Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560
A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
And
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

March 1, 2026

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

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and
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org

(715) 542-3701

Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-479-9336
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Ken Beier	715-891-2705
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552

Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME GUESTS

*We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here. Thank you for joining us.*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.
Go to the Church website at www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org and look for the YouTube symbol.
Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155, PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560
Or on the church website – www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
You can donate through our PayPal account.
"Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together."

Readings for March 8 , 2025 3rd Sunday of Lent

First Reading	Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm	95
Second Reading	Romans 5: 1-11
Holy Gospel	John 4: 5- 42

Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day way.
Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

ATTENDANCE on February 22, 2026: 22

CONTACT INFO:

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344
Email: treasurer@sotlsayner.com or jamaines2012@gmail.com

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049
Email: secretary@sotlsayner.com or plclerk@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study will be held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 10 am. The study will again be based on "The Chosen".

CHURCH SCHOOL

Church School will be offered every Wednesday (as long as school is in session) after school. The bus will drop the children off at approximately 3:45. Lessons/project time will last until 5 pm. We welcome you to get your children - or grandchildren - involved! During Lent, please stay with the students and enjoy soup supper and our mid-week Lenten service.

ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

STEP ONE:

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

STEP TWO:

You can provide flowers in two ways:

1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.
2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as ***Altar Flower Donation.*** ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesday evening services will be held after Soup Supper at 5:00 pm. Please join us for the Soup Supper and then join us for the Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m..

Holy Week Services

Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm

Friday, April 3

Good Friday Service 6 pm

Saturday, April 4

Easter Vigil 7:00 pm (St. Germain Community Church)

Sunday, April 5

Easter Breakfast 7:30 am

Easter Worship Service 9 am

Fellowship to follow

BUTTERFLIES NEEDED
The church will again be decorating the sanctuary with paper butterflies for Easter. Please help yourself to the traced butterflies in the Narthex and decorate them however you wish. Please indicate on them if you wish them to be in memory or in honor of someone.

QUILTING GROUP
The quilting group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at 9:00 a.m. You don't have to be a quilter to join – they welcome those who can tie knots also!

CHOIR PRACTICE
Choir is again looking for singers! Practice will be every Sunday after service at 10:30 from now until Easter. Please join us!!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for those dealing with current issues:
Jim C., Dick, Alyce, Theresa, Joan's brother David, Tracey

(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this "current issues" list or moved to "ongoing list")

Pray for those with ongoing health issues:
Larry, Mary Lou, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Sharon G., Bob B., Ron, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim,

Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:
Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, and Dylan

Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:
Elisabeth

Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:

Special Prayers
Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we search for a new Shepherd.

Please or email Jean Maines at treasurer@SOTLsayner.com or text her at 715-891-3344
or contact Sharon Brooker at plclerk@gmail.com or text her at 715-892-7049
if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.

HUMANE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER
The Church will be holding a Soup & Sandwich Benefit fundraiser for the Humane Society of Vilas County on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 11 am – 3 pm. They have provided a Wish

List of items they are in need of:

Cat litter Pine Sol Storage Totes Piddle Pads Laundry Soap Bleach

Spray Cleaner with Bleach Dryer Sheets Dish Soap Dog & Cat Toys Stamps

Gift Cards/Cash are always welcome!

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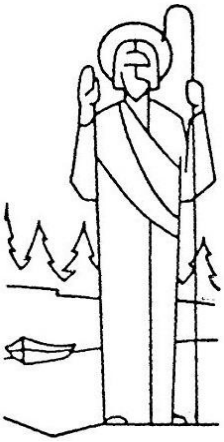
Second Sunday In Lent, March 1, 2026



Greeting & Announcements

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Gracious God,
Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a
past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
Amen. *(Book of Common Worship)*

Words of Forgiveness

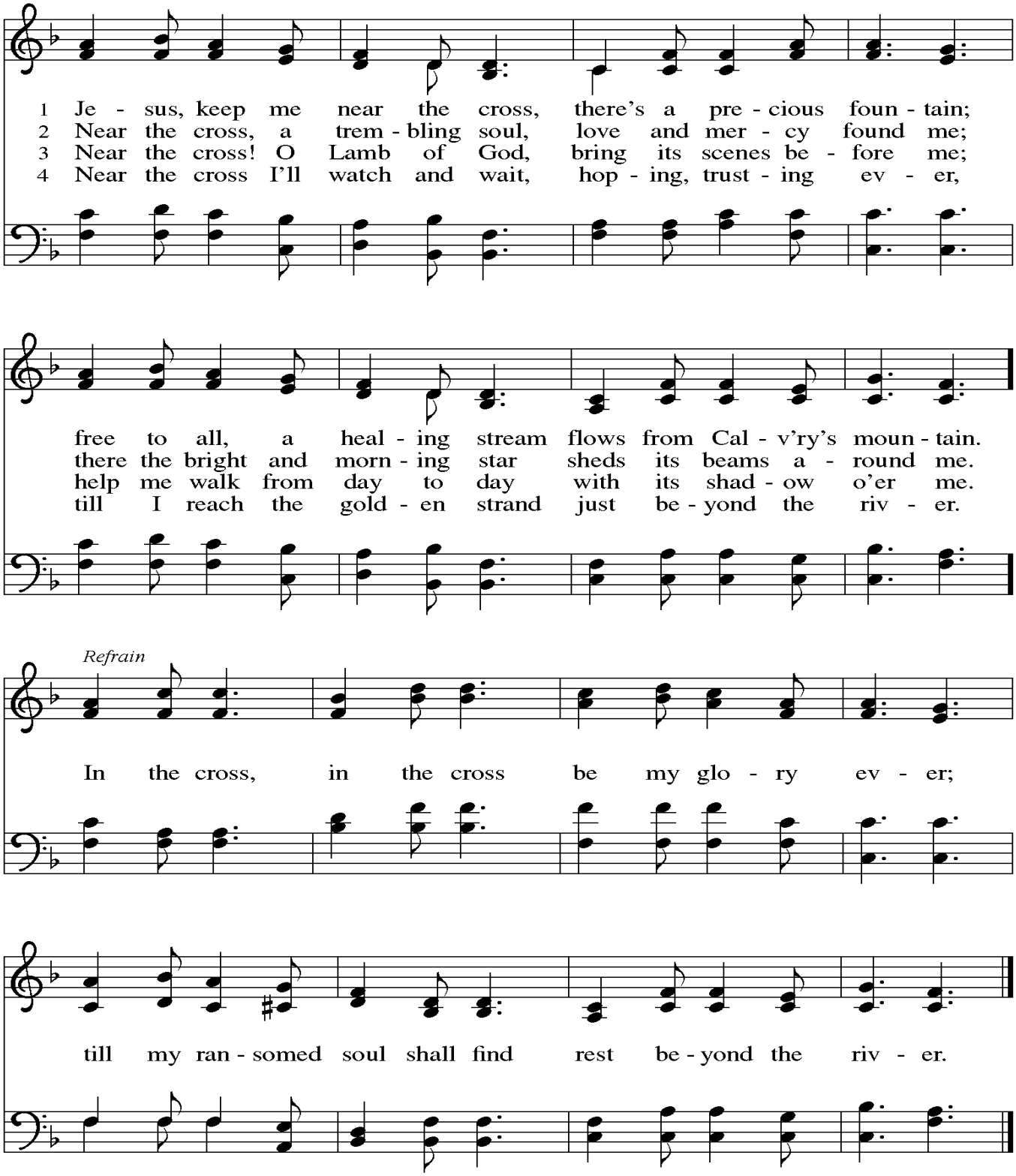
Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ✠ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

Amen.

Gathering Song ***"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"*** *ELW 335*

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross



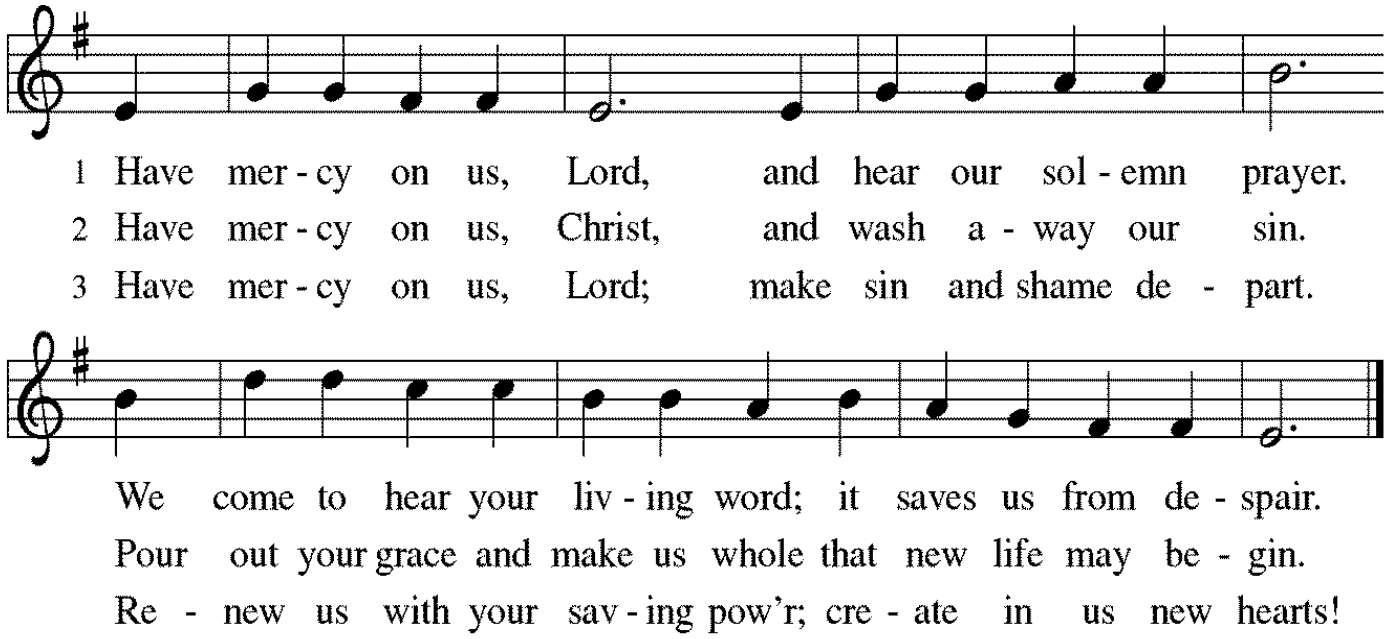
Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

Apostolic 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 (sung by all)



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

It is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always……

And also with you.

(Please greet your neighbor as you and your neighbor are comfortable, then be seated)

First Reading **Genesis 12: 1-4a**

The Word of the Lord…
Thanks be to God.

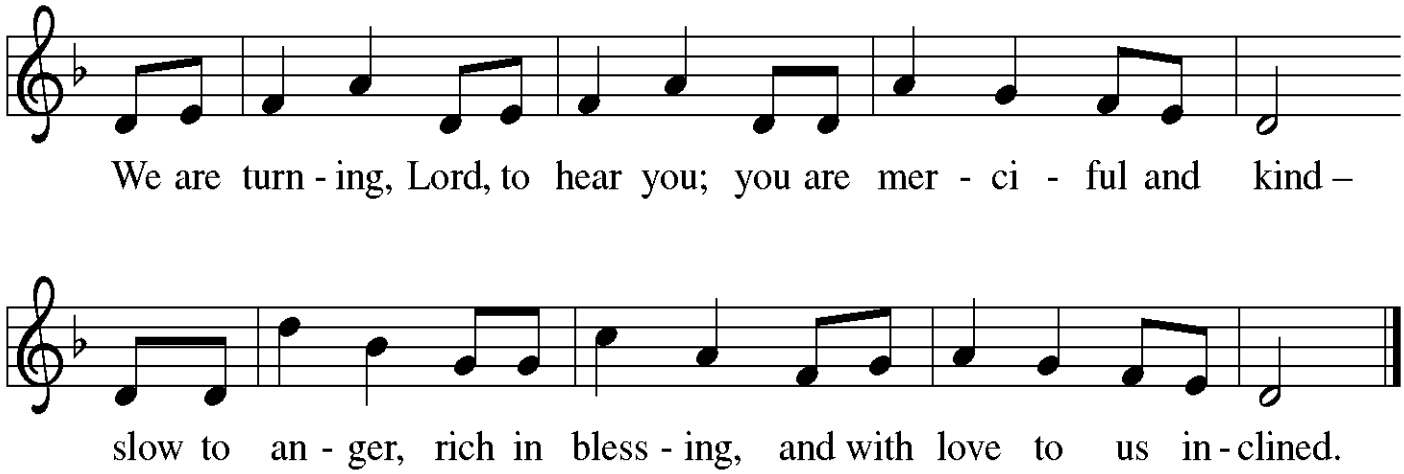
Psalm 121

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
2 **My help comes from the Lord,**
the maker of heaven and earth.
3 The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
4 **Behold, the keeper of Israel**
will neither slumber nor sleep;
5 the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
6 **the sun will not strike you by day,**
nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
8 **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,**
from this time forth forevermore.

Second Reading **Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17**

The Word of the Lord…
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand as you are comfortable)



The Holy Gospel According to….
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 3: 1-17

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

(Please be seated)

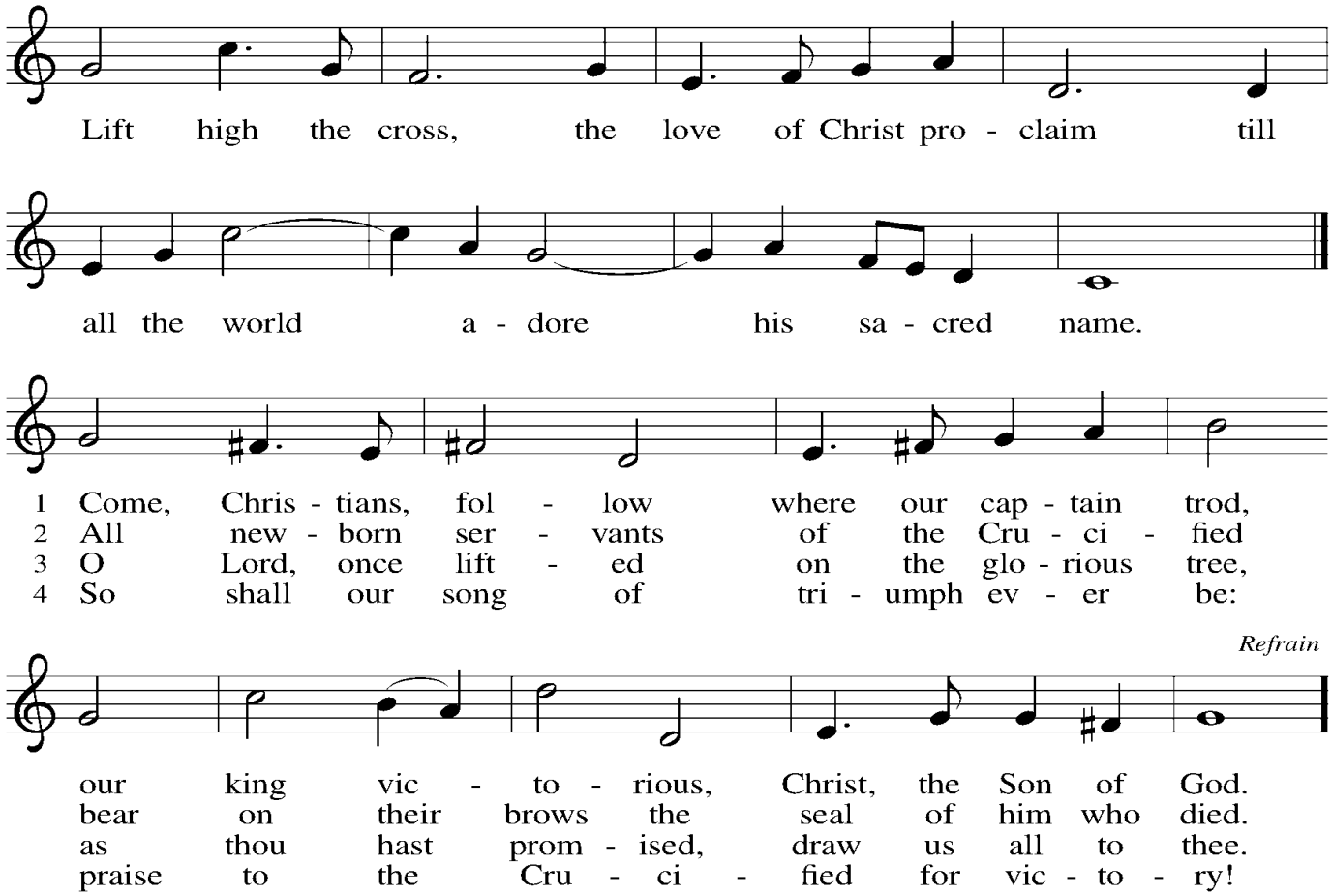
Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Lift High the Cross" *ELW 660*

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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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

Prayers of the Church

Offering *(As we receive our offering, our Lord's table is prepared)*

Prayer *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

God of mercy and grace,

The eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving ***(Service of Distribution)***

The Lord be with you…..

and also with you.

As we gather before these consecrated elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; 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, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation
in the body of Christ.

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.

Invitation

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us.

Communion Distribution

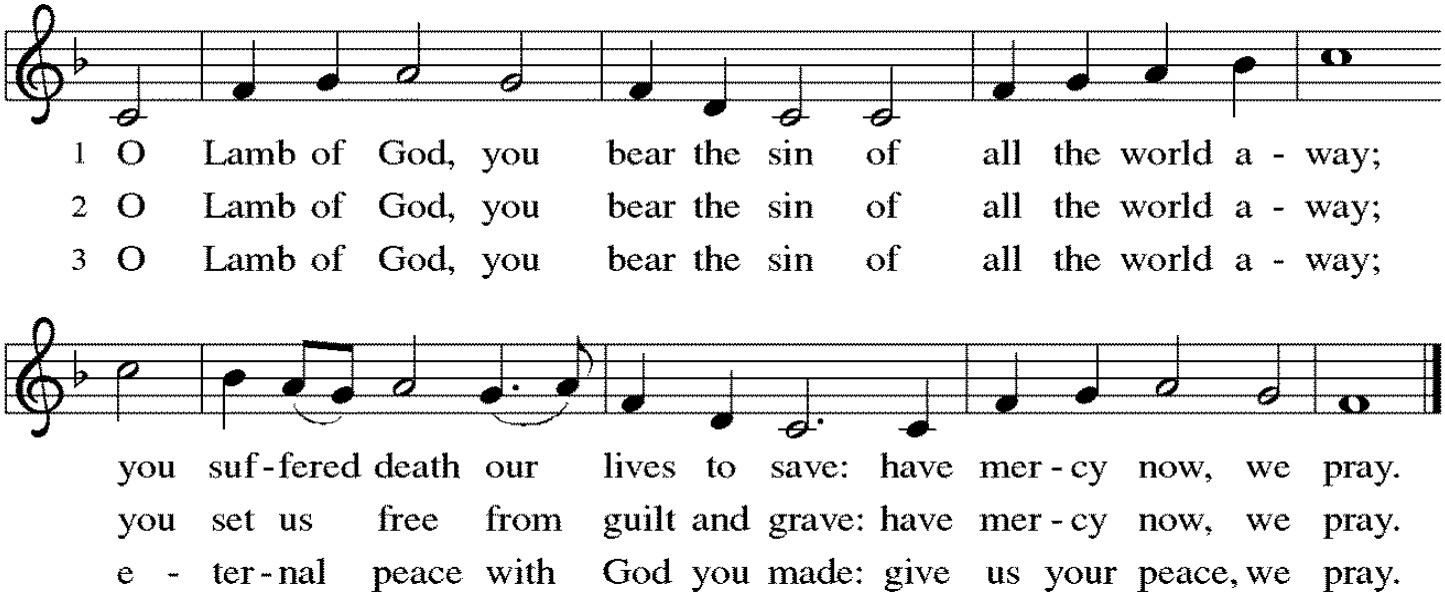
Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the crystal Chalise. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.

Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.

(*Please be seated)*

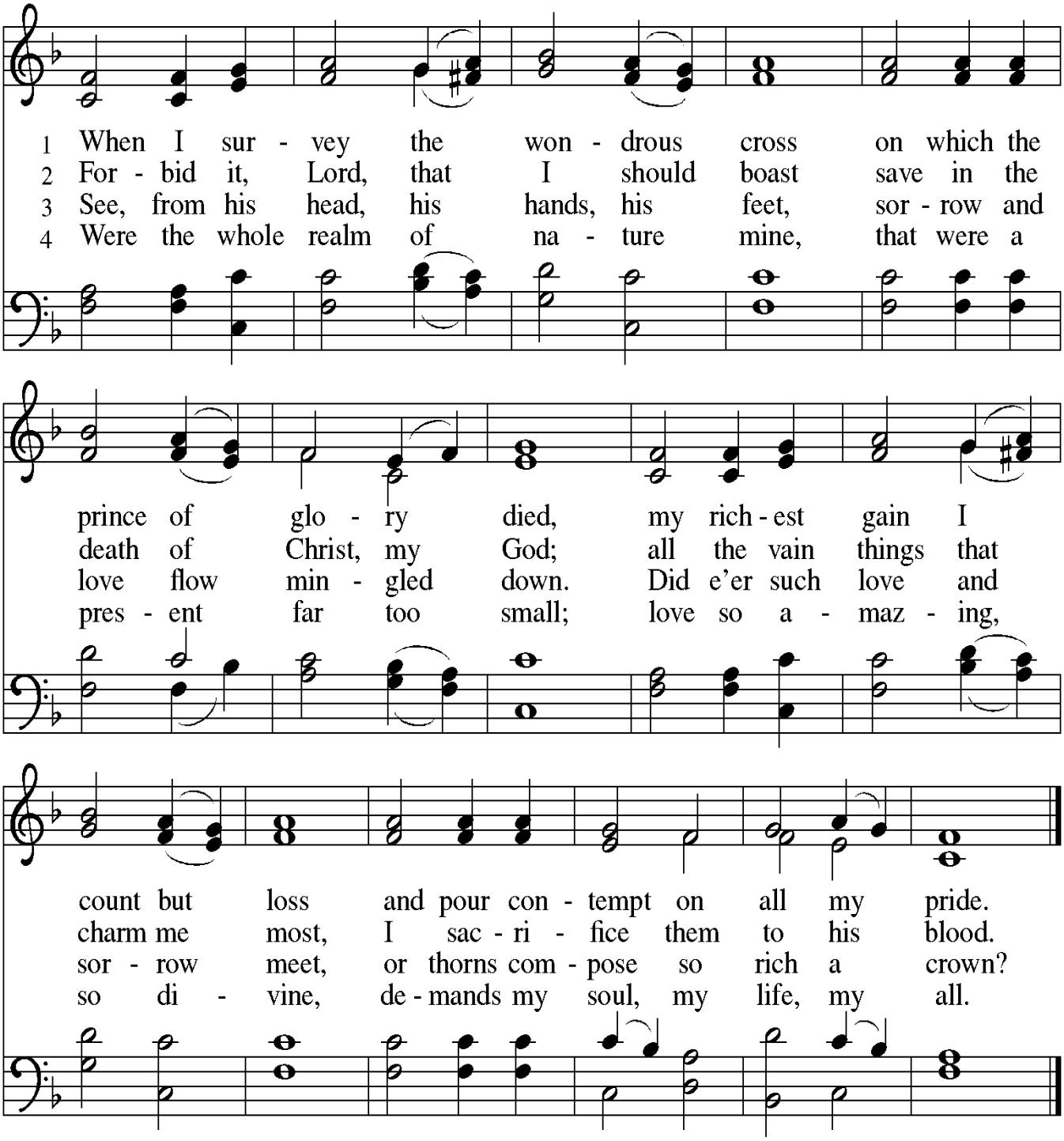
Lamb of God



Communion Hymns

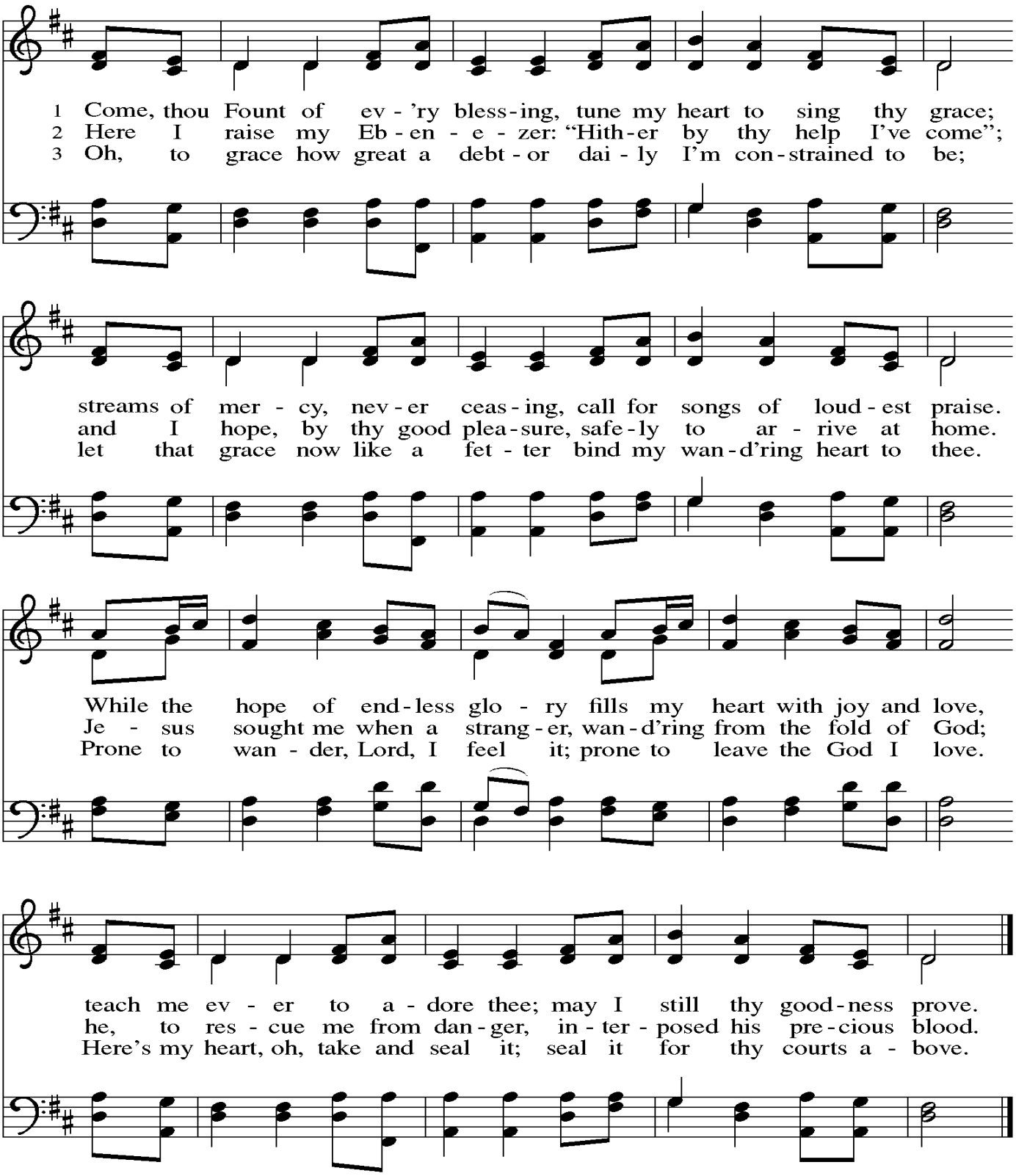
"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Post Communion Blessing *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now received, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

O God,

You made us from the dust of the earth. Now filled and nourished with the body and blood of your Son, raise us up and help us turn toward you with open hearts, beholding your glory, that by your grace we may receive everlasting life.

Amen.

Blessing

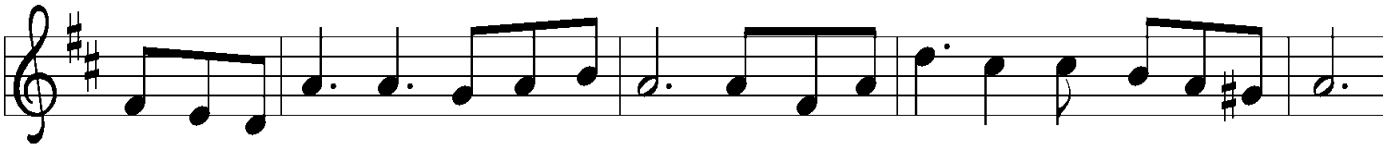
May almighty God,
Father, Son, ✝ and Holy Spirit bless you all,
now and forever.

Amen

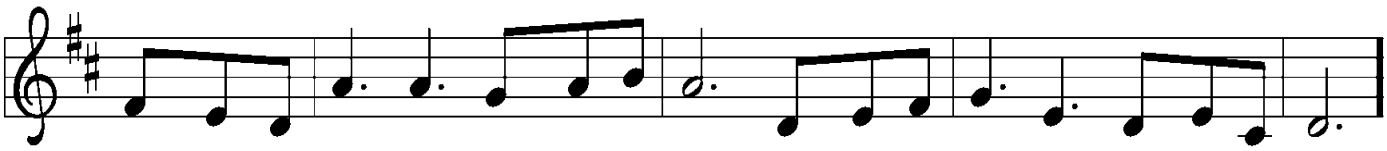
Sending Hymn ***"Blessed Assurance"*** *ELW 638*

Please stand as you are comfortable

Blessed Assurance

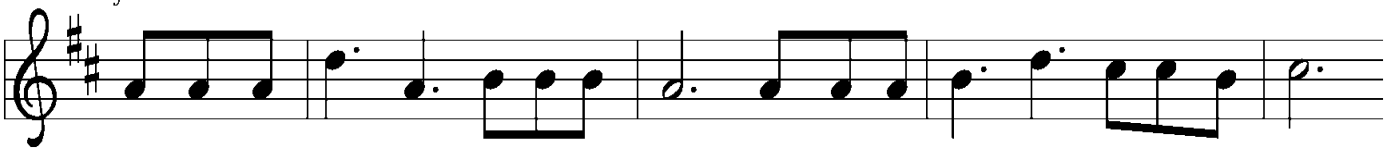


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

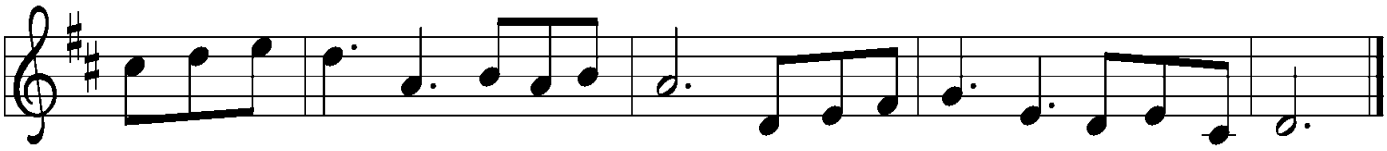


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.

Calendar for Week of March 2 to March 8, 2026

Wednesday	March 4, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	March 4, 2026	Soup Supper	5-6 p.m.
Wednesday	March 4, 2026	Mid-Week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	March 5, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Saturday	March 7, 2026	Humane Society Fundraiser	11a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sunday	March 8, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	March 8, 2026	Choir Practice	10:30 a.m.

Next Council Meeting:
March 8, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events:

Check our calendar of events on the church website for times and dates of events and worship services.

Website: www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org
FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI
Instagram: sotlsayner

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