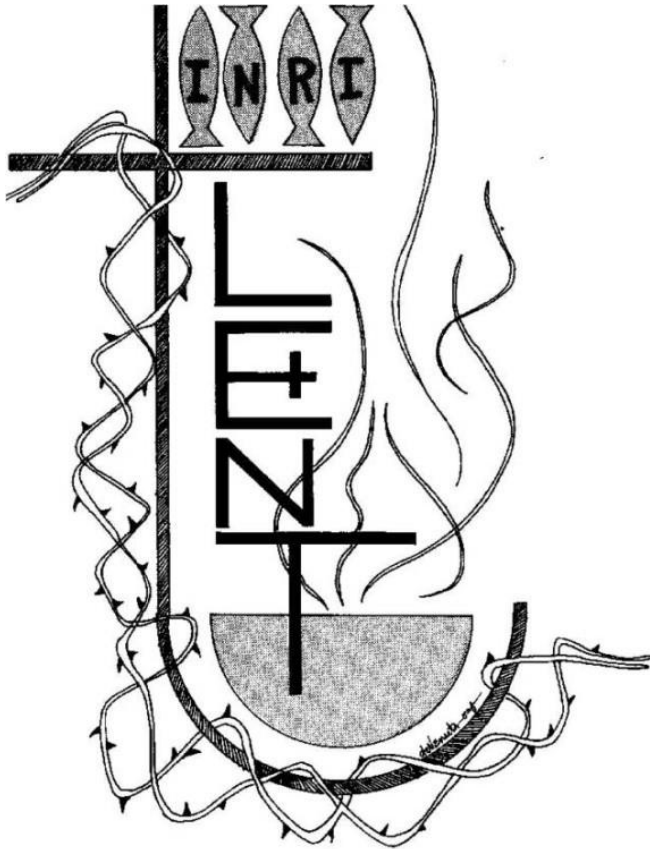


ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
FIFTH WEEKEND OF LENT
Sunday, March 17, 2024 9:30am



5

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.

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: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” -arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Holy One, open our lips

C: and our mouths shall show forth your praise.

P: Behold, you desire truthfulness in our inner lives.

C: Therefore give us grace to see ourselves clearly.

P: Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and faithful spirit within us.

C: Have mercy on us, according to your steadfast love.

We worship you with open hearts. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #339 Christ, the Life of All the Living

(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.

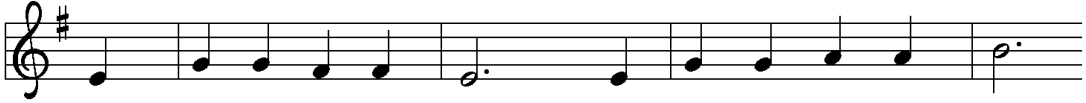
C: Amen.

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, 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. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Alex Dollar

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

5Christ 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”;

6as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

7In 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. 8Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; 9and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, 10having 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 *(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: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

L: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: “Time”

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW #321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

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: God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Protect those who live in areas of war and conflict, especially the people of Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Remember those who we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts now (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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: “Create in Me a Clean Heart” -Pasquet

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.

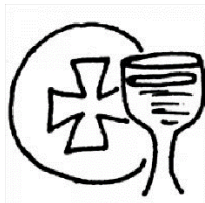
P: Lift up your hearts.

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 #522 As We Gather at Your Table

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 #342 There in God's Garden

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Christ the Life of All the Living" -arr. F. W. Zachau

From sundaysandseasons.com

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Flowers are provided by Peyton Weber

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP

Ushers: Dan Resterhouse, Mason Resterhouse and Tom Zuleger

Reader: Cathy Peterson

Communion Set Up: Denise Sanders

Communion Servers: Bonnie Daleness and Al Behling

Streaming Tec: Eric Sanders

Announcements

Food and cash contributions made during the month of March to support our food pantry partners will go to Faith Sante Fe. Protein items, such as peanut butter (and jelly too) and canned beans and meats are always in high demand. Thank you for your continued support of all of our food pantry partners.

The next **Unity Meal** is March 20th. This event takes place every third Wednesday of the month at our partner parish, Unity Lutheran, located at 1025 E Oklahoma Ave. Volunteers are always needed, please see the sign-up sheet on the board between the offices.

2024 Easter Breakfast Sign-Up Sheets are located on the bulletin board between the offices. Breakfast will be Sunday March 31st between the services. Proceeds will go toward the youth fundraising effort. Friends and family welcome. Please sign up if you can contribute items or if you can help. Also, please sign up if you plan to attend so that we know how many to prepare for (you can still attend if you do not sign up.)

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.



Mt. Meru Coffee Spring Blend - This special offering is a spring blend of coffee from the small coffee farms on Mt. Meru. This blend which is 80% regular beans and 20% Peaberry beans from our recent import is perfect for your enjoyment this Spring. Cupping notes (natural flavors) include: dark chocolate, citrus and coffee blossom. 12 oz. bags are priced at \$15.

This Week at SSM			
Monday, 3/18	1:00pm	Quilting – Layering – until 3:00pm	
Wednesday, 3/20	9:30am	Men’s Bible Study	
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	6:30pm	Holden Evening Prayer and Faith Statement	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 3/21	6:30pm	Confirmation Class	
Weekend of the Passion of Our Lord			
Saturday, 3/23	5:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Larry & Sue Stasiewski
			Readers: Passion Narrative
			Communion: Bonnie Court
Sunday, 3/24	9:30am	Worship	Ushers: Jack Kalman, Kim Sussman and Adam Woerpel
			Readers: Passion Narrative
			Communion: Jason Covert and Julie Starks
		Sunday School	
	10:45am	Coffee Hour Dennis & Geri Lucchesi Hosts	

*Please join us for the mid-week Lenten service, **Holden Evening Prayer**,
Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30pm. The services will include a
Faith Story featuring congregation member
Al Behling*

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Maundy Thursday, March 28th – Living Last Supper* 6:30pm

Good Friday, March 29th

Cross Walk beginning at St. Thomas of Canterbury 2:00pm

Ecumenical Service at St. Alphonsus 3:00pm

Tenebrae Service 6:30pm*

Saturday, March 30th – Easter Vigil 5:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 31st

Prayer Garden Service 7:00am

Easter Breakfast 7:45 to 9:00am

Easter Service 9:30am*

**indicates live streaming on zoom*

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Penny Dowling, Mary Freiburger, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Karen Palasz, Patrick Rafalski, Joan Retzlaff, Dick Rutzen, Bob Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter, the family of Sue Herman, and Andrea and Adam Woerpel at the death of Andrea's father

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

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 Bembene, 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 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	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 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
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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/
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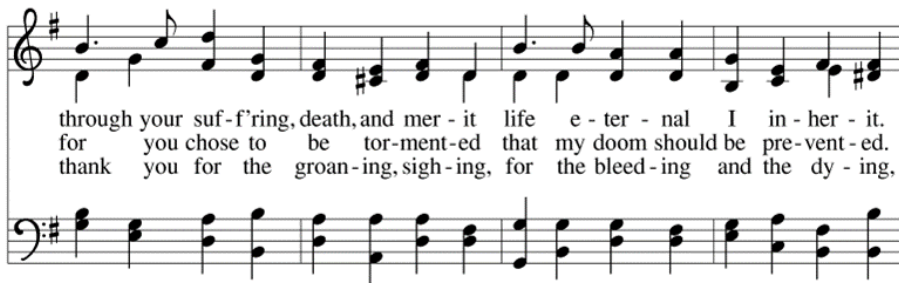
Hymn #339 Christ, the Life of All the Living



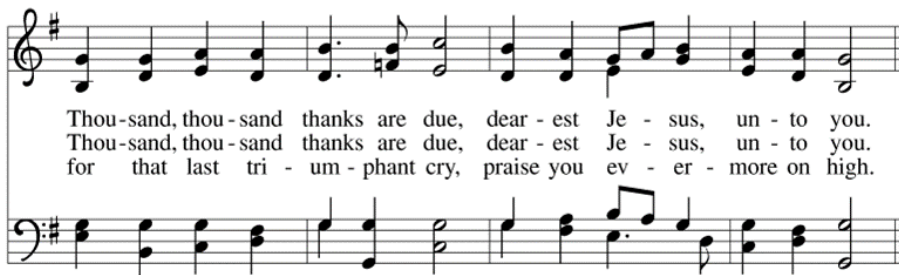
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



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,



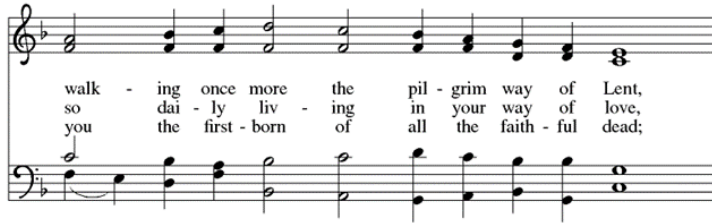
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687


Hymn #321 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



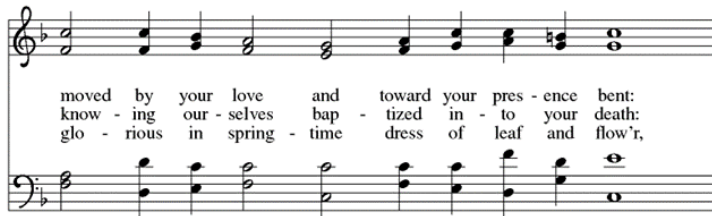
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

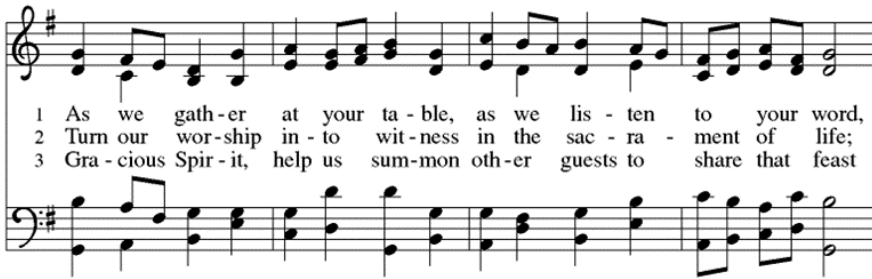


far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

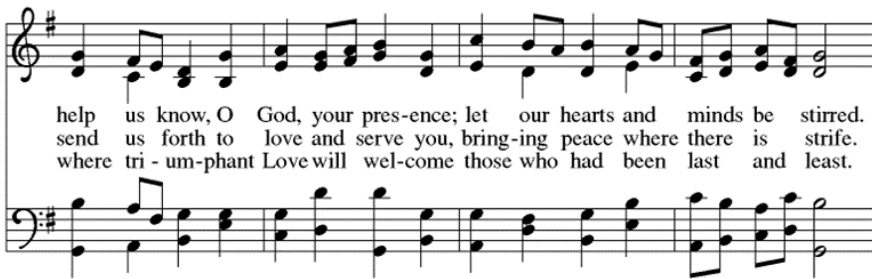
Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
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Hymn #522 As We Gather at Your Table



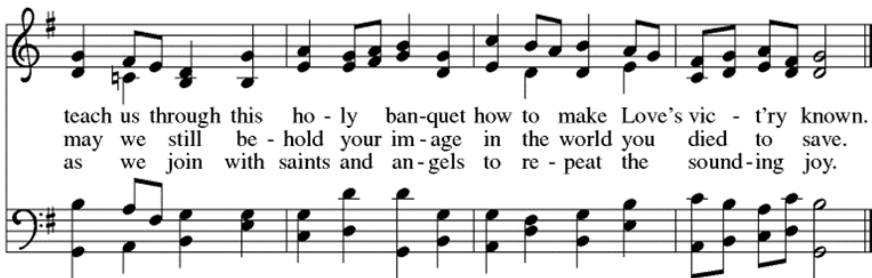
1 As we gath-er at your ta-ble, as we lis-ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor-ship in-to wit-ness in the sac-ra-ment of life;
 3 Gra-cious Spir-it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri-um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa-cred sto-ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for-give as you for-gave;
 There no more will en-vy blind us nor will pride our peace de-stroy,




teach us through this ho-ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic-t'ry known.
 may we still be-hold your im-age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an-gels to re-peat the sound-ing joy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932
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Hymn #342 There in God's Garden



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 its 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 - drills 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!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982

Music: K. Lee Scott, b. 1950

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