

Liturgy of the Word

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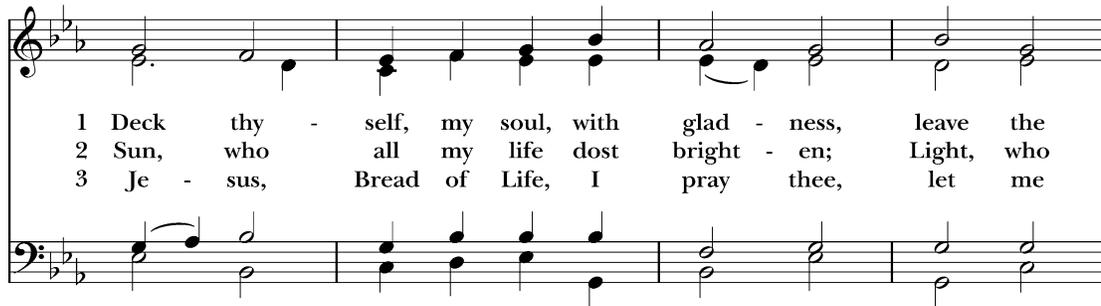
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Liturgy of the Word
March 15, 2026

Maggie Taliaferro, Officiant

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness 339



1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me



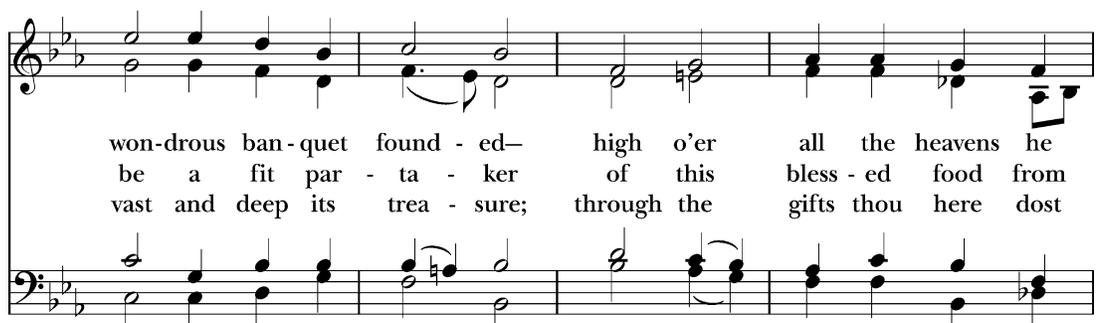
gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -



splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth:
vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;



un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how



won - drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he
be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

The people standing, the Officiant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says the following,

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,
 we confess that we have sinned against you
 in thought, word, and deed,
 by what we have done,
 and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
 For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
 have mercy on us and forgive us;
 that we may delight in your will,
 and walk in your ways,
 to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

Gloria

Hymnal S-280

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and

peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -

might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The Officiant says the Collect.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

After the reading, the lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 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.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Second Lesson

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live 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, but instead 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.”

After the reading, the lector says

The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

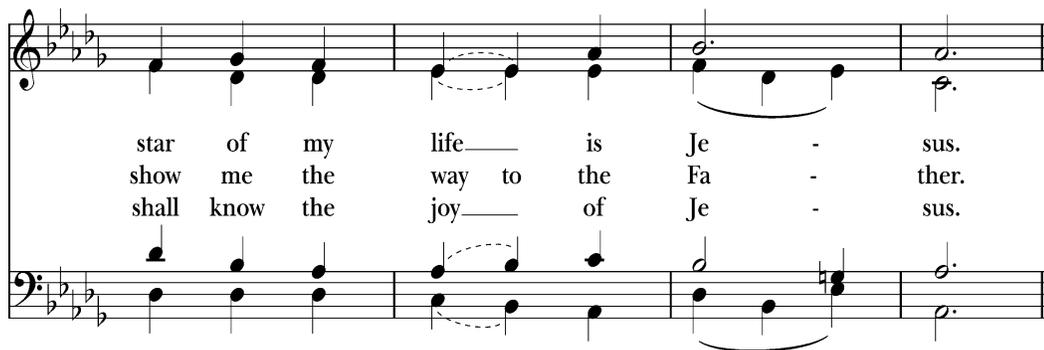
Sequence Hymn

I want to walk as a child of the light 490
Vs. 1-2, Gospel, vs. 3

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

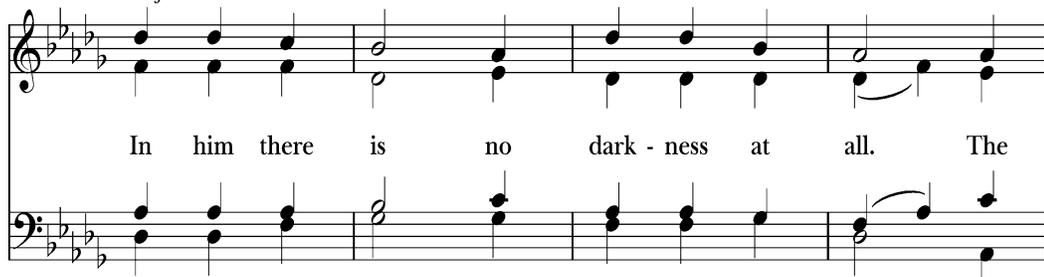
I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

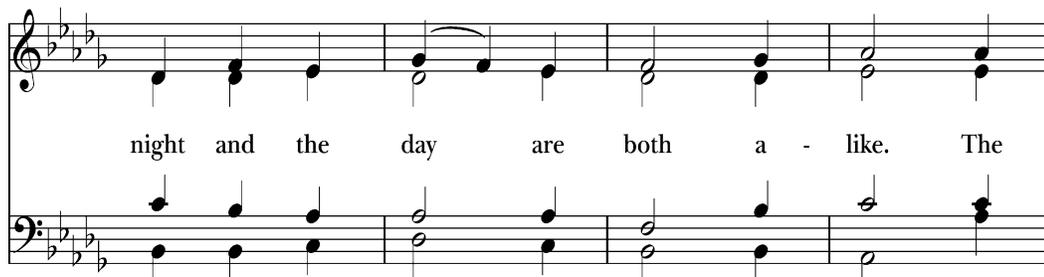


star of my life — is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy — of Je - sus.

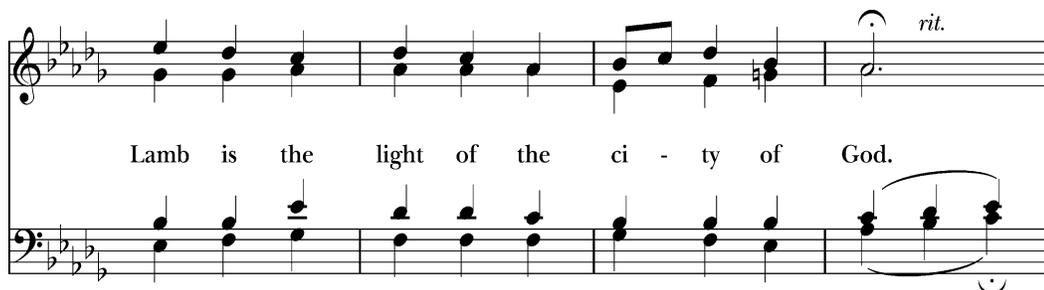
Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The

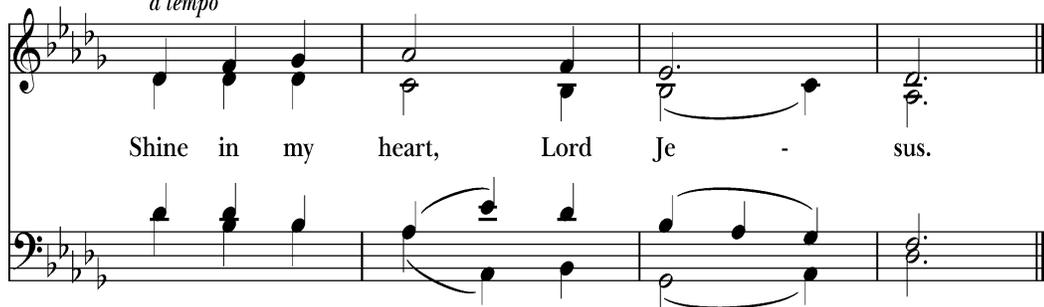


night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God. *rit.*

a tempo



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Words: Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934). Copyright © 1970, 1975, Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Houston, Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934).

Then, all standing, the Deacon or Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 the man.” 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.” But 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, and 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 near 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.”

After the Gospel, the Deacon or Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon – Sermons that Work

The Nicene Creed

The Officiant says to the people

Let us stand as able and say the Nicene Creed together.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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 VI

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.
Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all those who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector, and Brian, our bishops, for our supply priests, for our candidate Sheila, and for all bishops and other ministers,
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.
Silence

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life (including the birthdays of [_____] and the anniversaries of [_____].)
Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, [especially _____,] that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

The Officiant says this or some other Collect

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Offertory

The Officiant says
Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

The Lord's Prayer

The Officiant says

Let us pray together the Lord's Prayer.

People and Officiant

*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,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

The Peace

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People *And also with you.*

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Announcements

Sunday, 3/15

Liturgy of the Word

9:45a Adult Lectionary Discussion

Children's Sunday School on request

Monday, 3/16

6:30p **Book Club**

Tuesday, 3/17

11:30a **Out-to-Lunch Bunch at Panera Bread**

6:00p Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, 3/18

12:00p **Lenten Healing Service**

12:30p **Lenten Luncheon – Soup by DOK**

No Bible Study during Lent

7:00p Choir Practice

Thursday, 3/19

2:00p **Grief Support Group – Moved for Lent**

5:30p Handbell Practice

Saturday, 3/21 6:00p Thrive_

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 3/22 9:45a Adult Lectionary Discussion
Children's Sunday School on request

Wednesday, 3/25 12:00p Lenten Healing Service
12:30p Lenten Luncheon – Soup by DOK
No Bible Study during Lent
7:00p Choir Practice

Thursday, 3/26 2:00p Grief Support Group – Moved for Lent
5:30p Handbell Practice

SAVE THE DATE **Holy Week Schedule**

Sunday, 3/29 **Palm Sunday – 2 services with Eucharist**

Wednesday, 4/1 12:00p Lenten Healing Service
12:30p Lenten Luncheon – Soup by DOK

Thursday, 4/2 **6:00p Maundy Thursday with Eucharist**

Friday, 4/3 **12:00p Stations of the Cross**
6:00p Good Friday without Eucharist

Sunday, 4/5 10:45a One Service – Easter Day

Saturday, 4/4 **NO Breakfast for All/Men's Group Meeting**
8:00a Egg Hunt Setup
10:00a **Easter Egg Hunt**
12:00p CUB Lunch Prep

Prayer for a New Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on St. Francis and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for your ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer 51. For a Birthday

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever he may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer for St. Francis

Heavenly Father, we come to you at this time, seeking your perfect plan for St. Francis. We seek your wisdom, discernment, and guidance as to how we may serve you best and to your glory. Make us a church where your Son, Jesus, is lifted up as Lord and Savior and where the healing power and presence of the Holy Spirit is known. Even as your people trusted in you to bring them to the Promised Land, we look to you as God and Father to lead us in all things. We trust you to bring to us the people and resources to help us accomplish your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

1 How won - drous and great thy works, God of praise!
2 To na - tions of earth thy light shall be shown;

How just, King of saints, and true are thy ways!
their wor - ship and vows shall come to thy throne:

O who shall not fear thee, and hon - or thy Name?
thy truth and thy judg - ments shall spread all a - broad,

Thou on - ly art ho - ly, thou on - ly su - preme.
till earth's ev - ery peo - ple con - fess thee their God.

Words: Henry Ustick Onderdonk (1759-1858), alt.; para. *The Song of the Redeemed*. Music: Lyons, att. Johann Michael Haydn (1737-1806).

The Officiant dismisses them with these words

People Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.