



Complete Worship Folder

March 24, 2024 – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Julie Bailey, Pastor

Sunday Worship 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday Worship 7:00pm

## **Palm Sunday**

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### Welcome and Announcements

#### Acclamation (ELW page 256)

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C: Hosanna in the highest.**

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#### Processional Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

P: The holy gospel according to Mark

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup>and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, <sup>5</sup>some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” <sup>6</sup>They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. <sup>7</sup>Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” <sup>11</sup>Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### Blessing of Palms (ELW page 256)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### Procession (ELW page 256)

P: Let us go forth in peace,

**C: in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn: “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (ELW 344)

**Refrain** All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our King and Blessed One. **Refrain**

The company of angels are praising you on high;  
creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. **Refrain**

The multitude of pilgrims with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. **Refrain**

To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. **Refrain**

Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring,  
great author of all goodness, O good and gracious King. **Refrain**

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Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray... **Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children's Message (10:30 a.m.)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 31:9-16 (Read Responsively)

<sup>9</sup>Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup>**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup>I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup>**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup>For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup>**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, “You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup>My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- on your servant; save me in your steadfast love.”**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (ELW 504 *verse 4*)

God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
though life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

P: The Passion according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1: The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

3: It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him;

2: for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

3: Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them.

1: When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money.

2: So Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

1: On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, at evening Jesus came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said,

3: "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, the one who is eating with me."

1: They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?"

3: Jesus said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me.

2: For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

1: While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

3: Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it.

1: Jesus said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

2: When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

1: And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,

2: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

3: Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not."

1: Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times."

3: But Peter said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you."

1: And all of them said the same.

Hymn: "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (ELW 347, *verse 1*)

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see.  
Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

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3: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

2: He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

1: And Jesus said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

2: And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

3: He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

1: Jesus came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?"

2: Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

3: And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

2: And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

3: Jesus came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

1: Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

2: Immediately, while Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

3: Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.”

1: So when he came, he went up to Jesus at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him.

2: Then they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

3: But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

2: Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?”

3: Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.”

Hymn: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (ELW 351, *verse 1*)

O sacred head, now wounded,  
 with grief and shame weighed down,  
 now scornfully surrounded  
 with thorns, thine only crown;  
 O sacred head, what glory,  
 what bliss till now was thine!  
 Yet, though despised and gory,  
 I joy to call thee mine.

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2: All of them deserted him and fled.

1: A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.

2: They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

3: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

1: Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

2: Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

1: For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

3: Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’”

2: But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

1: Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”

2: But he was silent and did not answer.

1: Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

2: Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

3: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?”

**1:** All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

Hymn: “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” (ELW 351, *verse 3*)

What language shall I borrow  
to thank thee, dearest friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
Oh, make me thine forever,  
and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.

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**3:** While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

**1:** When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.”

**2:** But Peter denied it, saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt.

**3:** Then the cock crowed.

**2:** And the servant girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.”

**3:** But again he denied it.

**1:** Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.”

**2:** But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.”

**1:** At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

**3:** And he broke down and wept.

**3:** As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

**2:** Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “You say so.”

**3:** Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

**1:** Pilate asked him again, “Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.”

**3:** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

**2:** Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

**3:** Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

**1:** So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

**2:** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

**3:** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

**1:** Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

**2:** They shouted back, “Crucify him!”

**3:** Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?”

**2:** But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!”

**1:** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Hymn: “Were You There” (ELW 353, *verse 1*)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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3: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.  
2: And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.  
1: And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”  
2: They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.  
3: After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.  
2: They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.  
3: Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).  
1: And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.  
2: And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.  
1: It was nine o’clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.”

*The assembly stands.*

2: And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.  
1: Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!”  
3: In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”  
2: Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Hymn: “Were You There” (ELW 353, *verse 3*)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

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1: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.  
2: At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”  
3: When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.”  
2: And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.”  
1: Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

*Ten seconds of silence.*

3: And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.



**1:** Now when the centurion, who stood facing Jesus, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was God’s Son!”

**2:** Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

**1:** He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

**3:** The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn: “Were You There” (ELW 353, *verse 5*)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,  
tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: “Lamb of God” (ELW 336)

Your only Son no sin to hide  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God

**Refrain** Oh Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God  
I love the holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious blood  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Your gift of love we crucified  
We laughed and scorned Him as He died  
The humble King we named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God **Refrain**

I was so lost I should have died  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God **Refrain**

#### 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 Children of God

Each petition ends...Hear us, O God,

**Congregation responds...Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

Offering

Offering Song: "Create in Me a Clean Heart" (ELW 186)

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

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Offering Prayer (ELW Setting 1, page 107)

A: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Thanksgiving

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.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**C: 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 / Distribution of Holy Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Communion Songs: “One Bread, One Body” (ELW 496)

**Refrain**     One bread, one body, one Lord of all;  
                  one cup of blessing which we bless,  
                  and we, though many throughout the earth,  
                  we are one body in this one Lord.

Gentile or Jew, servant or free,  
woman or man, no more. **Refrain**

Many the gifts, many the works,  
one in the Lord of all. **Refrain**

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,  
gathered to one for all. **Refrain**

“Ah, Holy Jesus” (ELW 349)

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;  
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;  
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,  
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee;  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving.

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“Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)

Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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Post-Communion Blessing

P: And now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer (ELW Setting 1, page 114)

A: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

Blessing (ELW Setting 1, page 114)

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Song: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (ELW 338)

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and burdens of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus,  
my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love  
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.

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### Dismissal

A: As an open and progressive congregation,

**C: we boldly make Christ's vision known.**

A: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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