



Our Saviour Lutheran Church

56 Cleveland Drive Croton on Hudson New York 10520

E-mail: mail@oursaviourcroton.org Telephone: (914) 271 4632

March 3, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT **Liberating Joy**

Order of Worship

The order of worship is set out in this bulletin. The congregation responds in parts marked in bold. Hymns are taken from our hymnal, the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, (ELW).

WE GATHER

Centering Music

The ringing of *the Morningstar*

Prelude

Call To Worship

People of God,
we gather for worship to practice joy:
not because our lives are perfect,
but because joy is resilient,
God's gift for every season
and the wellspring at the heart of our faith.

When our sins feel heavy,
we practice joy.
When floods rise and fall,
we practice joy.
When hope surprises us,
we practice joy.
When God sets people free,
we practice joy.
When Jesus heals us,
we practice joy.
When we are called,
we practice joy.

When we endure,
we practice joy.
We practice joy together,
and God is with us.

Call To Confession

People of God,
the Merciful One already knows everything we confess.
By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness,
we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another.
Let's bring before God what we have done wrong
and what we've failed to do,
trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

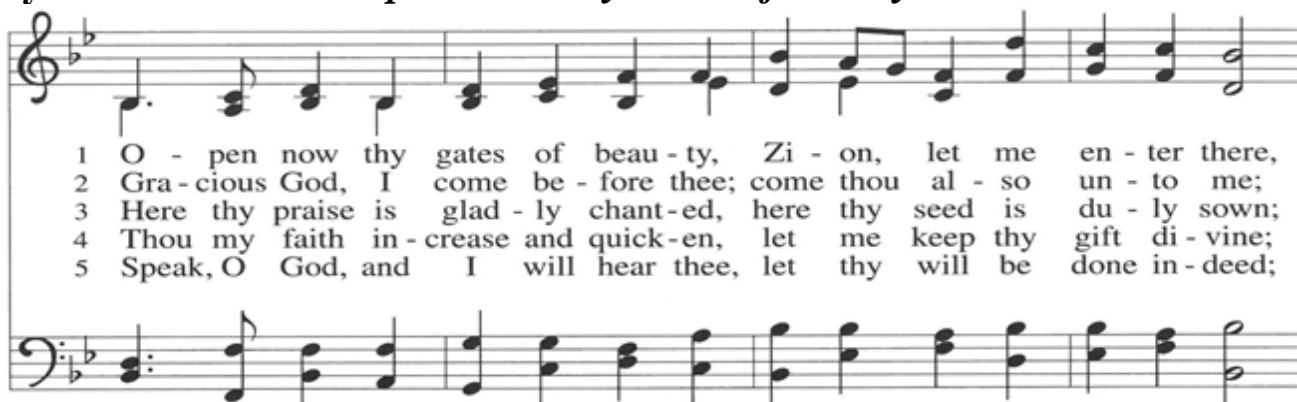
Brief silence for reflection

Prayer of Confession

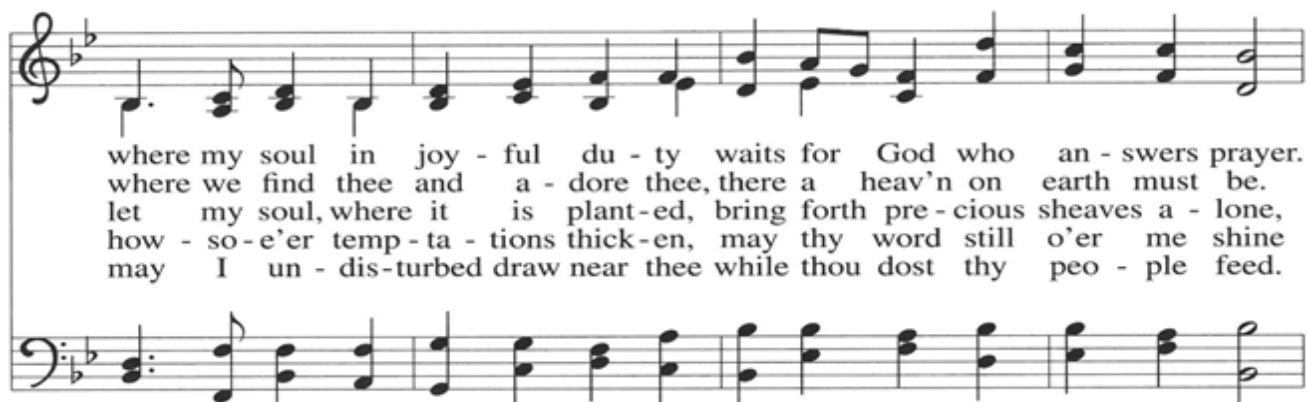
God of abundant goodness,
we have hurt those we love,
those far from us,
ourselves,
and your creation
by what we do and by what we neglect.
We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures
and refuse to enjoy what you give.
We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship
plague our neighbors.
We ignore the gift of your presence
in times both tragic and triumphant.
Forgive us for what we have done
and for what we have failed to do.
Pour out on us the joy of your presence
and heal what we have harmed.

Assurance of Forgiveness

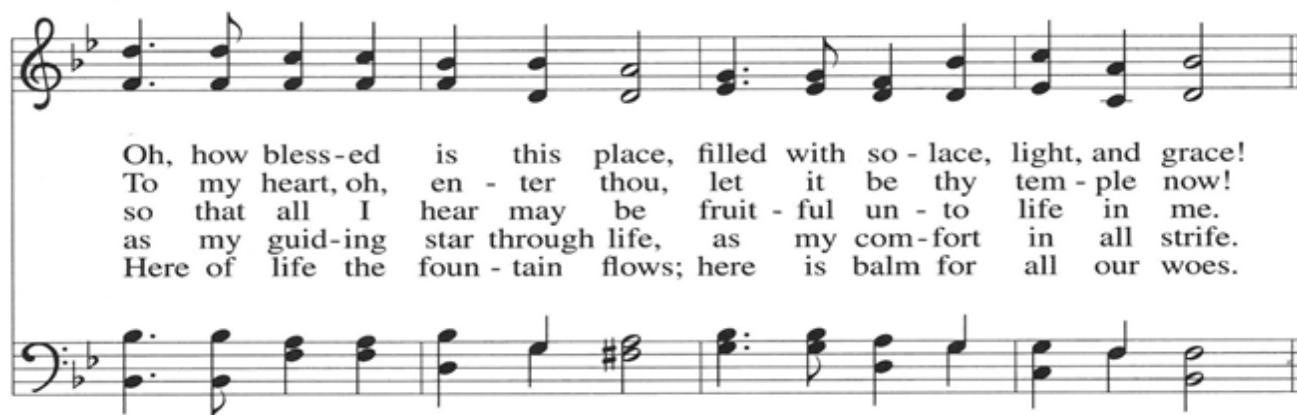
Friends, receive these joyful words:
You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.
You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.
You are released to live out God's love
in a world that needs such joy.
Amen.



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

Apostolic Greeting

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

And also with you.

Now the Feast

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



Refrain
freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Let us pray.

God our Liberator, we live in a world where so many are not free: kept in poverty, forced to labor, bound to economics that devalue and demean. Break the chains that hold your people where bodies suffer and minds are locked. Guide us to joy beyond our imagining. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Exodus 20:1-17

20Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹**the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹**Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³**Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.**

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

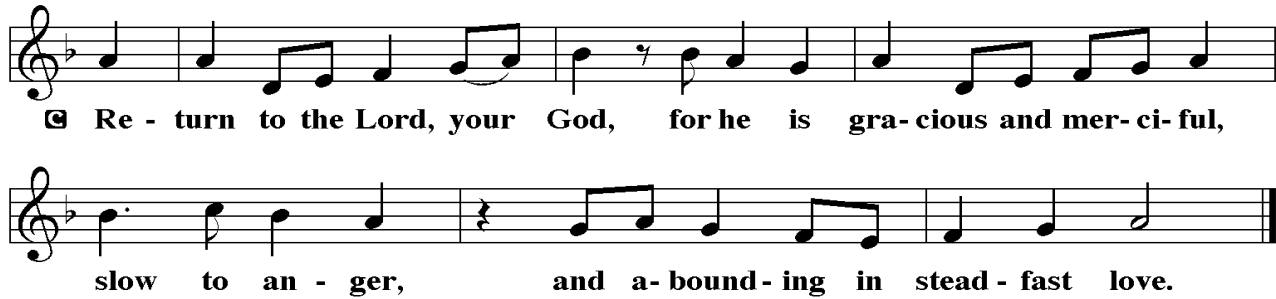
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." 20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Lenten Verse



The Holy Gospel

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 2nd chapter.

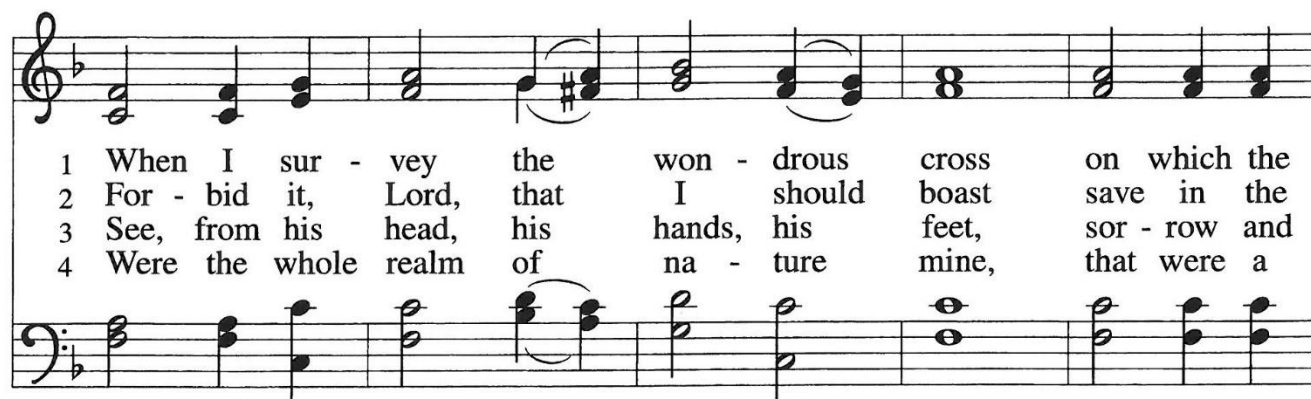
Glory to you, O Lord.

13The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. 15Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." 18The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" 19Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" 21But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

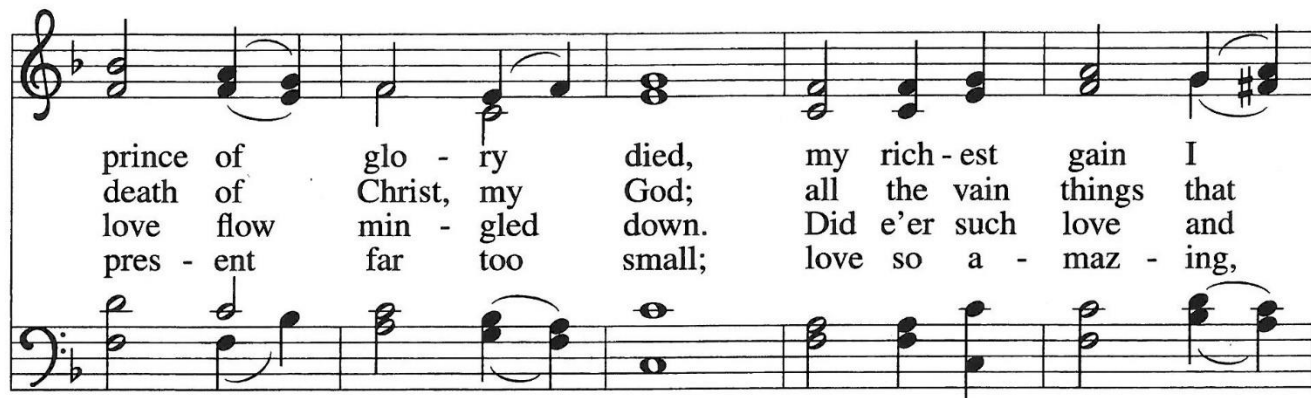
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of the People

God of mercy and grace, you are present. You are within each person here and you are among us as your gathered people. Trusting in your presence, your promises, and your joy, even when we cannot perceive them, we bring to you our gratitude for all you have done, and the burdens that weigh on our hearts.

We pray for creation.

Thank you for its beauty and bounty and for the ways it reminds us of your presence... *(Name specific places or events for which your congregation is grateful: a sunny day, needed rainfall, a local park, a nearby waterway, flowers beginning to sprout, the joy of pets and animal companions.)*

Guide the work of those who advocate for the wellness of your wondrous creation, and help us to better tend and keep it. We pray for all habitats, creatures, and peoples harmed by natural disasters... *(Name those impacted locally or worldwide this week.)*

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for the nations and their leaders.

Thank you for cooperation among world leaders and for the ways people work together for the wellbeing of everyone. *(Name a recent, specific example.)*

We pray for places that know violence, famine, and economic hardship... *(Name one or more places here.)* Pour out your spirit of wisdom on all who govern, that they will care for the most vulnerable and work for the good of those they vowed to serve.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for peace throughout the earth.

Thank you for the gift of peace. We pray that you send peace with power into our world, our neighborhoods, *(name your specific community)*, our hearts, and our homes. Bring an end to gun violence. Stop cycles of domestic abuse. Give peace to every nation. *(Name local or national instances of violence or specific places in need of peace.)*

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for those who are vulnerable.

Thank you for giving us gifts to share with others. Bring justice to anyone who has been used or abused. Feed those who are hungry for food or for companionship. House those who need shelter. Protect those who live in fear. *(Name specific prayers for vulnerable people in your community.)* Work through our hands and hearts to provide for them.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for the church.

Thank you for the goodness we know when we gather as your people, for the gifts of community, shared ministry, and the chance to pray for and with one another. We thank you for the work of the church around the world... *(Name an international ministry, perhaps from your denomination.)* ...and for the ways in which the church is at work close to home... *(Name national and/or local denominational leaders, judicatories, or ministry efforts.)* Renew us in the promises of baptism and draw us into closer relationships with other people of faith.

God of unending joy,

answer us.

We pray for healing and wholeness.

Thank you for gifts of healing and recovery... *(Name any among your congregation who have experienced healing.)* We pray for all those known to us in need of healing and wholeness...

(Name individuals or groups of people for whom your congregation has been asked to pray: the homebound, those who are ill or injured, those in need of mental health support, those who are seeking recovery from drug and alcohol addiction, those who are lonely, those who mourn.)

God of unending joy,

answer us.

God of abundant life, you bring a quiet, constant joy to our most trying times. Remind us of your goodness in grief and your presence in pain. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Please be seated.

Offering

Financial offerings are received in the plates. Please stand as the gifts come forward.



Musical Offering

Please Stand

Offertory Canticle

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Prayer Of Dedication

God of mercy and grace,
you give us so much:
our days, our loved ones,
our passions and talents,
the food we eat, the homes we know,
a place to worship.

God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.
Bless them and bless us,
that we will give generously,
love boldly, and share widely,
our offering reflecting your joyful gift.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

God is with you.

And also with you.

Rejoice with full hearts.

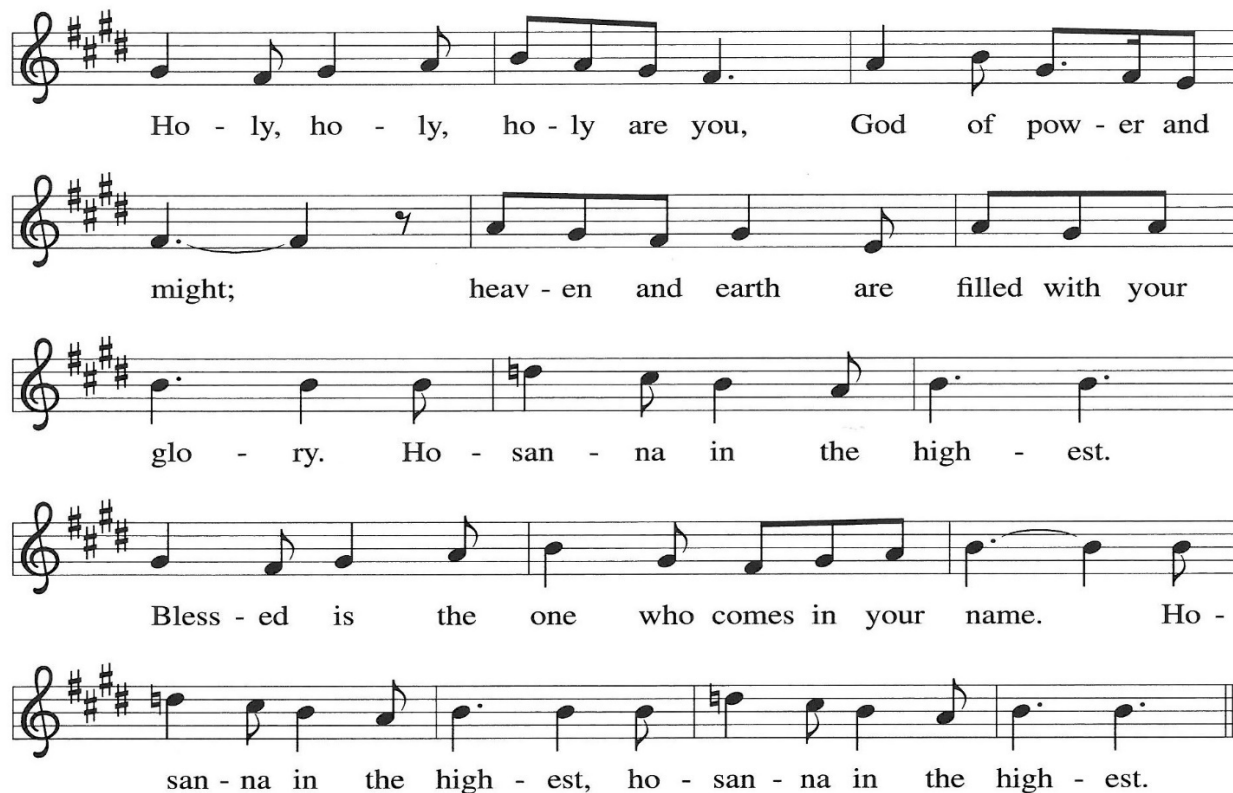
We offer them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God, there is no time, no place where you are not present,
and there is no time, no place
where we should not practice the joy of praising you:
even here, even now, in our ordinary lives.
As we give thanks, we join the choir of our ancestors and our heirs
and all God's angels as they time their breath to the rhythm of joy
and sing of heaven despite the world.

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy.
Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.
Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future
in a covenant promise.
Moses cradled your law in his arms
and the Israelites found wilderness life
where they should have died.
The prophets read your faithfulness
traced indelibly on their hearts.
Your love sent us Jesus
and his persistent, irrational joy:
dripping with the Jordan's baptismal flood,
teaching in the crowd's beating heart,
tossing the tables of empire and profit,
falling like a seed into warm dark soil
as he offered his life for us all.

On the last night of his life, as evening fell,
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended, the shadows closing in,
Jesus took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone 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.

In the heart of fear and pain,
God plants the seed of our joy:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
Christ's body and blood,
the food that gives us the strength to persist
until joy appears.

Send your Spirit upon us
and fortify us to be your body, too,
a wellspring of hope for a world in need.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,
God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy,
today and every day. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Agnus Dei



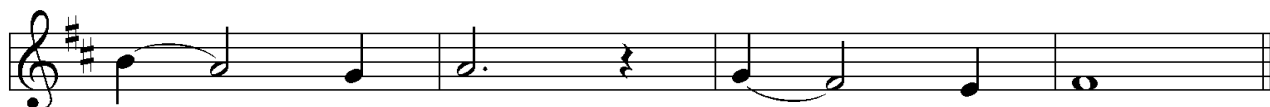
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

Please Sit

The Distribution

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

All the baptized are invited to come forward to receive the holy gifts. Those not receiving may come forward for a blessing or remain in the pews in prayer.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen

Post-Communion Sentence

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

Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

WE ARE SENT

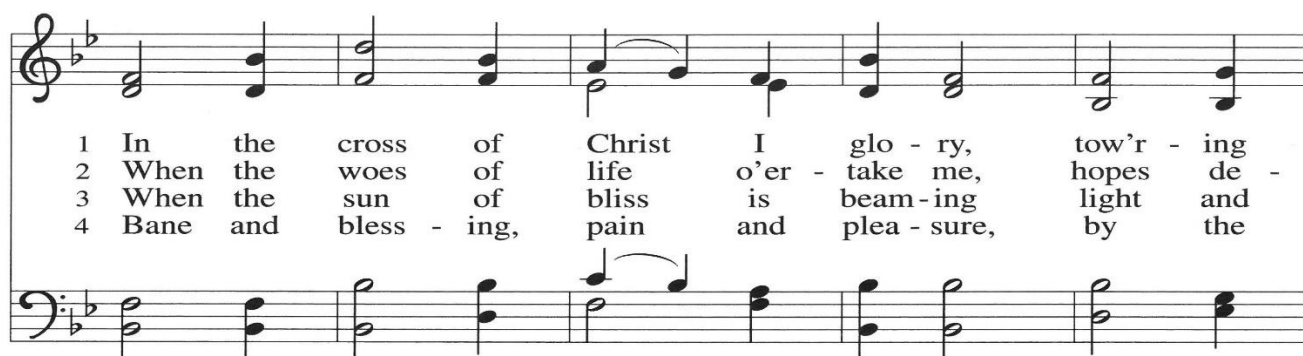
Blessing

Go with blessing.

The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos
weaves joy within your own heart.
The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows
travels right beside you.
The One who whispers joy to our hearts
is present within you.

You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One.

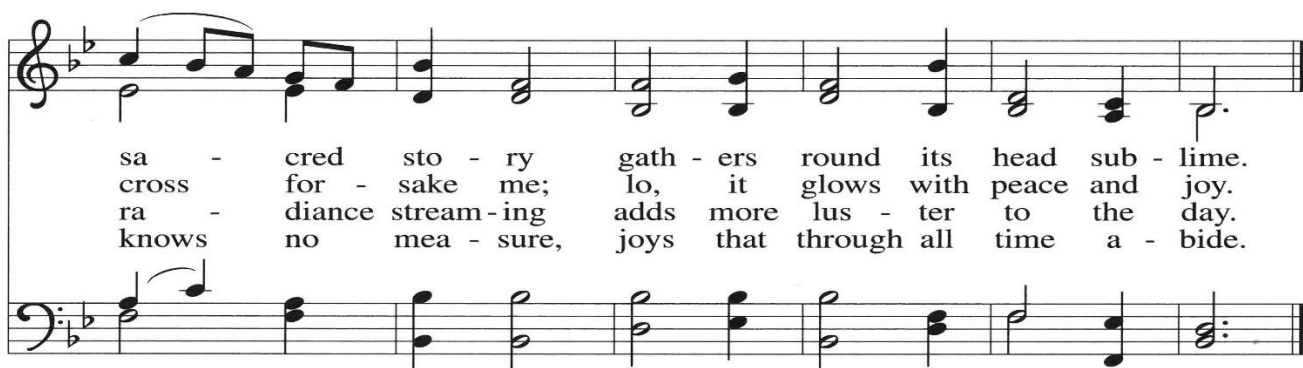
Amen.



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam-ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream-ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bid.

Charge

Practice joy.

As you leave this place,

go with the joy that liberates from everything that binds.

Postlude

Congregation adjourns to engage in loving service in the World

Worship Service Today

Greeters/UshersTBD
Lector.....Eleanor Soderlund
Worship Assistant.....Lee Ann McCarthy
HospitalityCroton Caring
Altar Guild.....Lee Ann McCarthy
Offering Teller.....Diane Carroll



No Flower Dedications

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesdays at 7:00pm:

Each week in Lent, there will be a weekly devotional to go along with our theme of Seeds of Joy. There will also be a weekly Bible study on Google Meet

Weekly Bible Study at 7:00PM Wednesdays on “Unlearning Bad Theology.”

There will be a recorded lecture version of the Wednesday study on our Facebook page on Thursday on the same topic.

Weekly Devotional Readings & Next Sunday’s Readings

Monday: 1Kings 6:1-4, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 3:10-23; Psalm 84.

Tuesday: Psalm 84; Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19; Hebrews 9:23-28.

Wednesday: Psalm 84; Ezra 6:1-16; Mark 11:15-19.

Thursday: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 1:3-6.

Friday: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; Daniel 12:5-13; Ephesians 1:7-14.

Saturday: Numbers 20:22-29; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; John 3:1-13.

Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 10:

**Numbers 21:4-9; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22;
John 3:14-21.**

Those With Special Needs & Concerns

Other Concerns of Our Community

PRAYER LIST

Arlita Hoyt
Christine Olszanski
Kolbe Olszanski
Deanna Platt
Bob Riekert
Catherine Biel

SERVING IN ARMED FORCES

Michael Gabrielsen
Jack O’Brien
John Picucci

Bishop Paul Egensteiner and his staff.
For those who would dare to bring peace.
For the President and his administration.
Communities of Faith in & around
Croton.
For refugees suffering in camps around
the world.
For food to feed all those who hunger.



Welcome to Our Saviour

Do you want to live life to its fullest? Do you want to have resources to cope with the challenges of life? Since his disciples first followed him, Jesus' teachings and example have been providing enduring answers for life's most troubling questions. Jesus' life was given for us. His life remains a gift to be received and God's Word through him waits to be heard. Come and see! The Lord is good!

Our Saviour is a safe, friendly, welcoming place for you and your family to hear Good News and find warm, caring community. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, political affiliations, sexual orientations and gender identities or expressions. We invite you to join us in any or all of the activities. Please ask any member for further details.

You will find the Order of Worship set out in this bulletin. You will also find a schedule of devotional readings and next Sunday's scripture set out inside the back cover.

HOLY COMMUNION: All are invited to the Lord's Table, as Jesus welcomed all without condition, to commune with Him. You need not be Lutheran or a church member. Young children may receive at their parents' discretion.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Dr. Justin Johnson, Pastor

Phill Greenland, Music Minister

Sunday School

9:00 am

Sunday Worship Service

10:00 am

Pastor's Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9:00 am – 12:00 noon;

Wed, Sat & Sun: by appointment; Thurs & Friday: Pastor's Days Off.

Church Secretary's Office Hours: Mon, Tues & Fri: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Church Office Phone: 914-271-4632 **Pastor's Phone:** 914 863-1601

<http://www.oursaviourcroton.org>

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Our Saviour

Your Saviour

Our Saviour

