

**ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 2, 2026 6:30 pm**



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

Please observe silence for prayer and reflection

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(Please stand)*

P: Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism.

Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

(Please observe silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

C: Have mercy on us.

P: For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

P: For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:

C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

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

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #358 Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹⁴This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another, because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in

his blood. Faithful participation in the meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not

my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason, he said, "Not all of you are clean." ¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

^{31b}"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O, Christ.

MESSAGE:

Pastor Brian Hooper

FOOT WASHING

P: Jesus set an example for his disciples by washing their feet, an act of humble service. Footwashing signifies the call of all the baptized to be servants. We offer our lives in service for the sake of the world that God so deeply loves.

Those who desire are invited to remove your shoes and socks and move to one of the footwashing stations. As one of the chairs becomes available, take a seat to have your feet washed.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #708 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

A brief silence.

L: Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples' feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of the nations, guide the world's leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Care for all soldiers who are sent into battle and protect those who live in the shadow of war and conflict, especially in Ukraine and all of the countries in the Middle East. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer and are ill, especially those we name before you now (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

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:



for Google



for iPhone

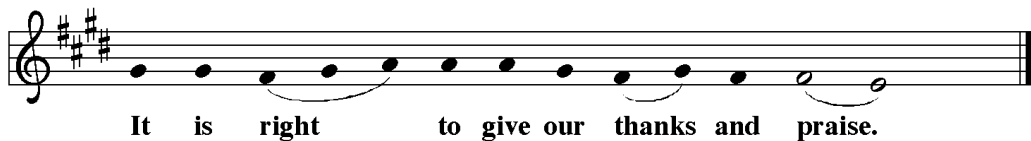
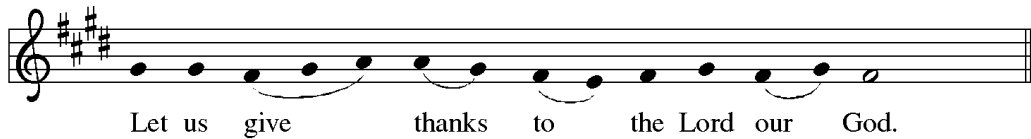
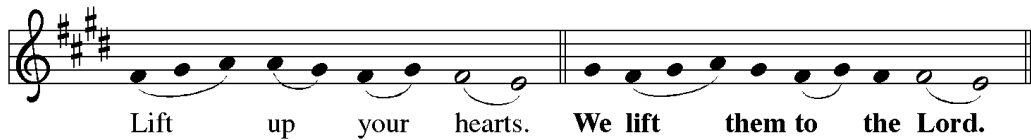
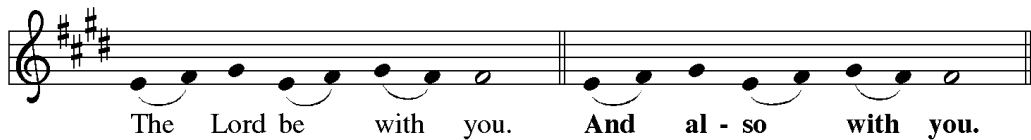
CHOIR ANTHEM: “How Beautiful” -Paris

OFFERTORY PRAYER

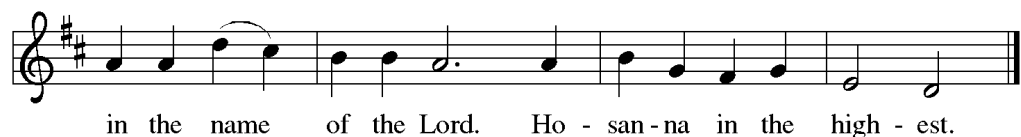
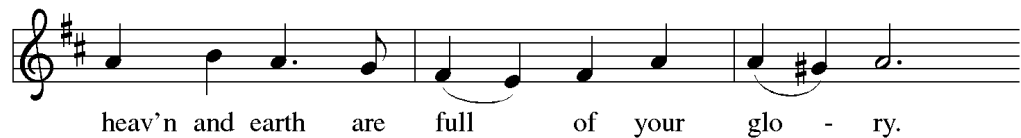
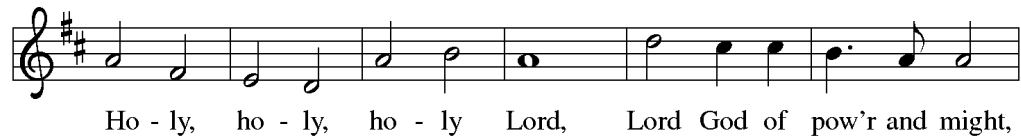
P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW #469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

The altar is stripped, leaving the sanctuary bare for Good Friday.

On this night the disciples betrayed, denied, and abandoned Jesus. From his last supper Christ walked to his humiliation and death.

From sundaysandseasons.com

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(Following the reading of Psalm 22, we slowly depart in silence in remembrance of our Lord Jesus)

Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

⁸"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver —
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

⁹Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

¹⁰On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls encircle me,
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;
¹⁷I can count all my bones.
They stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog!
²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
²²I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
²⁴For he did not despise or abhor
the affliction of the afflicted;
he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.
²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD.
May your hearts live forever!
²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.
²⁸For dominion belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.
²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.
³⁰Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the LORD,
³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Nancy Mineau, Deb Perl

Reader: Bonnie Daleness

Communion Set Up: Shelly Rosenstock and Cathy Peterson

Communion Servers: Diane Moraza, Julie Starks

Psalm 22 Read by: Mike Wholean & Sandy Wesolowski

<i>This Week at SSM</i>			
Friday, 4/3 Good Friday (Office Closed)	2:00pm	Cross Walk beginning at St. Luke's Greendale	
	3:00pm	Ecumenical Worship at St. Luke's Greendale	
	6:30pm	Tenebrae Worship	Ushers: Dennis Lucchesi, Bob Rasmussen Readers: Bonnie Zimmermann, Kelly Sachse, Karen Rasmussen
Saturday, 4/4 Easter Vigil	5:00pm	Worship	Ushers: Larry & Sue Stasiewski
			Readers: Pam Maschke, John Rech, Bonnie Zimmermann
			Communion Set Up: Betty Kroll
			Communion Server: Heidi Hennessy
Sunday, 4/5 Easter	7:00am	Prayer Garden Worship	Ushers: Diane Moaza, Patti Nelson
			Reader: Diane Moraza
			Communion: Diane Moraza and Patti Nelson
	8:15am	Easter Breakfast	
	9:30am	Worship	Ushers: Dennis Lucchesi, John Muroi, Jim Palasz, Bob Rasmussen Reader: Bonnie Daleness Communion Set Up: Tracy & Jason Covert Communion Servers: Tracy & Jason Covert, Cathy Peterson

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Sharon Behling, Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow,
Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Joy Kilimann, Sally Kowalewski, Dick Kroll, Carol Kucharski,
Billie Jo Kunesh, Shirley Lieske, Larry Petricek, Joan Retzlaff,
Stephanie Rodenkirch, Eleanor Salb, Bob Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Brent, grandson of Dennis & Geri Lucchesi
Carol, sister of Heidi Hennessy
Cheryl, sister-in-law of Larry & Sue Stasiewski
Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff
Pam Baranowski, friend of Kelly and Greg
Sachse
Irene Bonnert, mother of Deb Perl
Arlene Cich, cousin of Don Manning
Corstan Court, son of Bonnie Court
Jennifer F and her family, friends of Kelly
Sachse
Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally
Kowalewski
Marcia Gabriel, friend of Nancy Mineau &
Marion Walton
Mimi Garcia, former administrative assistant at
SSM
Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana
Gastrau
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel
Robert Koenen, friend of Don & Carol Manning

Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally
Kowalewski
John O'Connell, husband of Faith
O'Connell
Ted & Ellen P., family of Gail Jakus
Paul R, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Deb Rusch, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
John Schatzman, nephew of Marion Walton
Sue Seidemann, friend of Karen Hoffman
and former SWO president
Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann
Simley
Richard Sorenson, friend of Jim & Heidi
Hennessy
Barb Starks, mother of Julie Starks
Lynne Turnquist, friend of Carol Manning
David Vento, friend of Al Behling
Billy Waters, Stepdad of Lori Salas
Chrissy White, daughter of Sue Herman
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Cohen Zettle, family of Pam Young

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

HYMN ELW #358 Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

1 Great God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for
 2 We come with self - in - flict - ed pains of bro - ken trust and
 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name and then re - ceive us
 4 Then take the towel, and break the bread, and hum - ble us, and
 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your

love were made. Your liv - ing like - ness still we bear,
 cho - sen wrong, half - free, half - bound by in - ner chains,
 as your own, not through some mer - it, right, or claim,
 call us friends. Suf - fer and serve till all are fed,
 joy to share. Give us your Spir - it's lib - er - ty

though marred, dis - hon - ored, dis - o - beyed. We come, with all our
 by so - cial forc - es swept a - long, by pow'rs and sys - tems
 but by your gra - cious love a - lone. We strain to glimpse your
 and show how grand - ly love in - tends to work till all cre -
 to turn from guilt and dull de - spair, and of - fer all that

heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.
 close con - fined, yet seek - ing hope for hu - man - kind.
 mer - cy seat and find you kneel - ing at our feet.
 a - tion sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.
 faith can do while love is mak - ing all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: RYBURN, Norman Cocker, 1889-1953
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 Music © Oxford University Press.

HYMN ELW #708 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

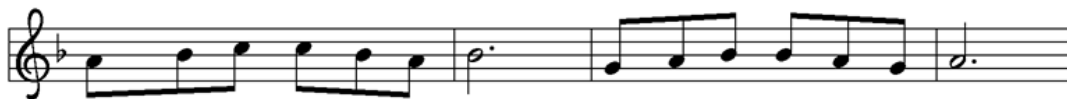
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
- 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



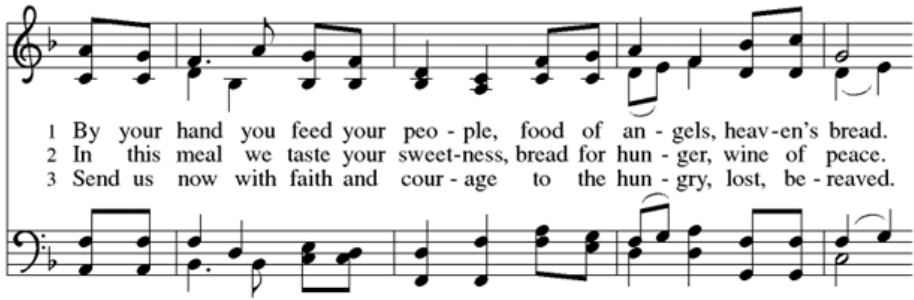
mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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HYMN ELW #469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People

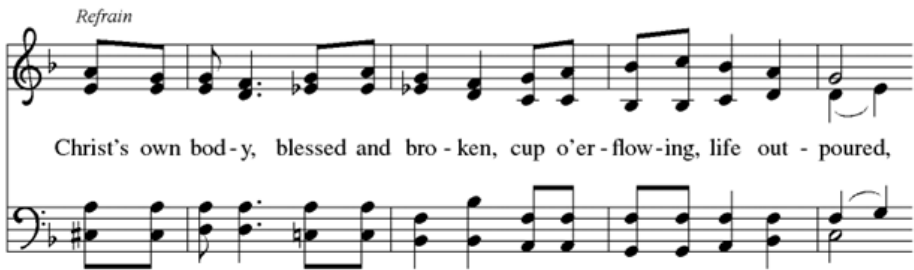


1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

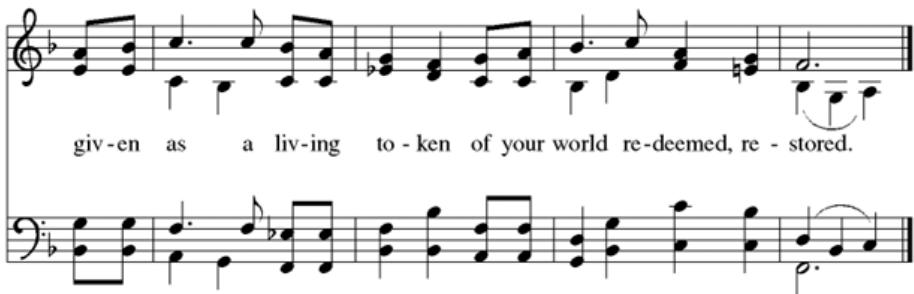


For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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