



***March 14, 2021***

***4th Sunday in Lent  
Tree of Life***

***We welcome you with open  
arms and hearts to Faith  
and thank you for  
worshipping with us!***

Faith Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered, Bible-reading, welcoming spiritual home for seekers, believers, and everybody between. We're a family of God "because God first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Because you are here, you are part of the family—Welcome.

If you are new to Faith, we would like to be in touch with you. Please share your contact information with the church office, 406-363-2964, or [office@faithlutheranhamilton.org](mailto:office@faithlutheranhamilton.org).

**Welcome to Faith and thank you for worshipping with us!**

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## ***God Gathers the Body of Christ***

**Prelude**

Amber Richardson, Accompanist

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Paul Anderson

**Welcome**

**AM:** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

*AM: Any prayer requests? Please notify the church office to submit names of those your wish to be included in the prayers.*

## **Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness**

*Tree of Life*

PM: Returning again to the waters of our baptism,  
We begin in the name of the Father and of the Son  
And of the Holy Spirit.

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

PM: Gracious and merciful God,

**All: We confess to you the truth of our broken lives.**

**We have not trusted your promises or walked in your  
ways. We have hoarded and squandered the gifts of  
your creation. We have failed to welcome the stranger  
and the outcast, or make room at the table for the  
homeless and the hungry.**

**We have neither worked to release the oppressed  
nor admitted our own captivities.**

**Forgive our sin, heal our lives, and set us free  
that we might live with your whole creation  
in justice and joy of your promised future.**

PM: God, who is merciful and kind,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
hears the cries of all who plead for mercy  
and, in these last days, has sent Christ Jesus  
to announce the good news of forgiveness and release  
to all who are bound by guilt or broken by shame,  
that they might praise God and serve the world  
with glad and generous hearts.

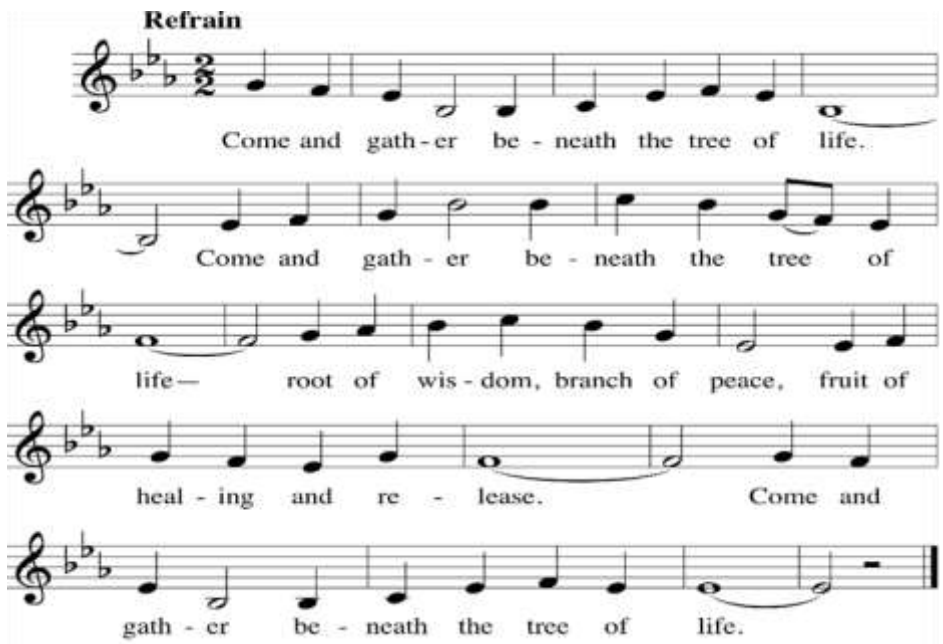
For freedom Christ has set you free.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

# Gathering "Beneath the Tree of Life"

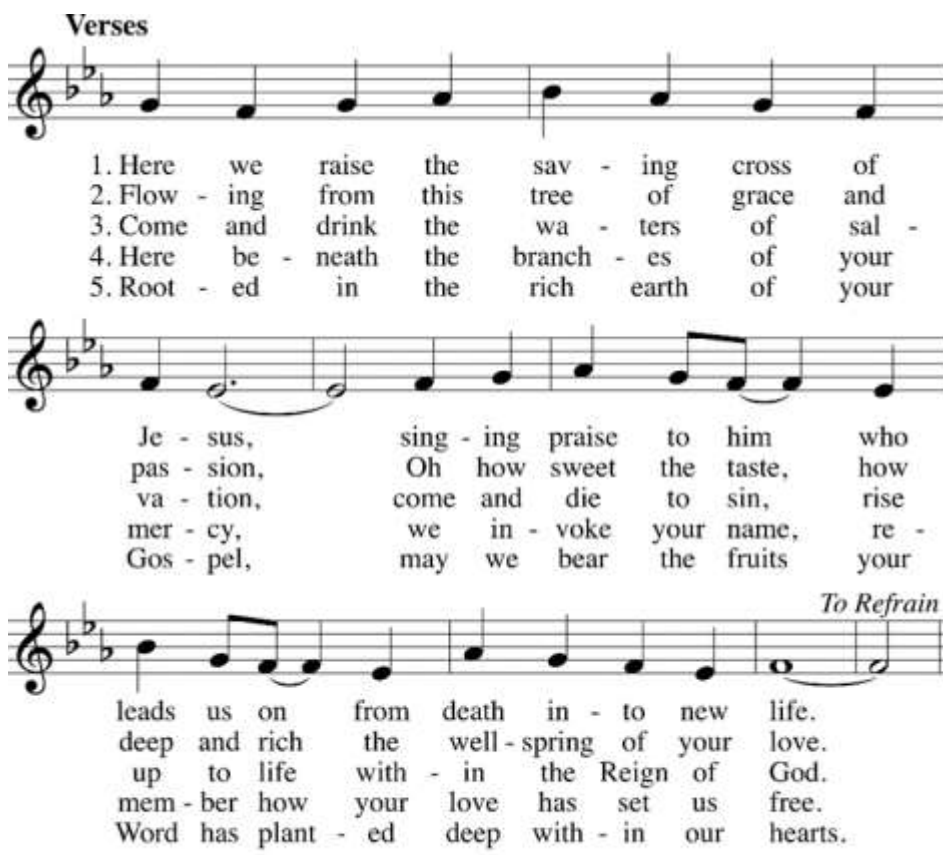
# Tree of Life

**Refrain**



Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life..  
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of  
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of  
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and  
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

**Verses**



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of  
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and  
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -  
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your  
5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your  
Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who  
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how  
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise  
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -  
Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your  
*To Refrain*  
leads us on from death in - to new life.  
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.  
up to life with - in the Reign of God.  
mem - ber how your love has set us free.  
Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

## Greeting

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

**All: And also with you.**

## Kyrie (*extended ending*)

## *Tree of Life*



☒ In peace, let us pray to the Lord;

☒ Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. ☒ 1. For the  
☒ 2. For your

reign of God, and for peace through - out the  
peo - ple here who have come to give you

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the

Lord:  
Lord: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

☒ Help, save, and de -

Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

fend us, O God: ☒ A - men.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.  
Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sing Refrain from “Beneath the Tree of Life” page 3

## **Prayer of the Day**

**AM:** The Lord be with you...

**All:** **And also with you.**

**AM:** Let us pray,

**All:** **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## ***God Speaks to Us in the Word***

### **First Reading**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

**Lector:** A reading from Numbers, Chapter 21:

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

## Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

*(Lector: give directions for psalm responses)*

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from  
the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took re-bellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast  
love and your wonderful works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

## Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

**Lector:** A reading from Ephesians, Chapter 2:

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among

those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: Word of God, word of life...

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Kids' Talk**

Pastor Paul Anderson

**Gospel Acclamation**

ELW page 189

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord**

**The Gospel**

*Sparks Bible pg 416*

**John 3:14-21**

PM: The Holy Gospel according to John:

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

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze*

*serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

PM: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

Pastor Paul Anderson

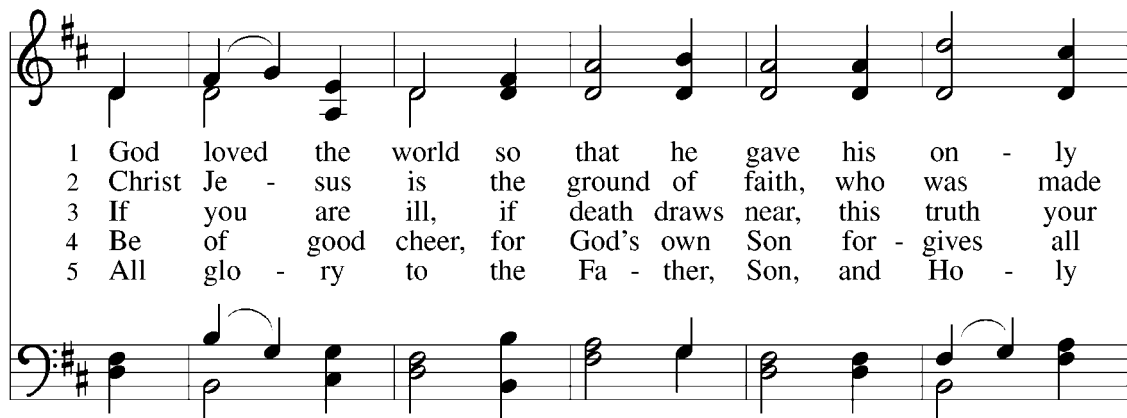
**Sermon Song**

**“God Loved the World”**

ELW #323



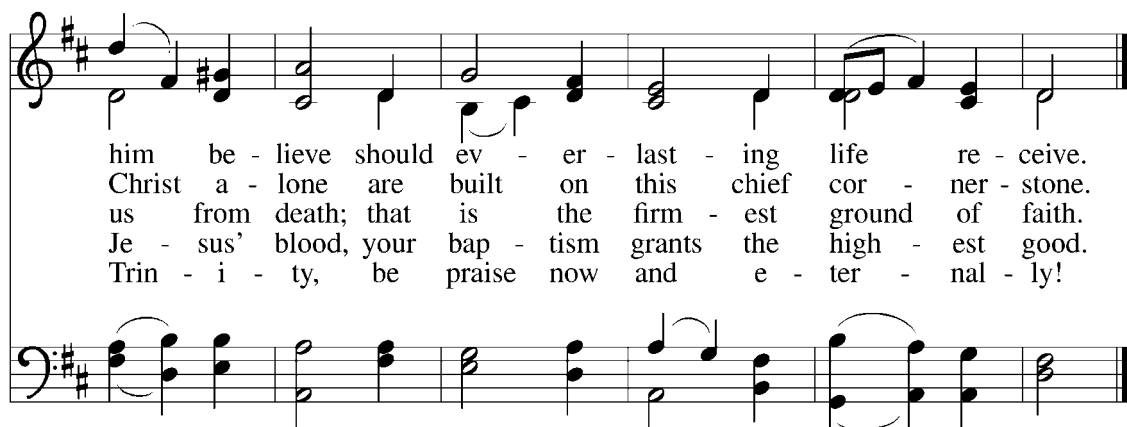
## God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

**The Apostles' Creed** (*AM leads*)

ELW p. 105

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. 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 Intercession**

ELW #752

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

**Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord send your spirit in this place.  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry (*specific mission partners may be named*), our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands;

nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought (*especially*). Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter (*especially*). Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

## **Pass the Peace**

PM: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Take a moment to pass the peace with those around you, and  
send a message of peace to those listening and watching with you.*

**Offering:** “Come, Let Us Bring” *Tree of Life/ELW #491*

**Come, let us bring the warm and fragrant bread. (2x)**

**Broken here so all God’s people might be fed. (2x)**

**Come, let us bring the sweet abundant wine. (2x)**

**In this cup we taste the joy of grace divine. (2x)**

**Praise be to you who set all people free. (2x)**

**Blest are they who share the feast of jubilee. (2x)**

## **The Offering Prayer**

AM: Let us pray. Faithful God,

**All: you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us  
in our hunger with bread from heaven.**

**Accompany us in this meal,**

**that we may pass over from death to life**

**with Jesus Christ, our Savior and**

**Lord. Amen.**

## ***Jesus Comes to Us in His Supper***

*Dear members and friends of Faith: as you trust the God you see in Jesus, please  
be welcome to share his meal. Christ offers here and now his body and blood, his  
death and resurrection, as a demonstration that God “loves you to death” and is  
present to, in, and through you now and forever*

*Communion will be served in individual portions.*

## **Words of Institution**

WOV page 37

PM: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection,  
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit,  
that by this Holy Communion we may know  
the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever.

**All: Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Matthew 6:9-13 & Luke 11:2-4*

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

**All: 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**

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

## **Distribution**

## **Table Blessing**

PM: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

AM: Let us pray,

**All: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your  
people into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives  
bear witness to the love that has made us new in  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **Benediction**

PM: You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved, free to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you + that you may be a blessing,  
In the name of the holy and life-giving trinity.

**All: Amen.**

## **Announcements for the congregation**

**Sending Song**      “Amazing Grace”

ELW #779

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835



# *God Sends Us into the World*

## **Dismissal**

**AM:** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

## **Postlude**

*Text for the Brief Order of Confession, Marty Haugen, Tree of Life Setting, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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## ***Pray for our Members and Friends...***

*Please call or email us with your prayer requests.*

**Prayers for safety and healing:** Shirley McGourty Celeste Pogachar, Eunice Romo, Madilyn Farrenburg, Morry Mitteness, Millie and Erv Unruh, Bonnie Montgomery, Linda Bentz, Amber Wood, Amber Lynch.

**Prayers for comfort:** Friends and Family of Anne Meskimen, Traci Flowers and family

**Discovery:** Clara Felton

**The Beehive:** Morry Mitteness, Yvonne Olson

**Valley View:** Ruth Dillon

**Remington:** Chuck Olson

**Home Nursing Care:** Virginia Rotering, Smitty

**Incarcerated:** George Davis

*Please let us know if you are having surgery or know of someone who is, or if you or someone you love is in the hospital. We are here to help support in any way we can, especially with prayers.*

*This prayer list will be refreshed monthly.*

*Please feel free to resubmit.*

## Thanks to our Worship Assistants!

<b>Today</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 21</b>
<b>Accompanist</b>	Amber Richardson	Susan Peterson
<b>Call To Worship</b>	Pastor Paul Anderson	Celeste Pogachar
<b>Usher</b>	Judy Wilson	Susan Wetzsteon
<b>Lector</b>	Liz Jameson	Brooke Kimzey
<b>Assist. Min.</b>	Rick Brown	Celeste Pogachar
<b>Video</b>	Tommy Denney	Cole Kimzey
<b>Projection</b>	Scott Southwick	Scott Southwick