Welcome to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lancaster

Saturday Worship

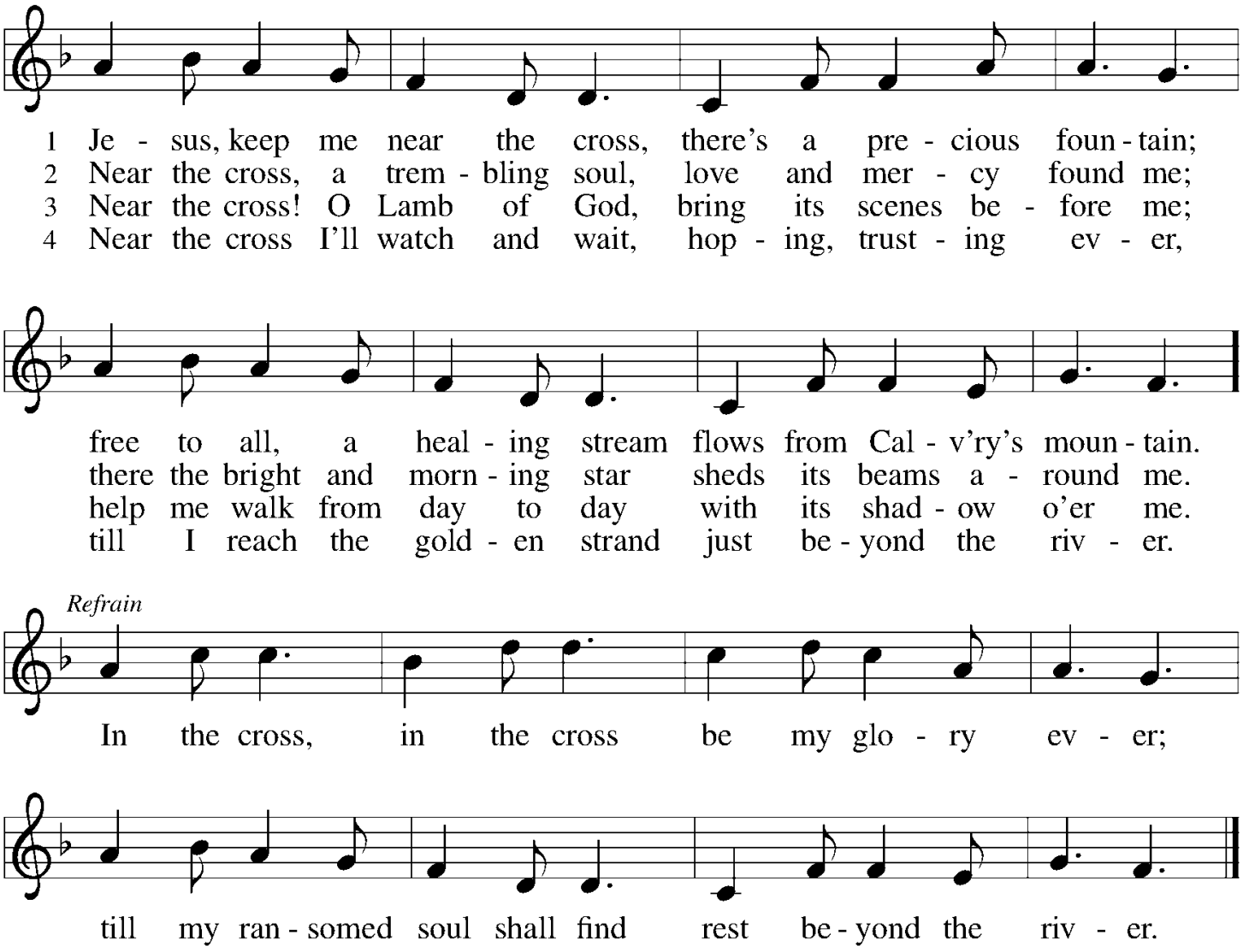
Rev. Jamie Retallack
716-848-9683

Third Saturday in Lent
Saturday, March 11, 2023

The Prelude
The Greetings
The Invocation

Opening Hymn — ELW 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

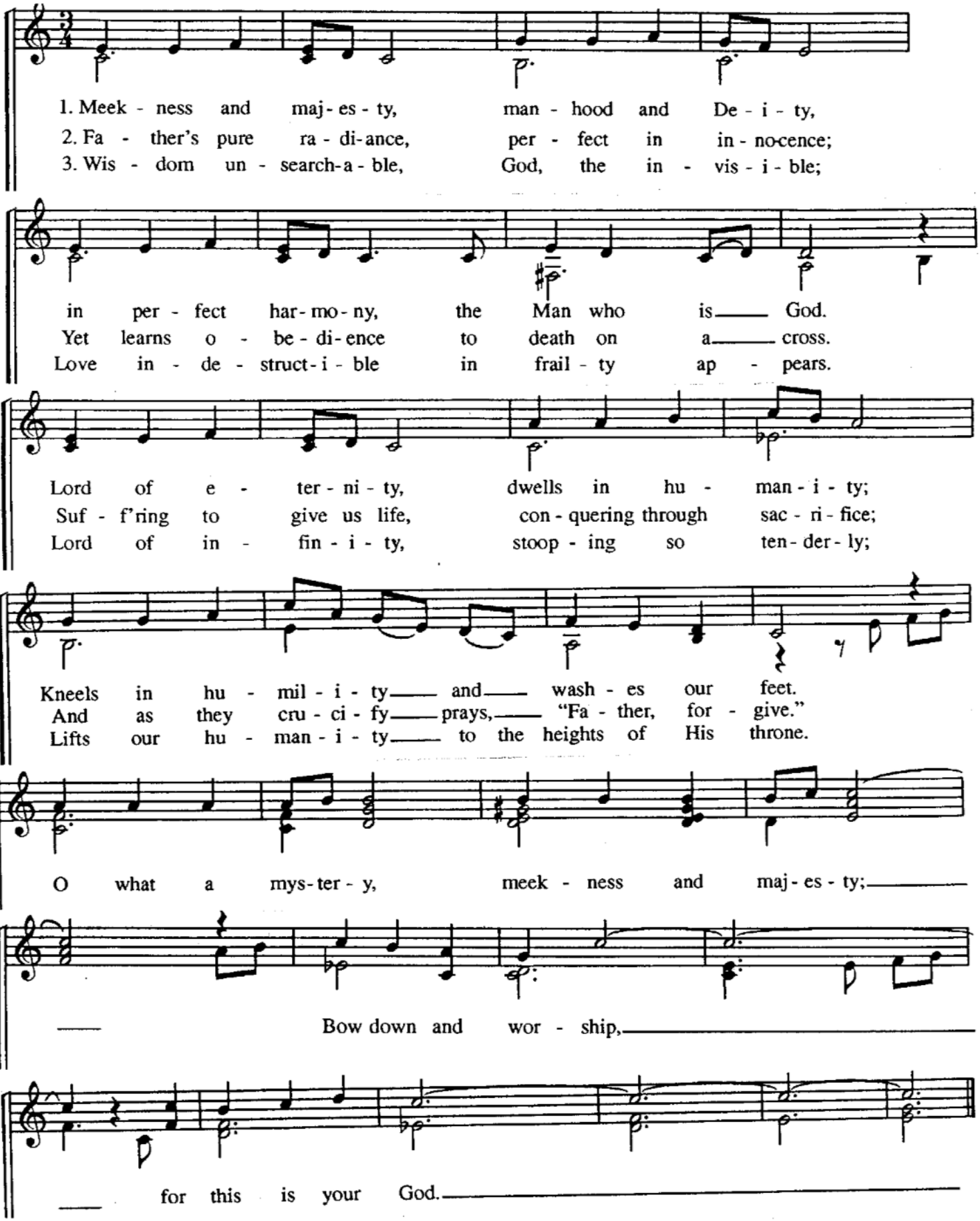
Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, + forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day

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.**

The Hymn of Praise



The 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. The 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?” But 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?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The 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. I 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. He called the place Massah[a] and Meribah,[b] because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95
(*Read Responsively)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**"Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

**Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray;
they do not know my ways.'**

Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.' "

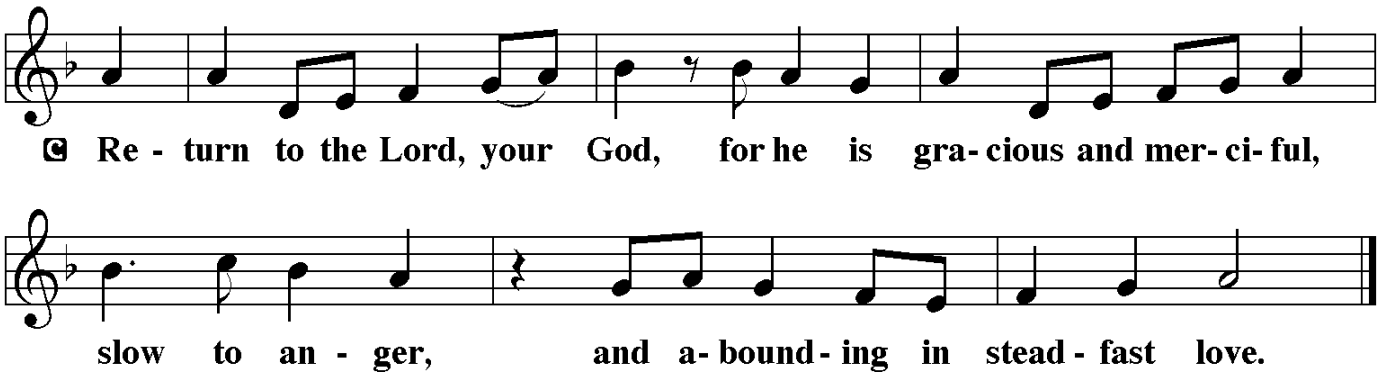
The Second Reading
Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 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. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel Reading
John 4:5-42
Glory to you, O God.

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

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 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.) 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." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 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." 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."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 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. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 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." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

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?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

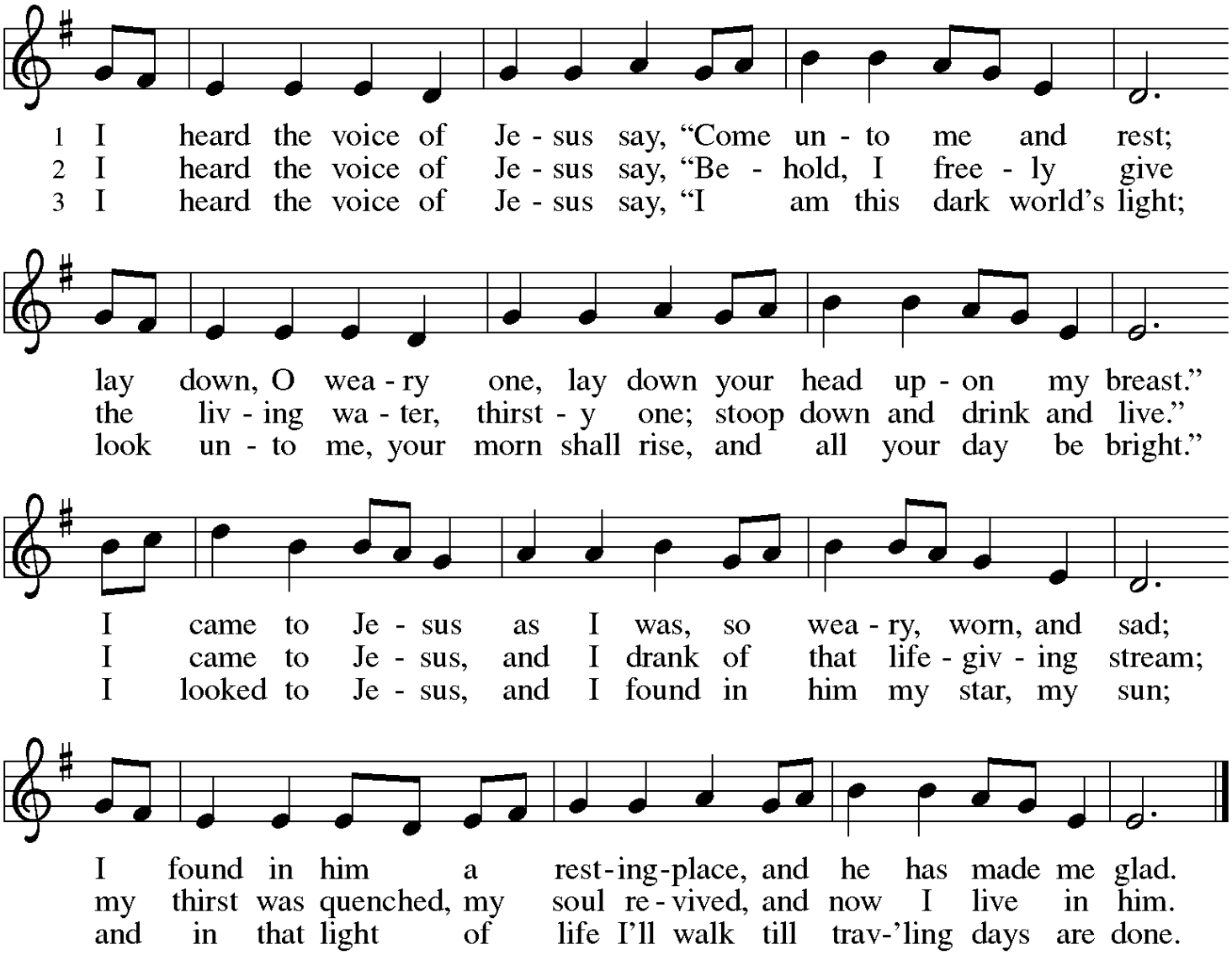
Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no 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.”

This is the Word of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon
Pastor Jamie Retallack

Hymn of the Day ELW 611

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

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Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness (especially Elliana Meyers, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Brad Hueseke, Roberta Anzelone, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Bernie Lewis, Ron Bennett, Jon Drosendahl.). Give them your living water always. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism (at the Vigil of Easter/on Easter Day). Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints (especially Gregory the Great, whom we commemorate today). Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**Amen.**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.

The Prayers of the Church

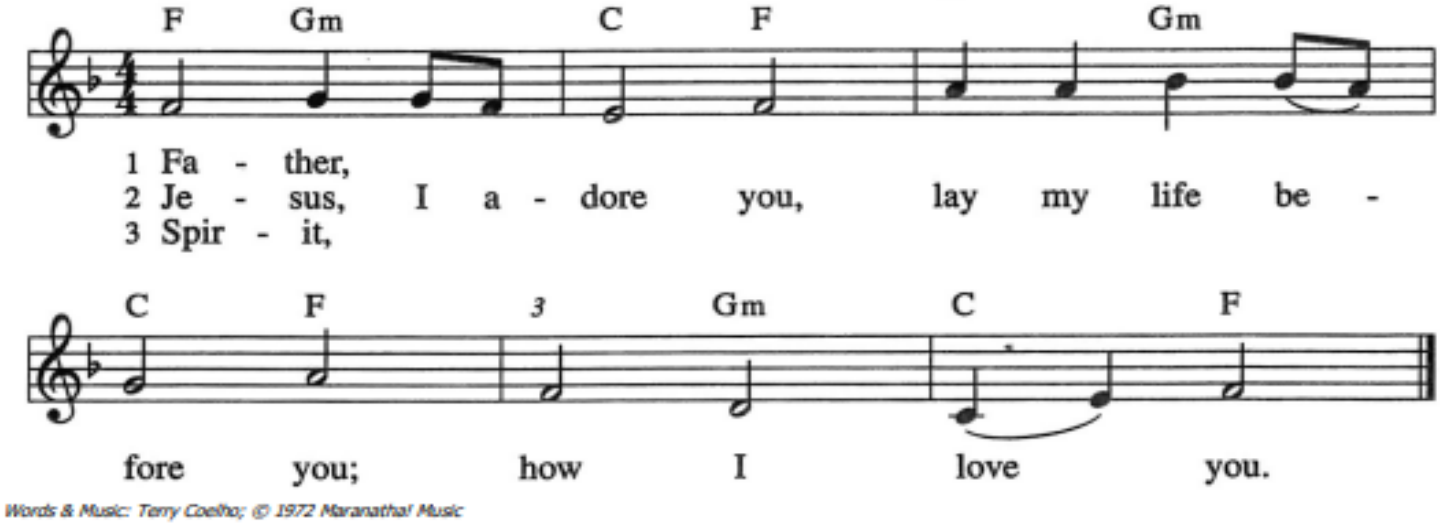
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

...We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The Gathering of Gifts *Father I Adore You*



Words & Music: Terry Coelho; © 1972 Maranatha! Music

The Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Preface

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:

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Invitation

The Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray…

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.

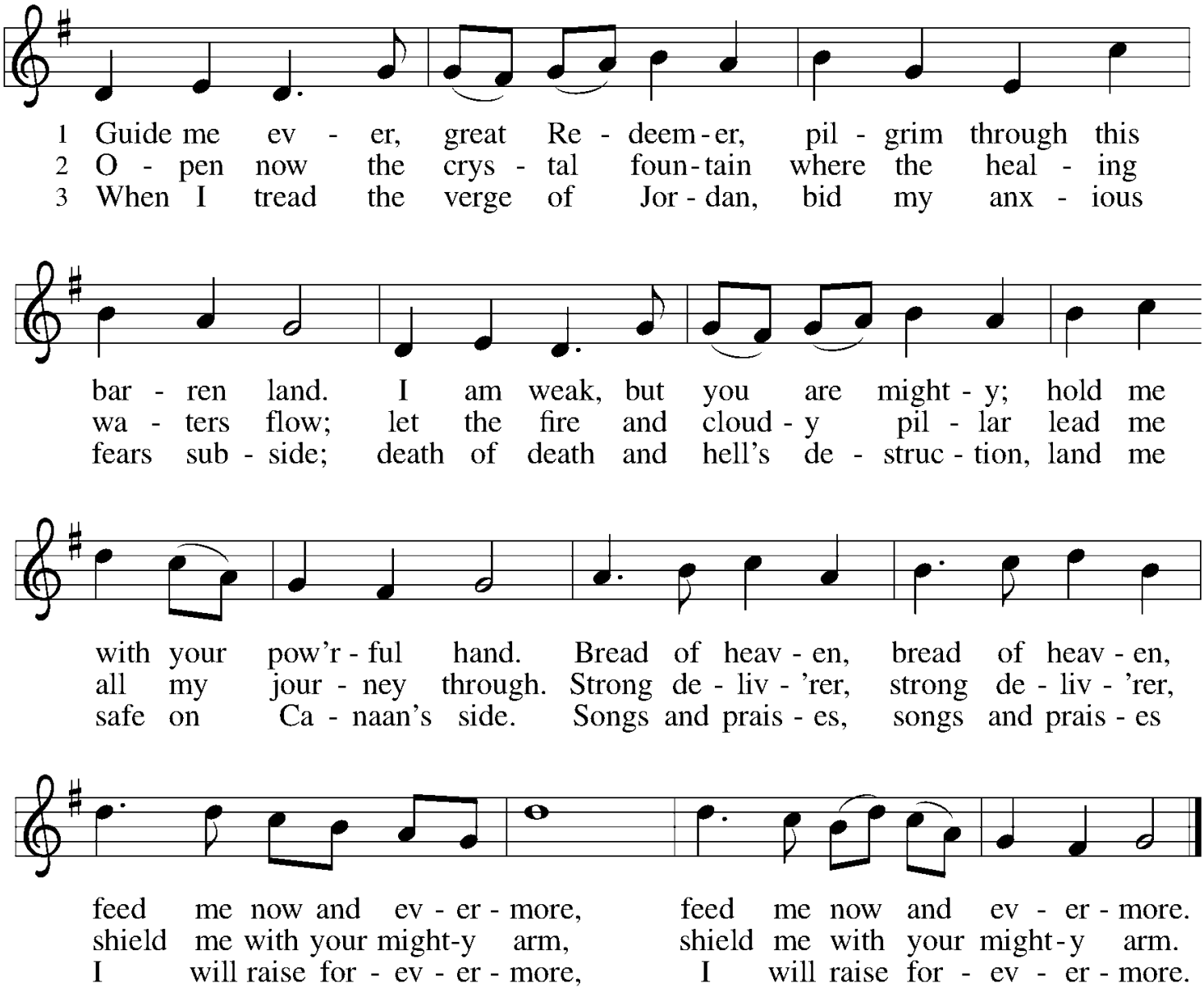
The Sending Prayer

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

The Benediction

Sending Hymn ELW 618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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The Sending
Go in peace. Serve in love.
Thanks be to God.

The People of St. John's Welcome You to Worship Today!

If you would like a pastoral visit for any reason, please call the office or call Pastor directly on his cell @ (716) 848-9683.

This Week at a Glance

Sunday	3/12	9:00am	In Person/Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	3/12	10:00 am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/12	10:30am	In Person/Streamed Service
Monday	3/13	4:30pm	Guiding Eyes
Monday	3/13	7:30pm	Chordsmen
Tuesday	3/14	9:30am	Quilters
Tuesday	3/14	7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Wednesday	3/15	11:00am	Guiding Eyes
Thursday	3/16	1:00pm	Bible Study
Thursday	3/16	6:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
Thursday	3/16	7:00pm	Book Club
Thursday	3/16	7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday	3/17	7:30pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Saturday	3/18	5:30pm	In Person Service
Sunday	3/19	9:00am	In Person/Streamed Service Sunday School
Sunday	3/19	10:00am	Joysingers
Sunday	3/19	10:30am	In Person/Streamed Service

Altar Flower Arrangements are $30 (for 2).
Available dates: 3/19, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30

We pray for Elliana Meyers, Beatrice Gill, Brianna Wood, Edna Mann, Jackie Engelbach-Ugale, George Stubblebein, Brad Hueseke, Roberta Anzelone, Sarah Hermsmeyer, Bernie Lewis, Ron Bennett, Jon Drosendahl.

Ushers
9:00am Rich Rice
& Dave Rice
10:30am Linda Costa
& Kathy Burr

Altar Guild
Kelly Sieracki

Deacons
9am Sam Miller
10:30am Kathy Snyder

Book Club
Thursday, March 16th @ 7pm
to discuss LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY by Bonnie Garmus

St Patty's Day Dinner - Sun Mar 19th Noon
$5 Dinner Reserve -Takeout Only - Must Have Ticket!
Corned Beef / Cabbage / Vegetables / Bread & Butter
Limited to 100 Tickets Sales end Mar 12th or Sold Out
Contact: Gary Rudz – 716-829-9618
Part of the Young Men's 150th Year Celebration!

St. John's Open Stage Event: Saturday, March 25th @ 7pm
Back by popular demand, the St. John's Open Stage Event is the perfect way to share your talent/s! David Sieracki will MC this non-competitive, no-judging showcase. **Please sign up** if you are interested in participating, and definitely join us to cheer on all of St. John's talent. 3-song limit per act.

Service Schedule Update
Beginning on April 16th we will be implementing a new Sunday schedule. We will have one service at 10am, with Sunday school meeting at the same time. Council is thankful for all your feedback that guided this decision, and are looking forward to the change. Thank you.

On **Mother's Day, May 14th**, we will be having our first annual **Music Sunday**. The service will be full of as much music as possible and we are asking those of you who would like to participate to let Vicky know. Musicians of any type are invited to be a part of the service, so join us in making a joyful noise to the LORD.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2nd
Youth Breakfast Prep @ 7:30am
Pancake Breakfast 8am-10am
Worship @ 10:30am
Easter Egg Hunt @ 11:30am

HOLY DAYS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Palm Sunday
Worship April 2nd @10:30am
Maundy Thursday
Worship April 6th @ 7pm
Good Friday
Worship April 7th @ 7pm
Easter Vigil ~ Saturday
Worship April 8th @ 5:30pm
Easter Sunday
Worship April 9th
9am & 10:30 am

CHOWDER SALE
Sunday, April 23rd

QR Code for Offering

Using your camera app you can scan the QR code to go to St. John's donation page where you can make a one-

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church provides an inviting environment for spreading God's Word through worship, teaching, and fellowship to address the spiritual needs of our congregation and community. Open - Inviting - Alive in Christ!

Pastor Rev. Jamie Retallack (716-848-9683)
Pastors Emeriti -Rev. John Swanson -Rev. John Scarafia
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Congregation Council

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Carol Graham (Vice-President)
Karen McClintock (Secretary)
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RaeAnn Jakubowski
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