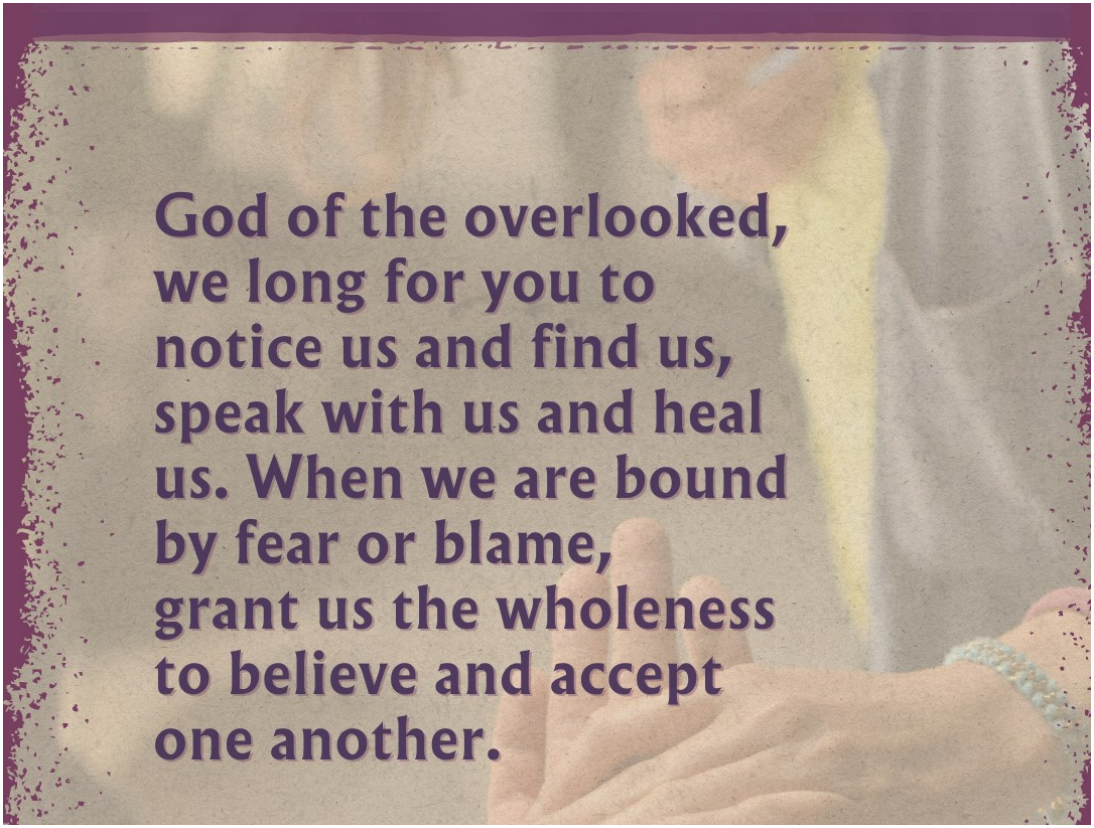


March 15, 2026

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The man born blind enters the story marked not only by his lack of sight but by the assumptions others have made about him. His neighbors, his religious leaders, even Jesus' own disciples try to explain his life through the lens of sin, blame, and divine punishment. When Jesus restores his sight, the miracle is not just a physical one—it is an act of reweaving him into the fabric of community. But the healing does something more: it exposes the blindness of the community itself. They are unable—or unwilling—to see him without the labels that once defined him. The story insists that wholeness is not complete when only one person is restored; the community must also be healed. Their sight, too, must be unbound. They must learn to see him—not as the one who lacked, but as the one who now witnesses God's wide mercy.

The Gathering

Prelude

Welcome

Order of Confession and Forgiveness

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

A: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

Silence For Reflection

A: Gracious God,

C: we confess to you, most loving God, the sins that both bind and scatter us. We have knowingly believed dishonest words. We have questioned your gracious power again and again. We have given into temptation. We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart. In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves. Gather us back to you. Forgive us, free us, and make us whole for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

A: Friends, beloved of God, Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him. In the name of ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. May God unbind your guilt and shame, lead you by the Spirit, and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

C: Amen.

The Peace

We receive and extend to one another the gift of Christ's peace. You may greet one another and say "peace be with you" or similar words.

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **And also with you.**

Opening Song

Build Your Kingdom Here

by Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson & William Herron

Verse 1
Come set Your rule and reign
In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray
Unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
Like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit come invade us now
We are Your church
We need Your pow'r in us

Verse 2
We seek Your kingdom first
We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives
For You're our joy and prize
To see the captives' hearts released
The hurt the sick the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for heaven's cause
We are Your church
We pray revive this earth

Instrumental / Chorus / Instrumental

Verse 3
Unleash Your kingdom's pow'r
Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church
We are the hope on earth

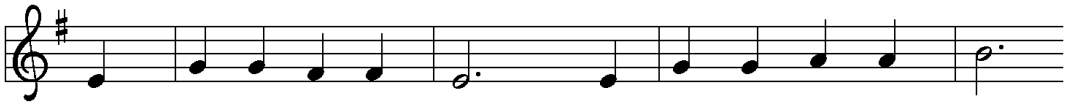
Instrumental / Chorus / Instrumental / Chorus

Chorus
Build Your kingdom here
Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand
Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire
Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere
Build Your kingdom here we pray

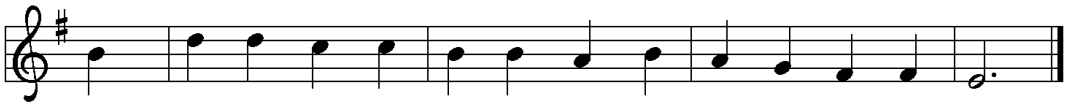
Greeting

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.

KYRIE



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

P: Let us pray together.
C: God of the overlooked, we long for you to notice us and find us, speak with us and heal us. When we are bound by fear or blame, grant us the wholeness to believe and accept one another. Lead us from assigning sin and fault, to asking where we each have seen God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE WORD

The B-I-B-L-E

Verse 1
The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

Verse 2
The B-I-B-L-E,
I take along with me
I read and pray and then obey
The B-I-B-L-E.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

A RESPONSIVE READING **PSALM 23**

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

L: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
L: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

A Reading From **Ephesians 5:8-14**

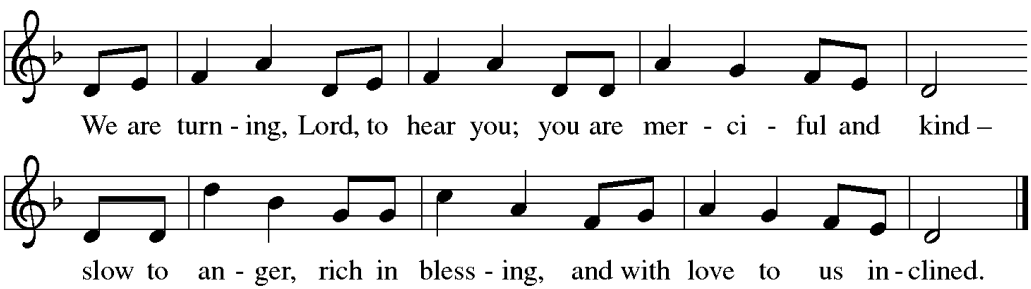
Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel Reading **John 9:1-41**

(Congregation standing)

L: The Holy Gospel of St. John, beginning in the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they

kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

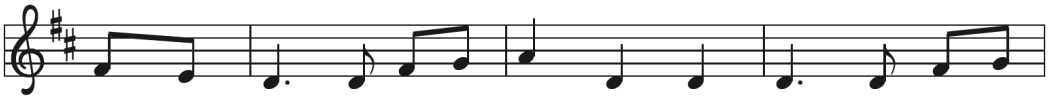
So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

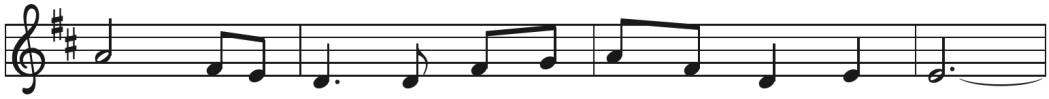
L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you O Christ.

PREACHING OF THE GOOD NEWS

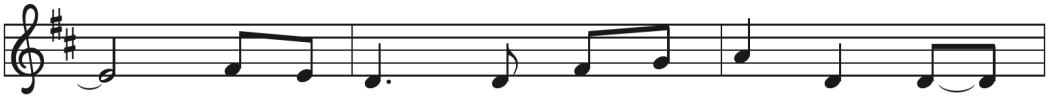
God, We Gather As Your People



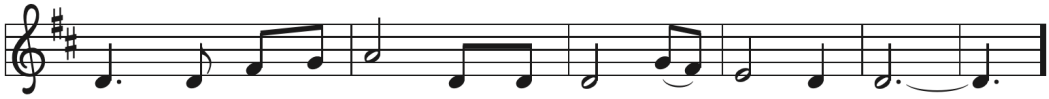
1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.

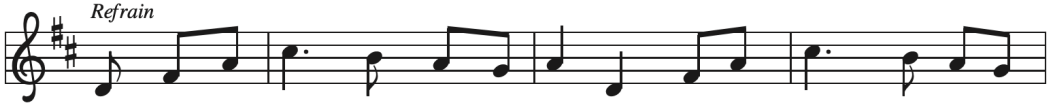


Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they

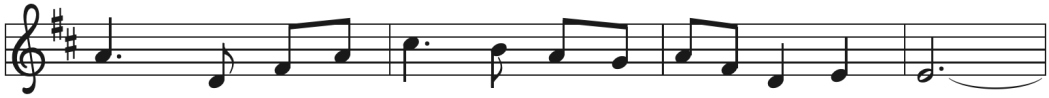


trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

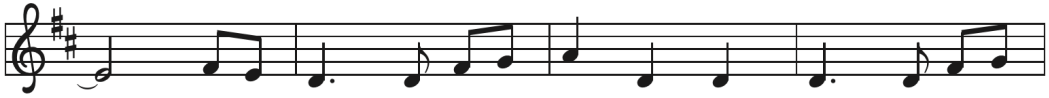
Refrain



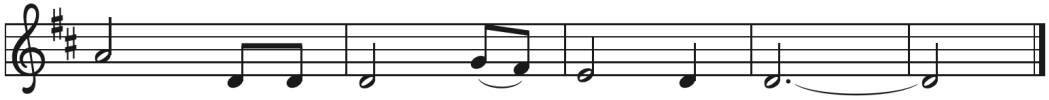
Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev-'ry-one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Each petition shall conclude with:

A: Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

The Prayers conclude:

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
C: Amen.

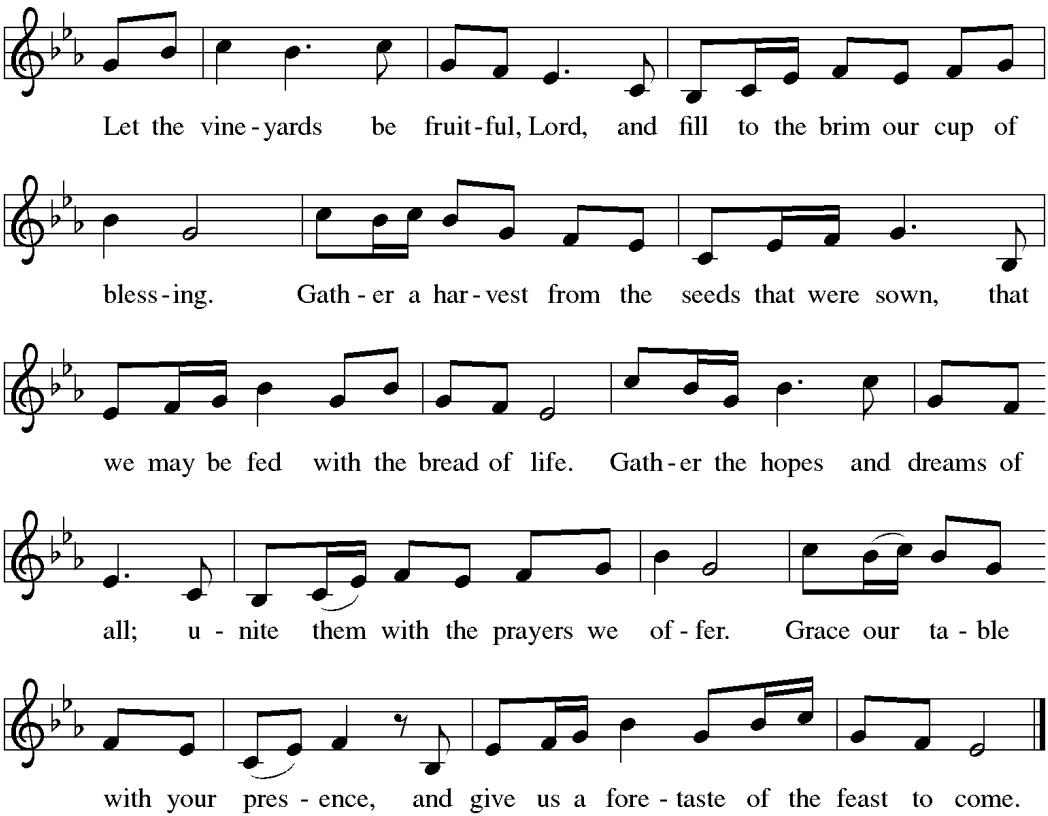
THE MEAL

THE OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

THE OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Offering Prayer

A: God of majesty.

C: You meet us at this table with Christ's body and blood that we might rejoice together in the bread you provide and never be thirsty again. Let us enter into the world as signs of your unbound presence, seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God, and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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!

Words of Institution

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.

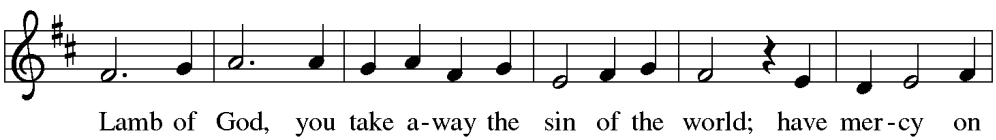
Holy Communion

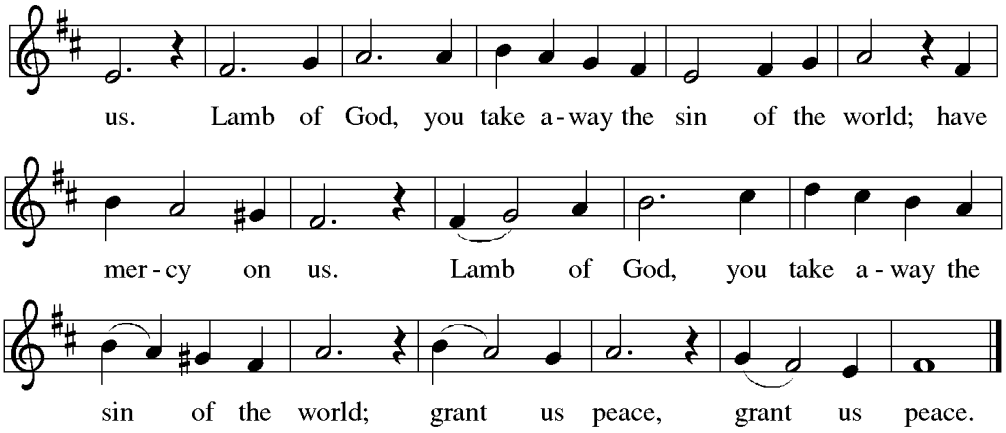
We practice "Open Communion," acknowledging that Jesus welcomes all persons, sinners and saints alike, to the table. All means ALL. Please come forward by the center aisle and receive the Sacrament in a continuous line, exiting by the side aisles. ***Communion is by intinction.*** *We offer a chalice of wine and a chalice of white grape juice in which you may dip the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask for them at the altar, if needed. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen.*

Infants who are not yet ready to receive food will receive a blessing. Parents who have questions about the practice of open communion may instruct their children to receive just a blessing.

Communion can be served to those who are not physically able to join us for worship. Please speak with an usher if you know of someone who would desire communion from Sunday's table brought to them.

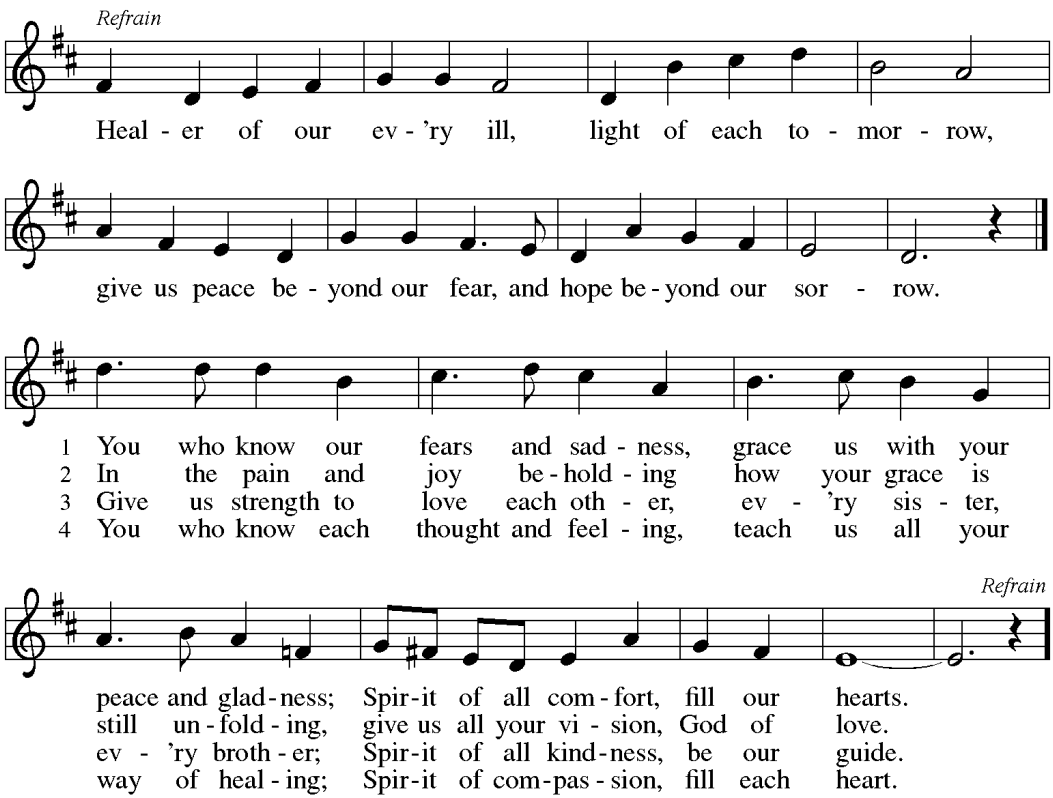
Lamb of God





Communion Song

Healer of Our Every Ill (ELW 612)



Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace until life everlasting.

C: Amen.

The Sending

The Benediction

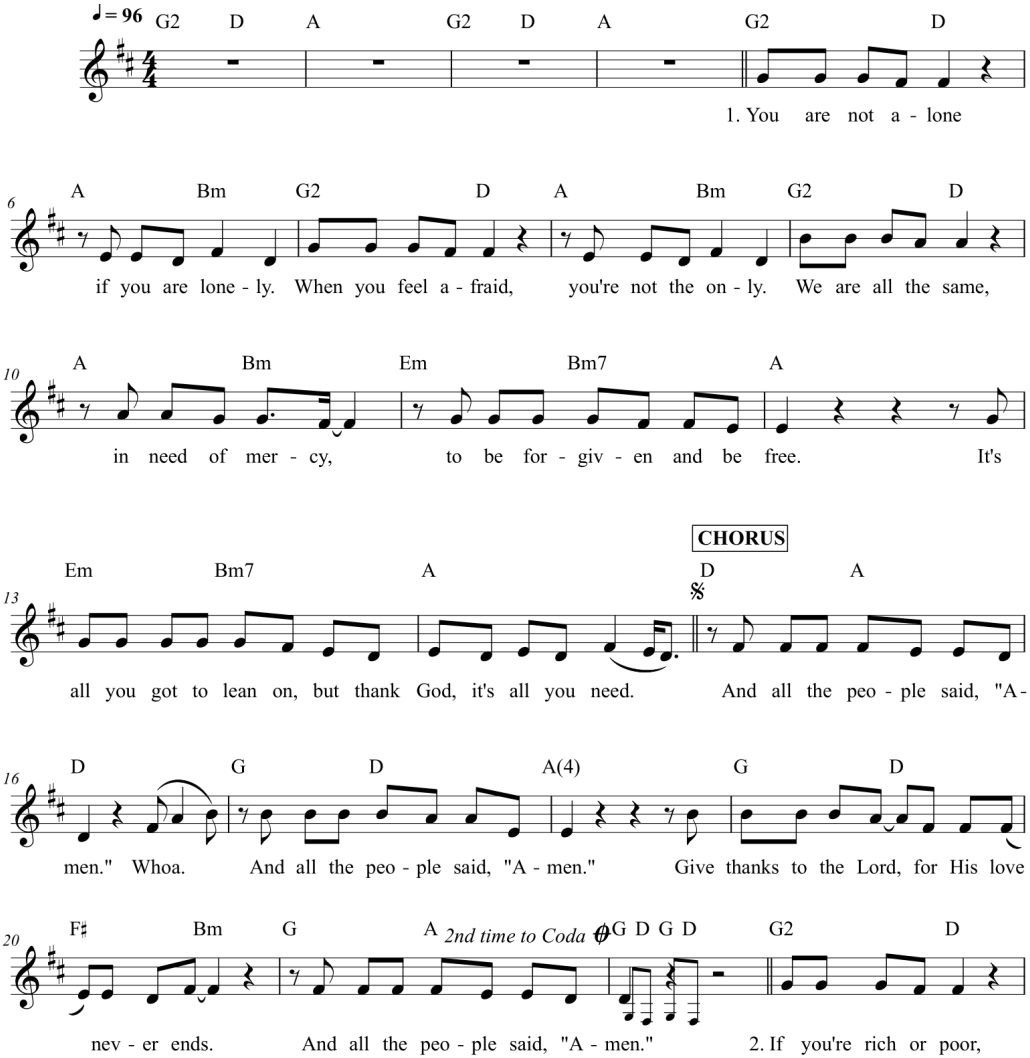
P: May God who seeks you by night and by day, in death and in life, open your senses to the mystery of God's grace, enfold you through water and Spirit in Christ's love, and give you confidence in the Spirit's power to unbind and grant new life. May the Holy Trinity, ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, bless you now and forever.

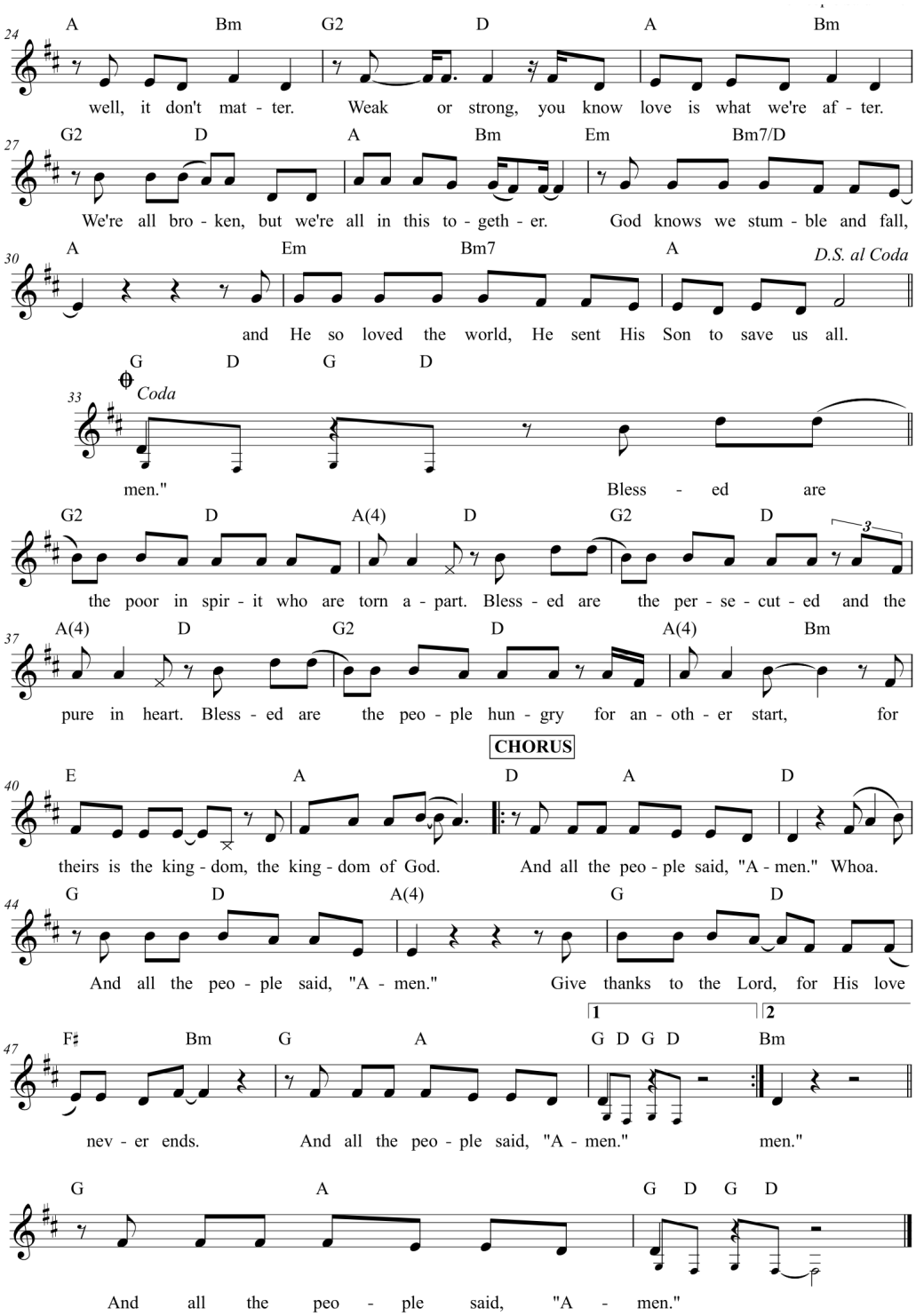
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

All the People Said Amen

Matt Maher | Trevor Morgan | Paul Moak




24
A Bm G2 D A Bm
well, it don't mat - ter. Weak or strong, you know love is what we're af - ter.
27
G2 D A Bm Em Bm7/D
We're all bro - ken, but we're all in this to - geth - er. God knows we stum - ble and fall,
30
A Em Bm7 A
D.S. al Coda
and He so loved the world, He sent His Son to save us all.
33
G D G D
Coda
men." Bless - ed are
G2 D A(4) D G2 D
3
the poor in spir - it who are torn a - part. Bless - ed are the per - se - cut - ed and the
37
A(4) D G2 D A(4) Bm
pure in heart. Bless - ed are the peo - ple hun - gry for an - oth - er start, for
CHORUS
40
E A D A D
theirs is the king - dom, the king - dom of God. And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Whoa.
44
G D A(4) G D
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." Give thanks to the Lord, for His love
47
F♯ Bm G A G D G D Bm
1
2
nev - er ends. And all the peo - ple said, "A - men." men."
G A G D G D
And all the peo - ple said, "A - men."

Announcements

Blessed and Sent to Serve

A: This little light of mine…
C: I'm gonna let it shine!
A: We love stories, but do we believe that we have a story to tell? Like the man in today's gospel, God has done things in our lives that are worth celebrating. May we take the time to reflect on all that God has done for us and may that reflection lead us to share our story of God at work in our lives. The world is longing to hear your story. We share these stories so that…
C: Everyone knows that God loves them!
A: Go in peace forgiven, whole and free.
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

If you are worshipping with us at 9:00 am we kindly ask that you leave your bulletin on the back table on your way out for those that are worshipping at 11:00 am if you did not make notes. We wish to be good stewards of our environment and resources.

*** Our services are live-streamed and recorded for later viewing. We also utilize images from our services and activities on our website. If you do not want images of you or your family on our website, please inform us via an email to communications@epiphanysuwanee.org.*

What if the opposite of being bound is being whole? Our world is filled with things that hold us captive. These things that bind us prevent us from living the whole, abundant life that God has promised us. Through the stories of regular people encountering Jesus, and being drawn to the wholeness that Jesus provides, we can learn about our own longings and be drawn into wholeness.

Sundays & Holy Week

Lent 4 (March 15) - Longing for Community - John 9:1-41
Lent 5 (March 22) - Longing for Authenticity - John 11:1-45
Palm Sunday (March 29) - Longing for Courage - Matthew 21:1-11
Maundy Thursday (April 2) - Longing for Intimacy - John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Good Friday (April 3) - Longing for Solidarity - John 18:1-19:42
Easter Sunday (April 5) - Longing for New Life - John 20:1-18

Midweek Café Church Series

Week 4: March 18 - Bound by Family - Genesis 41 and 42
Week 5: March 25 - Bound by Guilt - Genesis 50:15-21

EPIPHANY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am (in-person and online)

Ministers: The People of God
Pastor: Chris Hermansen
Minister of Youth: Kris Perkola
Director of Worship and Music: Steve Belfield, Interim
Worship Production: Steve Belfield
Worship Accompanist: Anna Keiserman, Ph. D.
Church Administrator: Bonnie Bradberry

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Kyrie
ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten
admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

Gospel Acclamation
ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten
admin. Augsburg Fortress Text & Music: Public Domain

God, We Gather as Your People (ACS 1038)
Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
Music: David Lohman
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