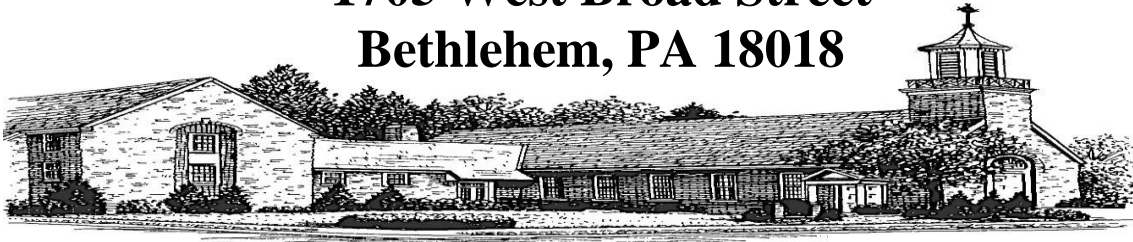


**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT
1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
CELEBRATING COMMUNITY
MARCH 16, 2025**

OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.



Providing Help and Hope to Northeast Bethlehem Since 1980.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

WELCOME

Lector Peace be upon all who enter this house. A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are gathering here at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont for the first time, or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Everything you need to follow along is found in your bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship following the gathering. Thanks for the gift of you!

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

Leader We light our Altar candles to illuminate the world we seek.
It is God, in the dawning,
in the renewal,
in the arrival,
in the new day.
The whole earth is full of God's glory.

The altar candles are lit.

Leader The Lord is with you.

Assembly And also with you.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION – *Aria* Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

The function of beauty... is to make us aware of a reality which is richer and deeper and more marvelous than anything we can dream or conceive. - Henry N. Wieman

The assembly stands as they are able.

GATHERING

Leader We come together from our separate lives,
each of us bringing our concerns, our preoccupations,
our hopes, and our dreams.
We are not yet fully present.
The traffic, the last-minute cooking, the final details still cling to us.
Our bodies hold the rush of the past few hours.
It is now time to let go of these pressures
and really arrive...

Pastor Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

Words of Awareness

May our time together renew our hope. May the stories we share refresh our courage.

May the songs we sing lift our spirits. May the words we speak invigorate us.

May the touch of hands, the sound of laughter, the sight of faces new and familiar,
restore us in faith.

GATHERING HYMN - Hymnal 834

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

OPENING SENTENCES

Leader In hope, in longing

Assembly **We're glad to come together.**

Leader In trust, in community

Assembly **We're glad to come together.**

Leader In many moods, in many shapes and sizes

Assembly **We're glad to come together in this Lenten season.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor Living Mystery, whose way is rarely ours, whose name cannot be bought or sold; lead us from justice without compassion and sacrifice, without mercy, to a love which nurtures and a grace without price.

Assembly **Amen. May it be so!**

HYMN/SONG *Past and Present* Tune: *Cwm Rhondda*

Past and present, with our dreaming,
Join to make us what we are;
Ancient wisdom, ancient follies
Shape the way we love and care:
Give us reverence,
Give us wisdom,
From the past for life today,
From the past for life today.

Make us mindful of the present -
Ev'ry force, each strength, each flaw;
Free us from those selfish motives
Which consume us more and more:
Give us vision,
Give us courage,
For this modern age of change,
For this modern age of change.

We must face the future's challenge
To create a better earth
Hand in hand with all who labor
Dream and suffer for its birth:
For through sharing
And through caring
We shall build community,
We shall build community.

I you open it, close it.
If you turn it on, turn it off.
If you unlock it, lock it up.
If you break it, admit it.
If you can't fix it, call in someone who can.
If you borrow it, return it. If you value it, take care of it
If you make a mess, clean it up
If you move it put it back.
If it belongs to someone else and you want to use it,
Get permission.
If you don't know how to operate it, leave it alone,
If it's none of your business, don't ask questions.
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
If it will brighten someone's day, say it - anonymous

The assembly may be seated.

EXPLORING

Wisdom is not just special knowledge about something. Wisdom is a way of being, a way of inhabiting the world. The beauty of wisdom is harmony, belonging and illumination of thought, action, heart and mind.

A READING Isaiah 55:1-9 New Living Translation

Lector A reading from the Old Testament from Isaiah.

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;

⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PSALMODY Psalm 27 David Haas (b. 1957)

Refrain

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, of
whom should I be a - fraid, of whom should I be a - fraid?

The Lord is my light and my help; whom should I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom should I shrink? **R**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord; for this I long:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life. **R**

I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living;
hope in God, and take heart. Home in the Lord! **R**

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Lector A reading from the world around us *Torn Shirt* by Linda Jones.

Torn shirt, no shoes,

My brother.

Hungry, he touches my heart

and I ache to understand, to see,

to feel, to reach, to share his life,

his laugh, his dance.

I even drink the coffee that he grows,

And smell the flowers that he picks,

My brother,

Lord, May his hunger change my heart.

God of compassion,

I see him now, Torn shirt, no shoes,

My brother.

Our lives meet in the global market,

woven together in the web of trade.

But he's hungry, he touches my heart

And I ache to understand,

To share his life, his laugh, his dance.

God of compassion and justice,

May such hunger change my heart.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER

The mission of the Northeast Community Center is to provide help and hope to the Marvine-Pembroke neighborhood and surrounding Bethlehem communities, through programs and services uniquely designed to meet their needs. Current programs include a food pantry, a summer camp, a hygiene pantry, family bingo nights, and holiday meal distribution.

OUR RESPONSE *Light of the World*

Lector Our tradition says that Jesus is the light of the world...
We all can be the light of the world if we seek to act in ways
that enlarge the realms of love and justice.

Lector When we share another's pain or offer
a comforting ear to a friend in need.

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we give bread to the hungry
or support ways to house the homeless,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we fight temptations to wrongdoing within ourselves
and treat our neighbors with respect,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we try to overcome differences with understanding
and solve conflict with peaceful means,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we look for the good in other people and in ourselves,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we do not stay quiet in the face of prejudice,
but speak our minds firmly and gently,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we fight despair within ourselves and side with hope,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector When we use our powers justly and, in the service
of love for humanity,

Assembly We are the light of the world.

Lector We are the light of the world!

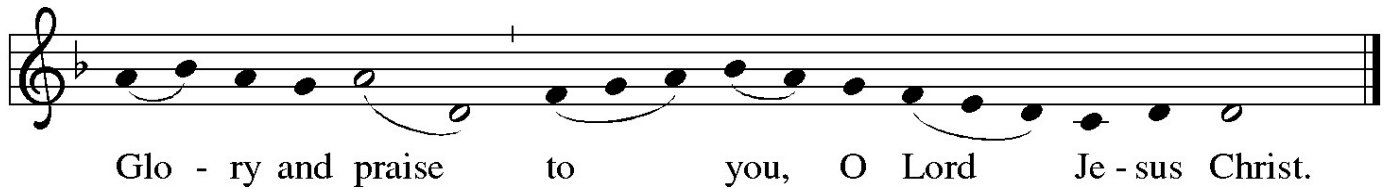
Assembly Amen and Amen.

The assembly stands, as able, for the Acclamation and the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cantor First

Repeated by All



GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35 (NRSV/adapted)

Pastor A reading from the + Holy Gospel as written to us by Luke.

Assembly Glory to you, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said,
'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you'.

'Go and tell that fox for me', Jesus said,
Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow,
and on the third day I finish my work.

Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day
I must be on my way, because it is impossible
for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem,
the city that kills the prophets and stones those
who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,
and you were not willing!

See, your house is left to you.

And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say,
'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Holy God.'

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly sits for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

The assembly stands as able.

Leader For all the saints who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts

Assembly We express our thanks.

Leader For all the saints who live beside us

Assembly We offer our gratitude.

Leader For all the saints who live beyond us,
who challenge us to change the world with them

Assembly We pledge our courage.

HYMN OF THE DAY - Hymnal 613

Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

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AFFIRMING

The assembly may be seated or kneel for prayer.

PRAYER CARE CANDLE

Joys and celebrations, griefs and concerns are shared.

Lector We are people of all ages who enter this space
bringing our joys and concerns.

Lector Holy God, as you have touched us,
**Assembly may we now touch others
with your love in us.**

Lector And so, we take this flame and light our special care candle...

The Care Candle is lit.

Lector For ourselves, for those named or remembered,
and in solidarity with those who have not the freedom
to express their concern or celebration
for fear of discrimination or condemnation.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Rosalie Bonighton
(1946-2011)

The assembly stands as they are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader Let us pray together.
As we bring our gifts forward,
May our whole life move forward,
In good faith, with good feelings,
And with a good belief about the future.
May what we give today, and all that we receive
Be for the enrichment of our life and the lives of others.

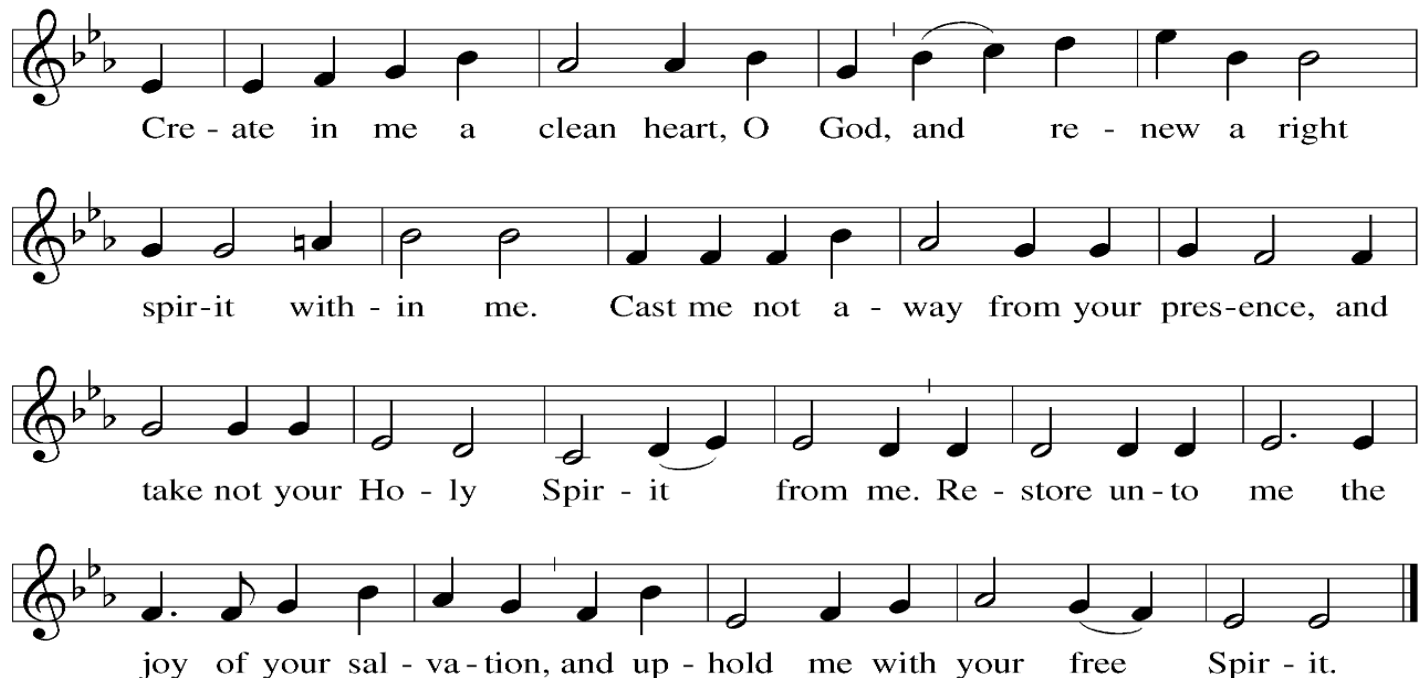
Assembly Amen. May it be so!

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and to view our website and social media sites.



OFFERTORY HYMN

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.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739



CELEBRATION HOLY COMMUNION

Members of the Jesus movements regularly ate a meal together when they met as a community. It was a characteristic that they had in common with virtually every other social group in their world. It was considered primary to the early developments in the movements' meal liturgy. These meal traditions were not about personal salvation or payment for sin. Instead, they were about actions and offering hospitality, social identity, and being in solidarity with those around us. The liturgical movements centered on celebration, presence, and joy.

You are invited into the spirit of those meals...

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor God of splendor,
your goodness sustains us,
and your graciousness gives us hope.

Assembly **May we and these gifts of bread, wine and money
be used to further your way of love, hope, and justice.
Amen. May it be so!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor The Spirit is here. Lift up your hearts.

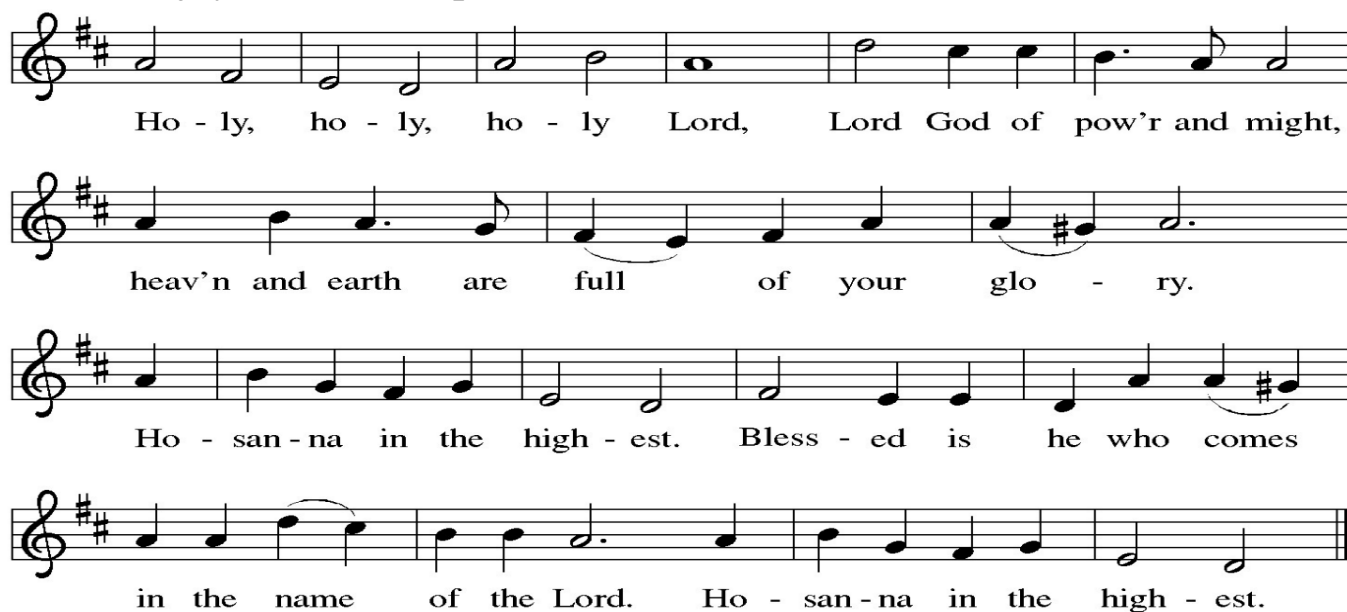
Assembly **We lift them up to God.**

Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly It is right to offer thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere,
creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son:
for at this time, we celebrate your revelation in our midst.
In the coming of the Magi, Jesus was revealed to the nations.
In the waters of baptism, he was revealed as your Son sent among us.
In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding
feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.
Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices
in joyful words of praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

Pastor On the night before he died Jesus took bread;
when he had given thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which brings new life;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our
redeemer, we meet you in your glory.

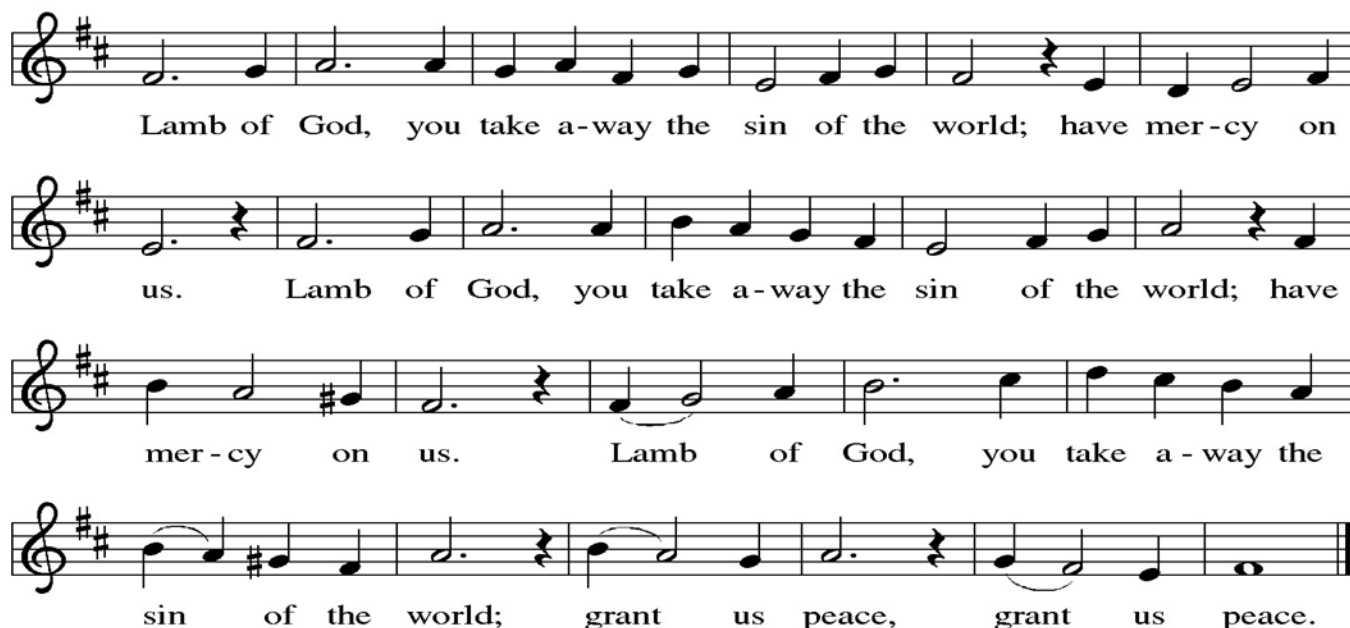
THE OUR FATHER

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Assembly We, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one bread.



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, grant us peace.

THE INVITATION

Pastor Whatever your faith and background
all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - Hymnal 596

Around You, O Lord Jesus - Hymnal 468

The assembly stands as they are able.

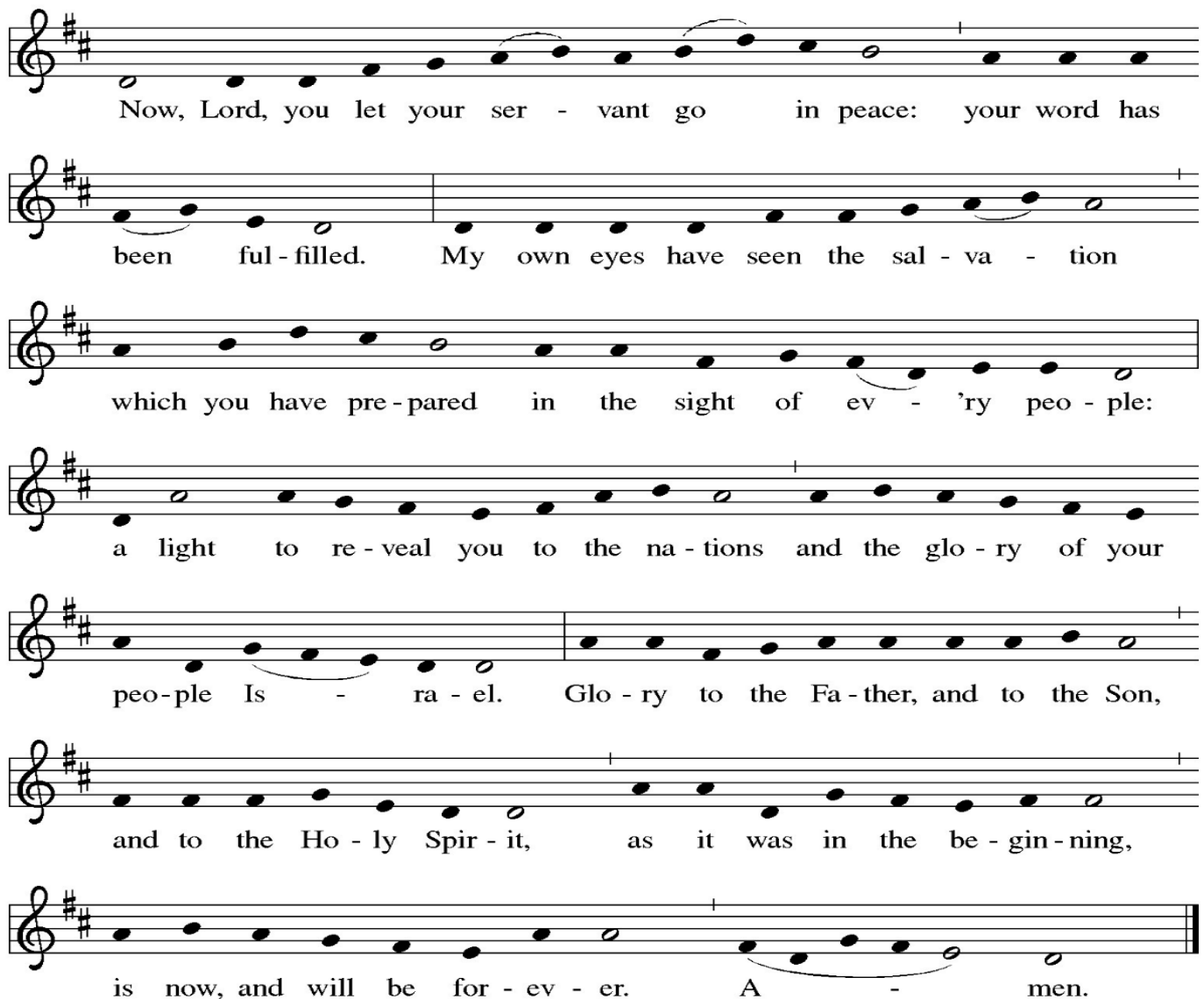
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader We bless you, generous God abiding in every part of the city,
in each other, and in the stranger,
who waits with us for a place at the table of life.
May we also learn the way to make room for all.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

POST COMMUNION HYMN - Hymnal 201

Now, Lord



Now, Lord, 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.

Music: Plainsong, adapt. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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PARTING WORDS

Leader Time has now come for us to leave this sacred place.

Assembly **As we do, may we embrace the challenges
of our lives and our world...**

The Altar candles and Care candle are extinguished.

Leader Go out from this place to your daily journey through life.
And as we do, may we fashion relationships of inclusion
and reconciliation, and a lifestyle that loves
and treats people and the earth gently.

SENDING HYMN *Lead Me, Guide Me* - Hymnal 768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way; for ³if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, ³let me
walk each day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.
Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain*

WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor Go in courage and celebration!
And may all the faces of the Holy God
be turned towards you in love,
the earth itself speak to you of its creativity,
and who we are, each and all,
be honored in our authentic journeys.
Go and may God's + blessings go with you
and remain with you always.

Assembly Amen. May it be so with us.

In observance of the Lenten season, postludes will not be played.

Today's Altar Flowers are a gift given by Mary Bender for her birthday
by Dolly & Ed and Molly & Joe.

Thank you for worshiping with us at BT@R today.
We are grateful for your presence and pray that you were blessed
by the service.



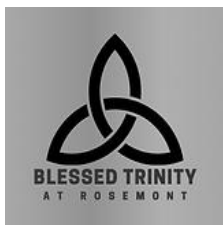
FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.
You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

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Love all creation
The whole of it and every grain of sand
Love every leaf - Every ray of God's light
Love the animals - Love the plants
Love everything.
If you love everything you will perceive the divine mystery in things
And once you have perceived it
you will begin to comprehend it ceaselessly more and more everyday
And you will at last come to love the whole world
with an abiding universal love. – *Fyodor Dostoyevsky*