

Events This Week - March 21 - 28, 2021

Pastor Althea's Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10am - 1pm

Sunday 3/21 Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
Holy Communion

Monday 3/22

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm - AA Meeting - Social Hall

Tuesday 3/23

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
6:30 pm - NA

Wednesday 3/24

9:00—11:30 am—Food Pantry
7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 3/25

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Friday 3/26

10:30 am - Grace Stitches

Saturday 3/27

Sunday 3/28 Palm Sunday

8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge
10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service
Holy Communion



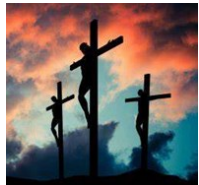
Palm Sunday - March 28, 2021

We will gather for **worship at 8:00am with a spoken service in the Lounge and 10:15am with a liturgical service in the Sanctuary** as we celebrate the procession of our Lord into Jerusalem.



1 Corinthians 11:26
"... do this
in remembrance of
Me."

Maunder Thursday, April 1, 2021 We welcome all to a meal of **bread, broth, and salad at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall** and **worship with us at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary** as we celebrate the Last Supper of our Lord and his friends. Holy Communion will be celebrated as we gather together to remember Christ's sacrifice.



Good Friday, April 2, 2021

Let us come together in solemnity at **7:00pm in the Sanctuary** to remember this most holy time of our Lord's suffering so that the world would not be condemned but saved through him.

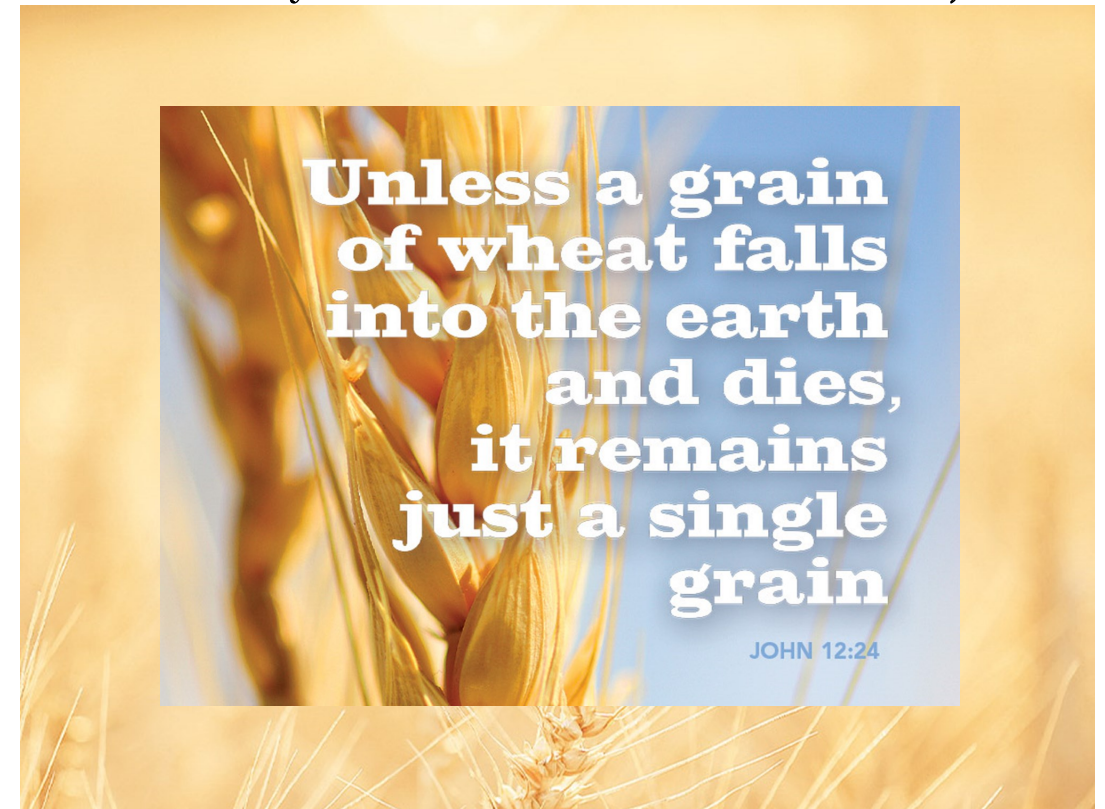


Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of Lord - April 4, 2021

I hope to see all of you worship with us at **8:00am with a spoken service in the Lounge and 10:15am with a liturgical service in the sanctuary** as we gather to celebrate Jesus' ultimate victory over death and the grave! **He is risen! Alleluia!**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021



Grace Lutheran Church

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave, Somers Point, NJ 08244

Office: 609-927-3082 † Fax: 609-927-6672 † Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Alternate web address: www.gracelutheran.xyz

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright

Music Director: Scott J. Breiner

Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Liturgical Worship Service

Holy Communion

Welcome

Welcome to worship at Grace Lutheran Church. Everything you need to fully participate in our liturgical worship is contained in the bulletin.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to **belong** to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who **believe** as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to **become** caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today—

Worship Assistant: Meg LaSpina

Altar Guild:

Brenda Traa, Ruth Traa

Sound Technician:

Jim Foreman, Larry Rusiecki,
Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Servicemen and Servicewomen Serving Our Country: Members & Friends of Grace: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USMC; Sara Myers, USN; Cainan Johnson, USAF

Hospitalized - or in need of healing: Ruth, David, & Ric Alburger, Mary Ellen Bartholomew, June Becker, Shirley Blankenship, Dave Brown, Carol Campbell, Dr. Robert Carlson, Ed Carpenter, Christine Carter, Peg Cwienk, Roy Cole, Deb Connelly, Emile DeLong, Tad Dildilian, Kimberly Frawley, Ed Gannon, Jeanne Gehring, Chris Hinnant, Bob & Dona-Lee Hughes, Pat Johnson, Darryl Kashey, Terry Kearney, Carol Traa Keates, Nancy Keirse, Darrell Kopp, Lora, Judith & Roger Landis, Bob Loper, Susan Marich, Quinn Meldrum, Anne Moore, Tom Ostrander, Tommy Parker, Renee Pugliese, LouAnn Rest, Indigo Rose, Alan Sisson, Dana Sisson, Judy Toth, Bob Traa, Grace DiGenni Traa, Carol-Ann Tracy, George Walters, Joann Wehrhan, Joan Wisdom, & Lucy Dildilian Yannis

At Home - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

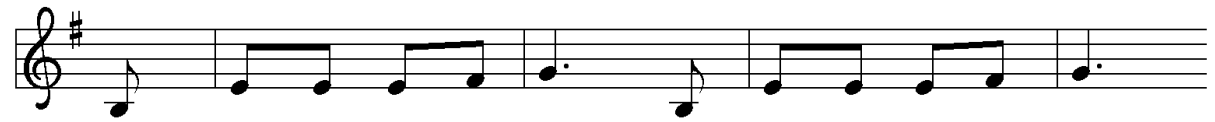
Rehab@Shores of Wesley Manor: Lois Rahme

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

SENDING HYMN

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW # 538



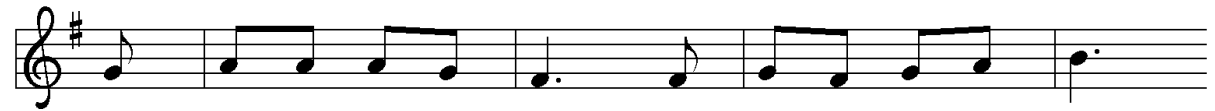
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta_es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



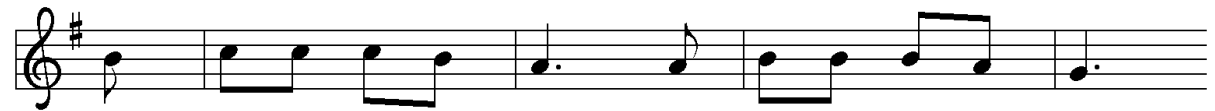
pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;



me ha to - ca - do_a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
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***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. **Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sending

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

***SENDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God, we are living in difficult times. As we have worshipped with you this day, you have refreshed us with your Word and given us new hope. Send us into the next week as witnesses of your Gospel message, that we may be light for the world, as we continue through this season of Lent. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

May the Almighty God bless you and keep you.
May Christ's mercy and forgiveness remind you to go and sin no more.
May the Spirit guide you and keep you safe from evil in the world.

And finally, may God's love bring you comfort and ✠ give you hope. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

ELW # 538

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Rhosymedre
[My Song Is Love Unknown]

By R. Vaughn Williams

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in the humbleness of the Lenten season and serve God with kindness!

Thanks be to God!



**PICKING UP HOLY COMMUNION PACKETS
FOR ONLINE WORSHIPERS**

Greetings family and friends of Grace!

Since we have many opportunities coming up for worship and the sharing of Holy Communion, we would like to invite all of you to pick up your elements (grape juice packets) ahead of time by the church office door any weekday during our office hours. We can also arrange a time outside of office hours for picking up. **Our goal is to make sure anyone who wishes to participate in Holy Communion is able to do so.** If anyone knows of a homebound person who would like these packets, **please let Pastor or Diana know** so that we can arrange a way to get them the grape juice packets.

I pray you all have a blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter! *Peace to you, Pastor Althea*

**Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

**Please stand as you are able—* Congregation responses in bold print.*

Gathering

WELCOME

Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

By Carl F. Mueller

Please stand as you are able.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

As we come before God this Lent, let us pray together.

Almighty God, you know us from before we are born. You are always with us in our past, present, and future. You know our joys and our flaws. You know our outward successes and our innermost failings.

We come before you now wanting to spend time with you and worship you.

Forgive us when we stray in our relationship with you.

Bring us closer to your Spirit once again. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have not always stayed close to you, God.

We do not always trust in your path for our lives.

We do not always follow your call for us.

We let worry and fear consume us.

We do not always treat our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may return to you again and glorify your holy name in all that we say and do. Amen.

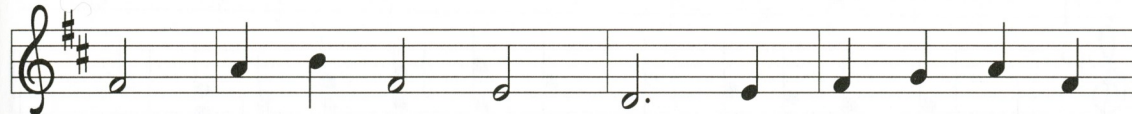
God is merciful and just. Christ was crucified and died for us and for all our sins.

As a minister of the church of Christ, I declare to you that God forgives all of your sins,

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

God never leaves us or forsakes us.

Return to the Lord your God with a new spirit, ready to accept God's gift of grace. **Amen**

***GATHERING HYMN**My Song Is Love Unknown
Verses 1, 2, & 3**ELW # 343**

1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might
 stow; the world that was his own would not its
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the
 Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

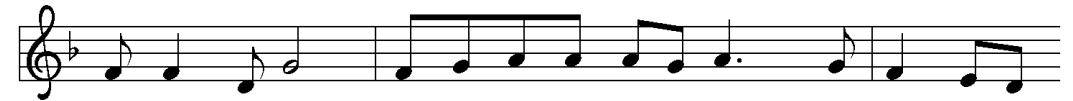
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Meal

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

***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 and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.... **O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

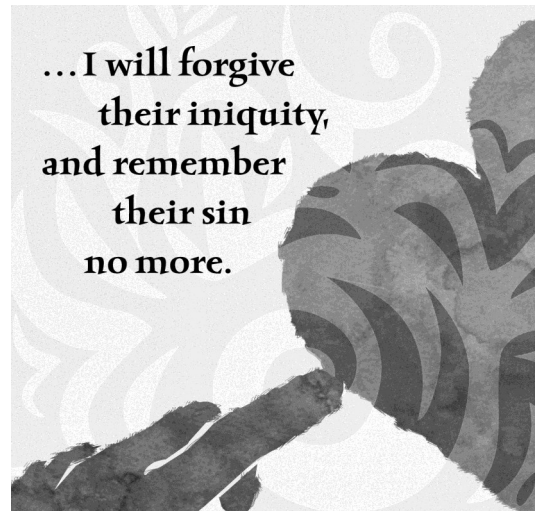
Word

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. All-Knowing God,

You are Creator of all that is in heaven and on earth. We rejoice that we are able to give back some of our blessings to you. You have changed our lives forever with your mercy and grace. Give us opportunities to change the lives of others with your Gospel message. Bless our congregation, this community, and everything we give back to you to continue your holy work, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve (*especially we name...*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*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

Please be seated

OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

Kyrie Eleison

by Ron Kean

Solo voice: Patricia Angarano

*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.



PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness, / and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses, / and my sin is ev - | er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness, / a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur - | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness; / that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins, / and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God, / and renew a right spir - | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence, and take not your Holy Spir - | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation / and sustain me with your boun - | tiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

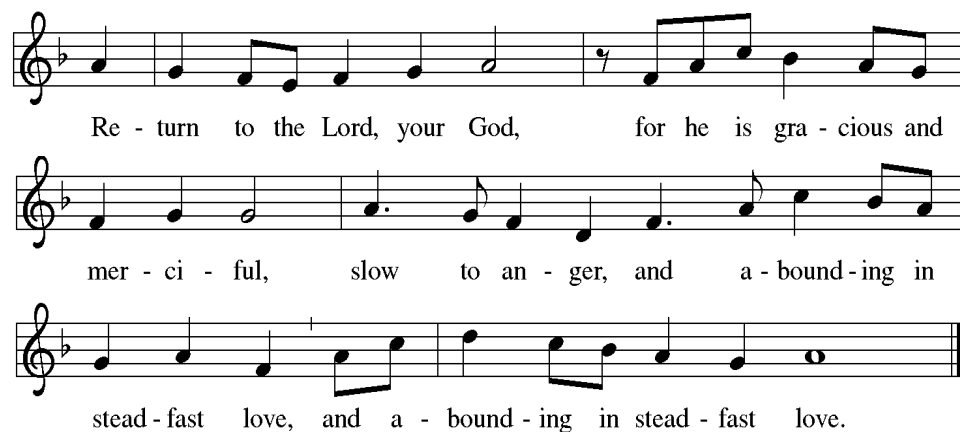
⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The holy gospel according to St. John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

Rev. Althea Albright

*HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song Is Love Unknown
Verses 4,5, & 6

ELW # 343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -
me, love to the love - less shown that they might
stow; the world that was his own would not its
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of
love - ly be. Oh, who am I that
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to
for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home
my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—
no story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!