

**SPRUCE RUN LUTHERAN CHURCH – LENT 2 A – MARCH 5, 2023**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 98)**

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

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

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

**ENTRANCE HYMN LBW#507 “How Firm a Foundation”**



1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dress to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

**GREETING (LBW p. 99)**

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 (LBW p. 99)**

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.



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



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 103)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

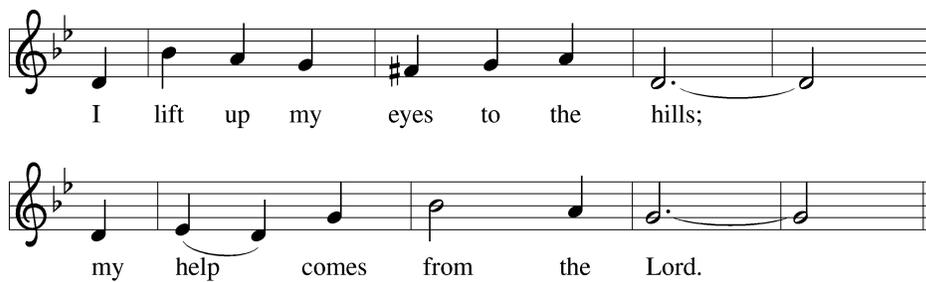
The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121



I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

**My help comes | from the LORD,**

**the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**

**will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R**

the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

**the sun will not strike | you by day,**

**nor the | moon by night.**

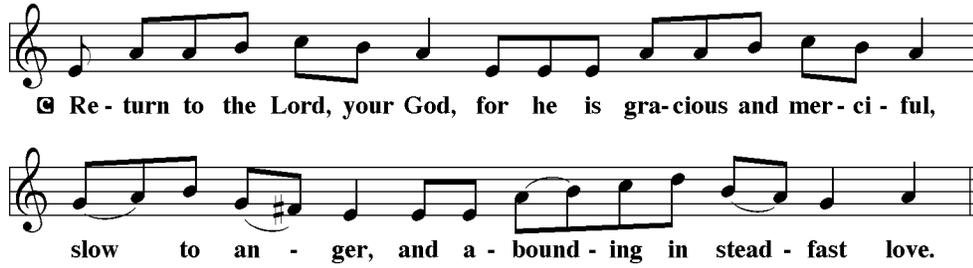
The LORD will preserve you | from all evil

and will | keep your life.

**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**

**from this time forth for- | evermore. R**

**VERSE (LBW p. 103)**



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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the verse, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. A common time signature 'C' is located at the beginning of the first staff.

**GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in treble clef. The melody is simple and consists of a few notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. A common time signature 'C' is located at the beginning of the staff.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY WOV#698 "We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus"



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,  
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread-ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin-ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin-ning, glo - ry now re-sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

**NICENE CREED (LBW p. 105)**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

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

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (especially). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful

God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (especially). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. 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.**

## OFFERING (LBW p. 108)

### HANDBELL ANTHEM



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?  
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing  
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the  
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 109)

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE (LBW p. 109)

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 him thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE (LBW p. 109)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.

Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS (LBW p. 110)

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 in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **THANKSGIVING (LBW)**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;  
you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.  
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.  
Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will  
and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving Passion and death,  
his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again,  
we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought, but as we are able;  
and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving,  
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine;  
that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son  
may be filled with heavenly peace and joy,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body,  
and have our portion with all your saints.  
All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church, now and forever.

**Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 113)

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.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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. A - men". The melody is a simple, hymn-like tune with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and rests. The lyrics are placed below the notes on each staff.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 115)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**



Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has  
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which  
you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the  
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p. 117)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## BLESSING (LBW p. 117)

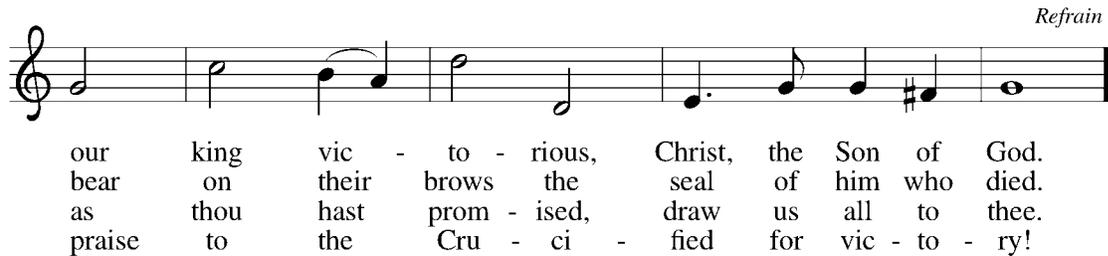
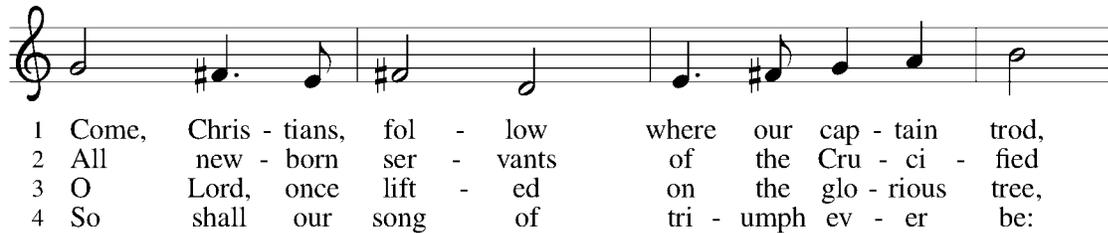
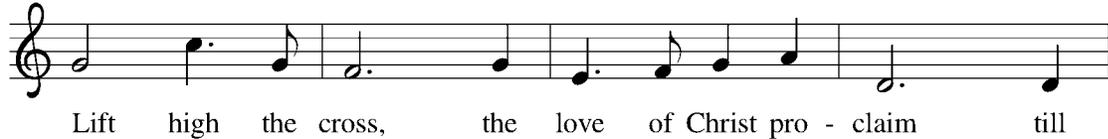
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen**

## SENDING HYMN LBW#377 "Lift High the Cross"



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**