibley, friend of Heidi and Jim Hennessy Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley Andy Stein and his family, son of Barb Stein Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan Judy Ventimiglia, friend of Shelly Rosenstock Alfred Waltke, father of Kelly Sachse Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas Mark Weber, son-in-law of Marian Walton Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski Lisa Wholean, daughter of Mike & Tracy Wholean</p>
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Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor - 262-271-8913
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director
Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website – www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - <https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/>

HYMN #796 How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dress to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

HYMN #324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diancy stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

HYMN #759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee

1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream

Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
 my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
 be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's
 shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -

guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887
 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

HYMN #803 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872