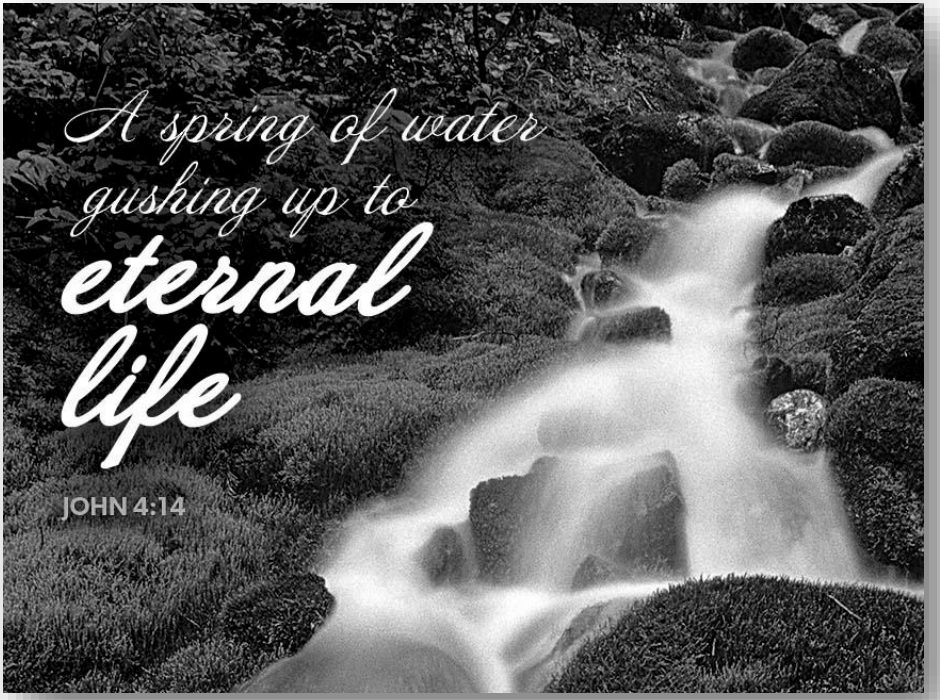


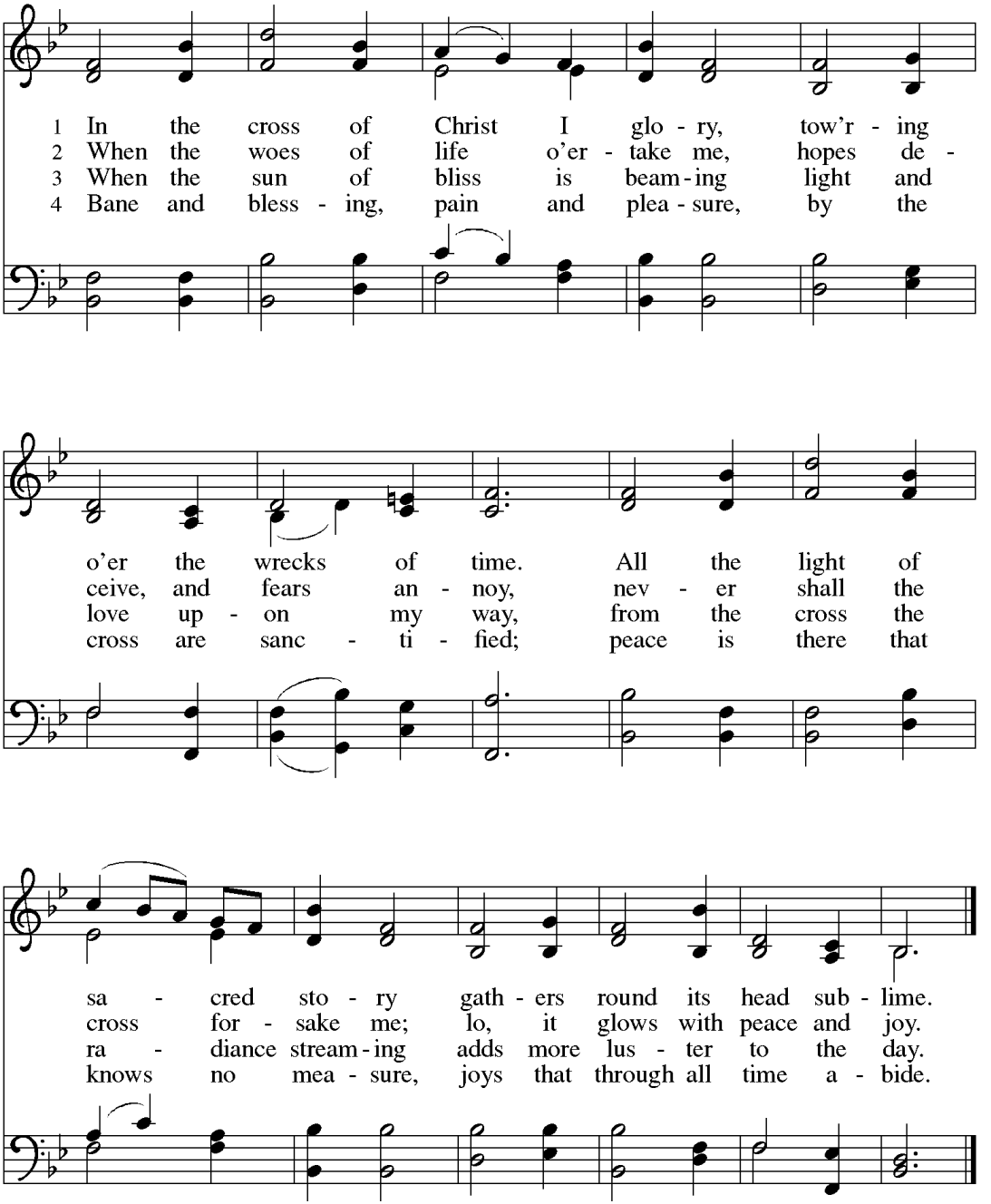
St. Martin's Lutheran Church

203 S. Defiance Street + Archbold, OH 43502
www.the-welcome-place.org

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

(Verse 2 – Men and Low Voices only; Verse 3 – Women and High Voices only)

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT *MARCH 8, 2026*

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Regular text is spoken by the Worship Leader
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE ***Praeludium et Fuga in e – "The Cathedral"*** *BWV 533*
Johann Sebastian Bach

BELL & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN** ***"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

"Return to me with all your heart," says the Lord.
Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love *(Joel 2:12-13)*

God so loved the world that while we were yet sinners Jesus Christ was given to die for us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit God promises to heal us and forgive us. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

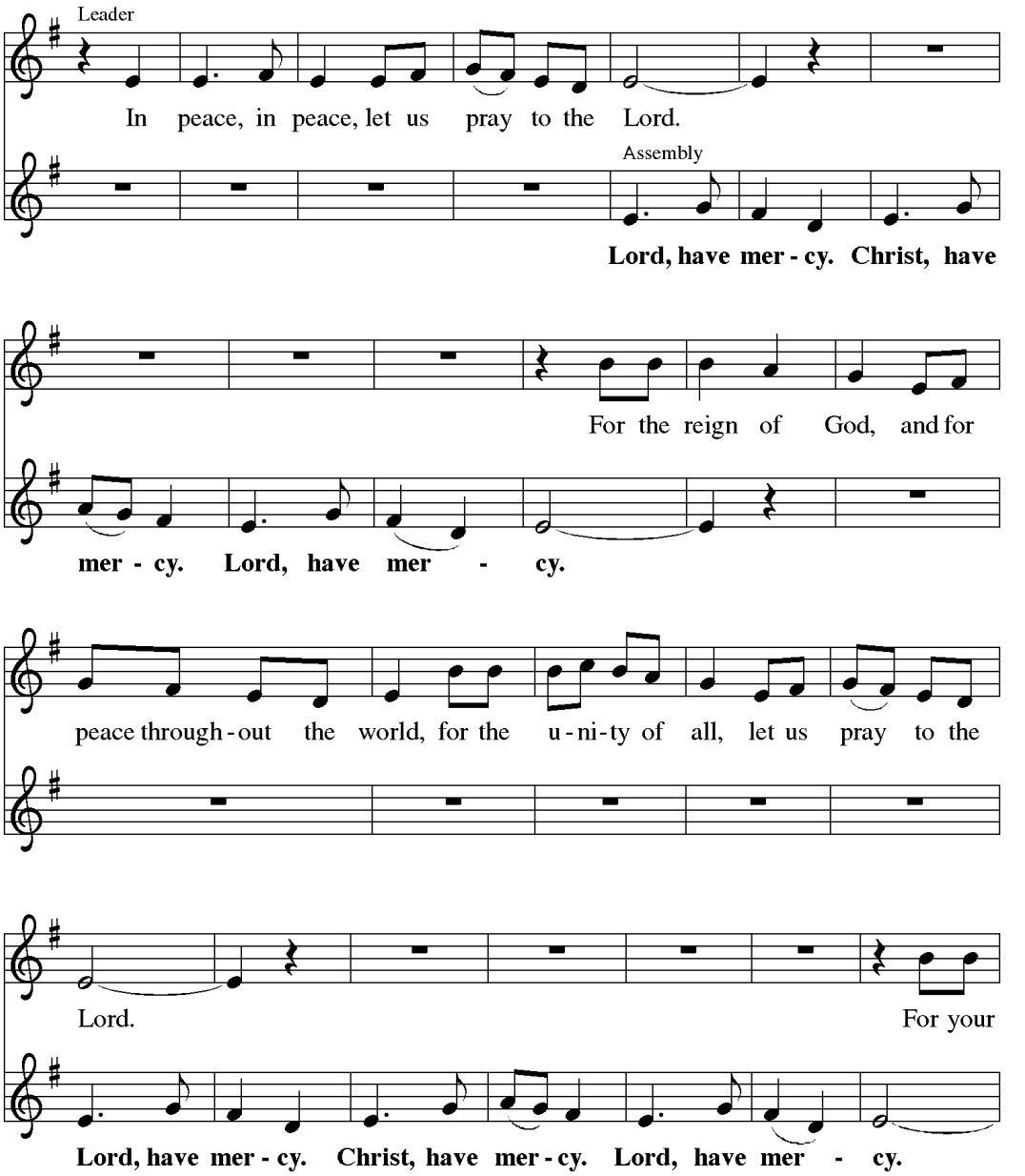
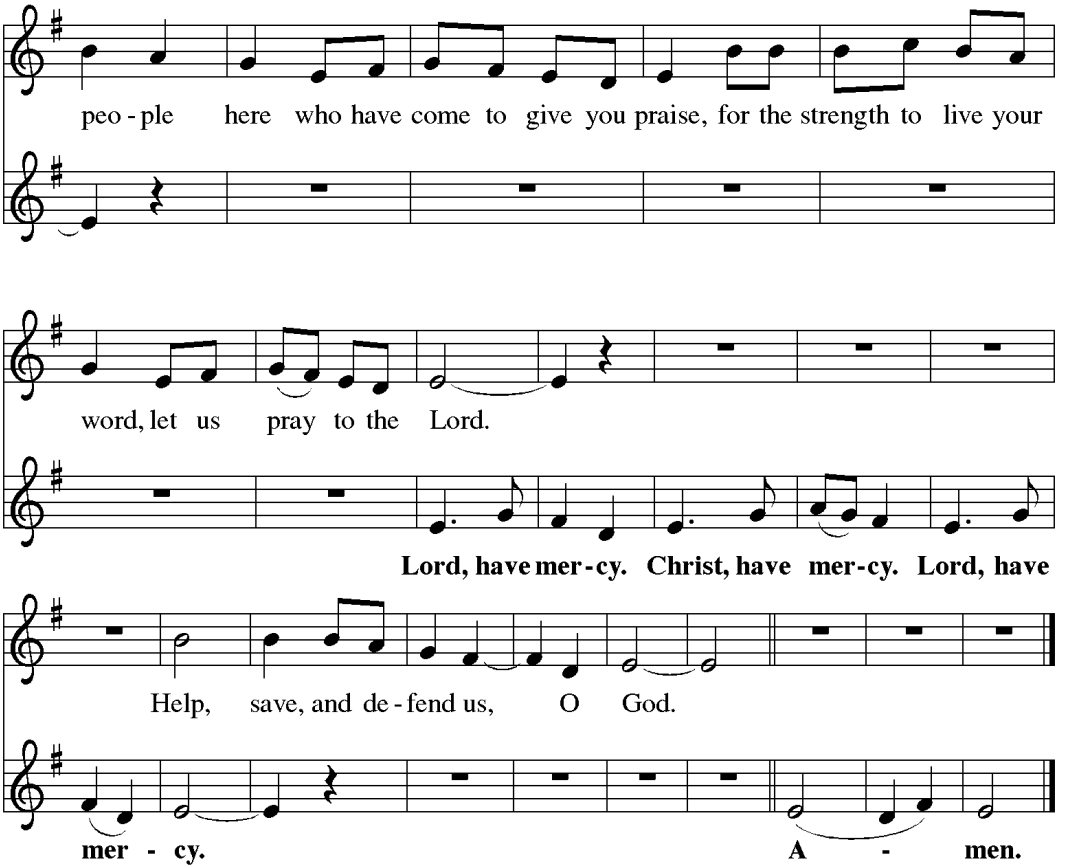
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are held captive to the power of sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING — Exodus 17:1–7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages,
as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the
people to drink. 2The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink."
Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3But the
people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why
did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4So
Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to
stone me." 5The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the
elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and
go. 6I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water
will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders
of Israel. 7He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and
tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8 – *read responsively*

1O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
2So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.
3Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
4So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.
5My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips
6when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;
7for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
8My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

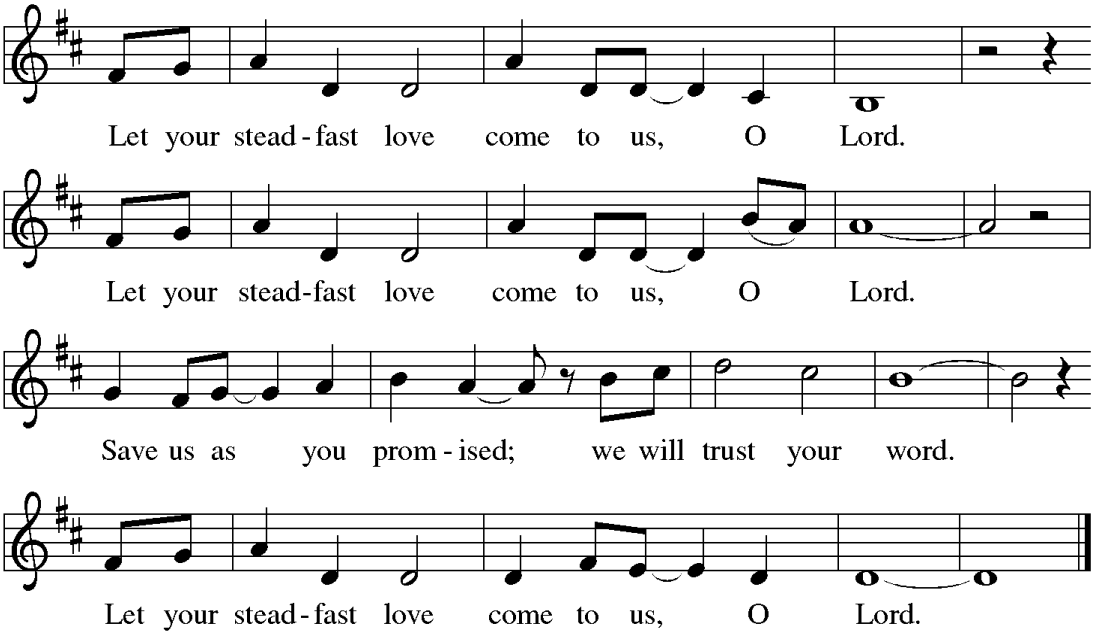
SECOND READING — Romans 5:1–11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also
boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance
produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us,
because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been
given to us.
6For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7Indeed,

rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. [8]But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. [9]Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. [10]For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. [11]But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel Reading John 4:5-30, 39-42

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 4th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord!

[5]So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. [6]Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

[7]A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [8](His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) [9]The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) [10]Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who

it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." [11]The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? [12]Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

[13]Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, [14]but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." [15]The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

[16]Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." [17]The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; [18]for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" [19]The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. [20]Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." [21]Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. [22]You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23]But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. [24]God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." [25]The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." [26]Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

[27]Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" [28]Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, [29]Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? [30]They left the city and were on their way to him.

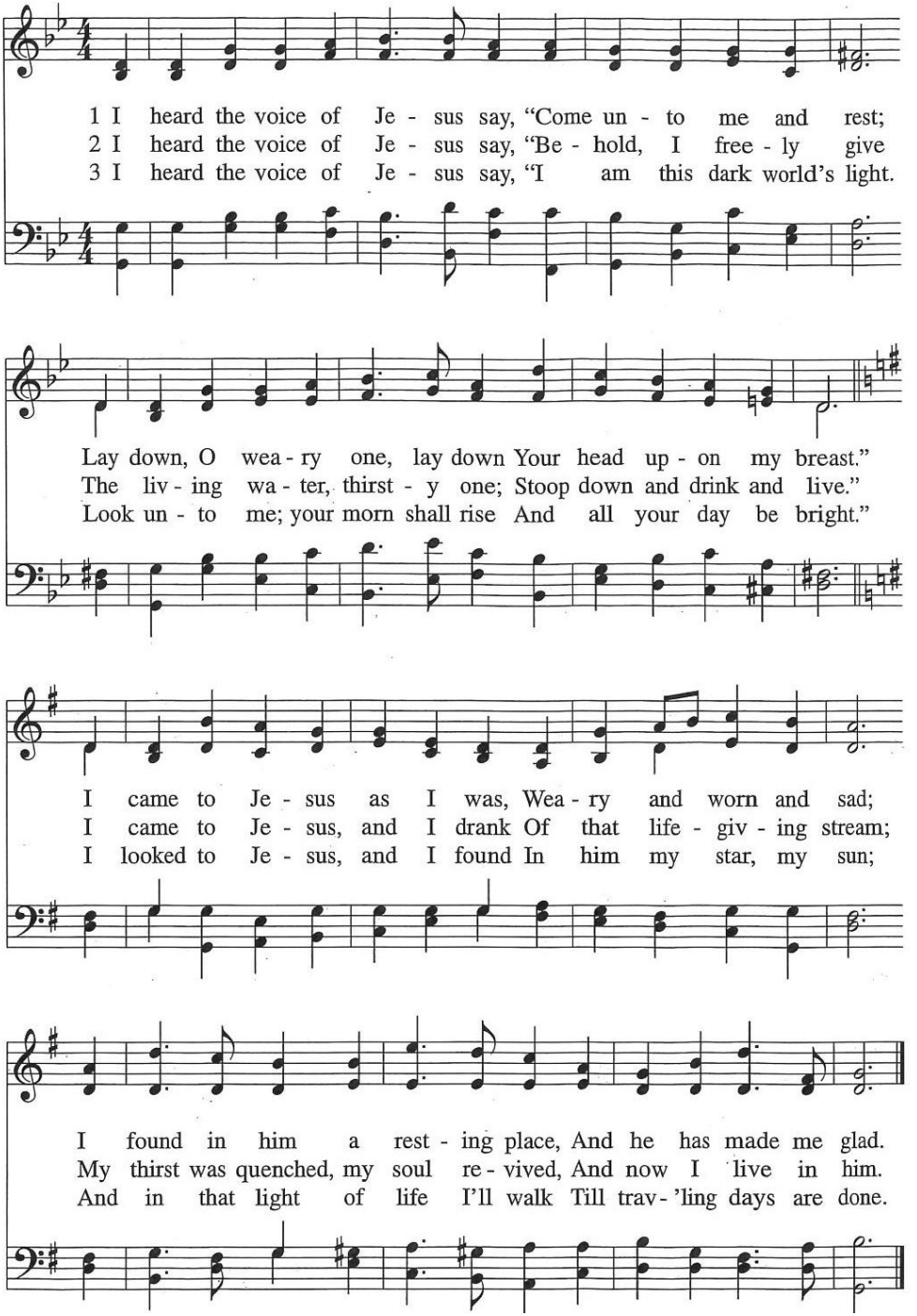
[39]Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." [40]So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. [41]And many more believed because of his word. [42]They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE ***Susan Short***

MESSAGE ***"The Barriers Between Us"***

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

HYMN OF THE DAY** ***"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

*PROFESSION OF FAITH – *Apostles 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 into hell.
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

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

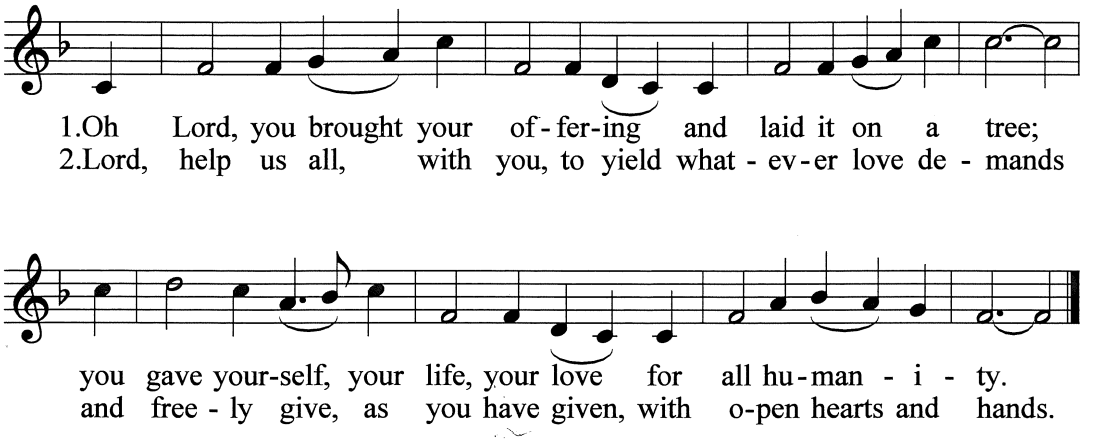
And also with you.

OFFERING OF GIFTS — *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Bell Choir

arr. L. Shackley

*OFFERTORY



*Prayers of the Church

*Each petition ends…*Lord, in your mercy…**hear our prayer.**

*The Lord's Prayer

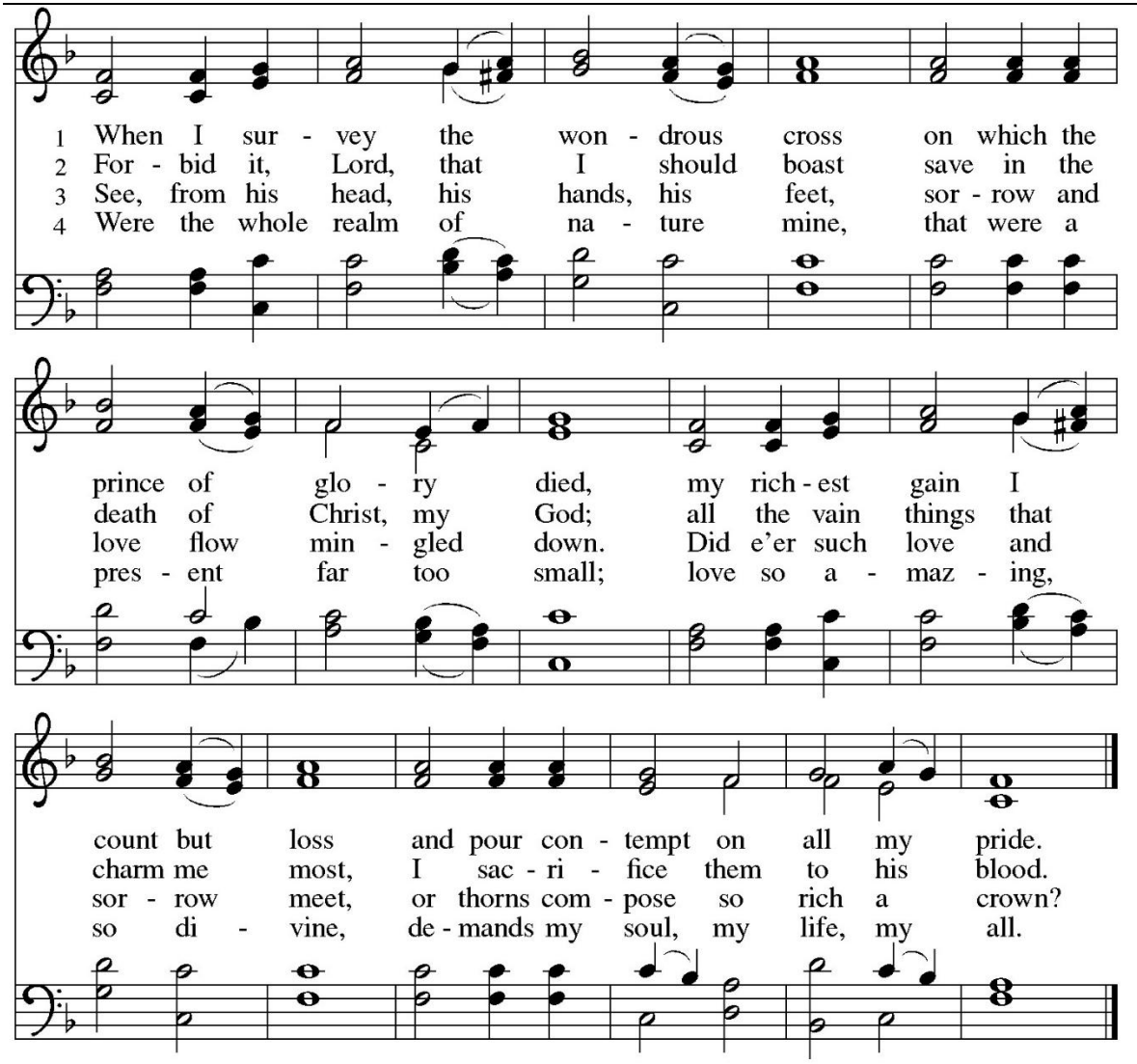
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

We Are Sent to Serve

* Benediction

As you go on your way may Christ go with you.
Christ before you to lead you;
Christ behind you to encourage you;
Christ beside you to befriend you;
Christ above you to watch over you;
Christ within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*CLOSING HYMN *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Please sing Unison on Verse 4

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

St. Martin's Worship Servants . . .

Acolyte	-Alexa Schneider
Organist	-Matthew Wachtman
Flugelhorn	-Philip Hoverman
Lector	-Peg Bjorlin
Usher Team Leader	-Aaron Short
Sound System	-Bill Phelps
Altar Guild	-Jan Delaney & Janet Wyse
Offering Counters	-Jan Delaney & Jo Ann Liechty

The St. Martin's Webstore is open! If you would like to order some apparel you can go to https://stmartinsarchbold.itemorder.com, click the link in your Friday email, or scan the QR code provided.

We are looking for people who would like to **provide the Wednesday Night meals**. Erinn Thompson is organizing this, so you can contact her if you would like to help. You can also scan the QR code provided or click the link in your Friday email to sign up!

Monday Night Bible Study continues exploring Luther's Small Catechism with the Lord's Prayer, also the theme for our Wednesday Lenten worship this year. This is an informal discussion-based format on Zoom! No previous experience required, jump in when you can. Send Steve an email if you'd like to join.

Mission Team Update: We are back. Thanks for all the support and prayers from the congregation. Our mission trip to Puerto Rico was a great success in many ways. The mission team spent 8 days in Puerto Rico putting on a new roof for Jose through Techos pa' mi gente. Jose has been living with family since the Hurricane in 2017. This will give him and his son a fresh start. This is the 5th house that St. Martin has been involved with through TPMG. It has been exciting to see how they have grown over the years as their organization has increased its reach. Now they are training local people in construction trades to be more prepared for the next hurricane to be rebuild quicker. We plan on hosting a coffee hour soon to show some pictures and videos. Ask any of the team members about their experience. Team members are: Bill & Diane Phelps, Albert & Yanira Reyes, Darren & Jane Sonnenberg, Aaron & Gabe Short, Aden McCarty, Jane Trudel, Barry Johns, Mike Short and JoAnn Liechty.

March is FISH Food Pantry Ingathering Month at St. Martin's. . . If you would like to donate items, place them on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your offering envelope FISH for monetary donations.

After School Tutoring – Thanks be to God!

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." - Matthew 19:14

Our newest outreach ministry, the ***After School Tutoring (AST)*** program launched Wednesday, February 25th at 3 p.m. Jake K. used St. Martin's van to gather five students (with parent and school permission) at the Archbold Elementary building and chauffeured them to church.

Volunteers assisted students off the bus and into St. Martin's where the excitement began. As students made their way into bathrooms for a quick break and washing of hands, one sweet child said, "Wow, this bathroom is beautiful." Just little things can make "littles" smile and happy! Before the mental work began, the students were given a "lots of steps" tour of St. Martin's with comments like, "How many steps does this church have? Are we going to get lost in here?" Finally, my favorite, "This church is beautiful from up here!"

Once the "steps" spilled out into the Fellowship Hall, students were asked to have a seat and enjoyed a healthy snack while sharing their names and being introduced to the volunteers/tutors. Fun chatter ensued with Jake leading the chat session. "Thanks Jake!"

Finally, tutoring began with students taking seats at tables with an individual tutor. We had 8 tutor volunteers and 5 students, what a Blessing! Each student was given time to complete their homework, and take a break, when necessary, just to rest their brains a bit. Thanks to the tutors and cooperation of each student, **ALL** homework assignments were completed! Thank you, Jesus! Total success was felt by all involved in this first session of ***AST***. Shortly before 5 p.m., students packed their belongings and were directed to the basement for a short game of drop the hanky (actually a stuffy☺). We had a lot of laughs for sure. Thanks to **ALL** who came to make the first ***AST*** session a success! **God is Good!**

Spring Cleaning? Puzzles, fidgets, simple games? If those items happen to be in that cleaning out process, please consider donating them to the new ***After School Tutoring*** *(AST)* ministry here at St. Martin's. Our next session is March 18th. Simply put those items on a table in the Fellowship Hall and label them ***AST*** and we'll make good use of them. *You are appreciated!*

NEXT SUNDAY, March 15 – Alan Fuhrhop will be ordained and installed as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at Bethlehem Lutheran Church near Okolona. The worship service will be at 3pm. Alan recently completed a TEEM program through Wartburg Seminary (similar to Pastor Steve's.) Alan has been serving as a Vicar at Bethlehem this past year as part of his internship and will be continuing his ministry at Bethlehem as their pastor.

2026 Lenten Theme: **Lord, Teach Us to Pray…**

The season of Lent began February 18. The three pillars of Lent are: Prayer, Fasting & Works of Love. We will be focusing on **prayer** as we explore the petitions of The Lord's Prayer during our Wednesday worship at 7pm each week.

The Lord's Prayer

Additionally, you are encouraged to join the Monday Night Zoom Study Group as we continue our look at Martin Luther's Small Catechism. That group's focus will also be The Lord's Prayer as we consider Luther's words on each of the petitions. Please email Pastor Steve if you'd like to join.

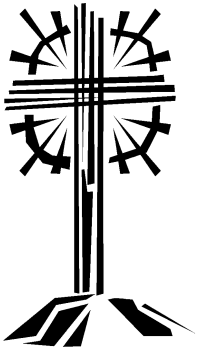
WEDNESDAY SERIES: *Each Wednesday at 7pm*

MARCH 11 - FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US
MARCH 18 - AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL
MARCH 25 - FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY.

MONDAY NIGHT ZOOM STUDY GROUP: *Each Monday at 7pm*
Mar. 9, Mar. 16, Mar. 23

LOOKING AHEAD… *Holy Week* & *Easter*

March 29 + Palm Sunday, 9am
April 2 + Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm
April 3 + Good Friday, 7:30pm
April 5 + Easter Sunday, 7 & 10am
Easter Breakfast, 8am
Easter Egg Hunt, 8:45am



This Week at St. Martin's

Sunday – March 8- Third Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am

Monday- March 9
Adult Zoom Study, 7pm
Friendship Circle, 7pm

Tuesday – March 10
Men's Breakfast, 7am @ McDonald's
Sewing, 9am
Community Meal, 5pm @ St. John's Christian

Wednesday- March 11
Welcome Place Meal, 5:15pm
Adult Circle, 6pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6pm
Lenten Worship, 7pm
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm

Thursday- March 12
Women's Breakfast, 7am @ The Home Restaurant
Bulletin Deadline, 8am
Church Council, 7pm

Next Sunday – March 15-Fourth Sunday in Lent
Worship, 9am
Sunday School, 10:20am
High School Youth, 10:30am
Middle School Youth, 6:30pm