

Saint Martin Lutheran Church



Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2026, 10:30 am

The Day: *It would be reasonable for us to assume that if God is truly all-knowing and all-powerful, God might therefore not be too affected or get too bent out of shape when a tragedy occurs. After all, God has the final word, including even raising people from the dead. But today's gospel includes a beautiful window into the compassionate connection our Lord shares with us, through his son Jesus Christ, not just in celebrating the glory of the Lord, but also in deep compassion when tragedy comes. Today's gospel reminds us that our God is with us not only in might and truth, but also in heart and soul.*

PRELUDE

Please silence electronic devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.

Stand

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **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.**

P 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.

C Amen.

The Procession begins.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #326

BLESS NOW, O GOD, THE JOURNEY

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

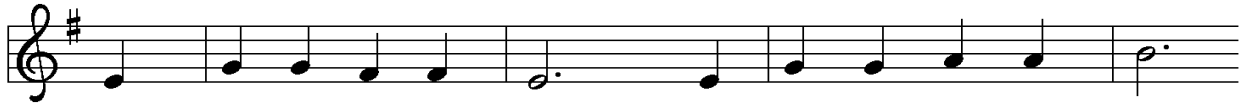
then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

THE APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Beatty

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

L A reading from the book of Ezekiel, the 37th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

¹ The hand of the Lord was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ² And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.

³ And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live."

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹ Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost;

we are indeed cut off.’¹² Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel.¹³ And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. 14 And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 130



¹ Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O Lord;

² **O Lord, | hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O Lord, | who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you | is forgiveness,**

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵ I wait for you, O Lord; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep**

watch | for the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is | steadfast

love;

with the Lord there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸ **For the Lord shall | redeem Israel**

from | all their sins.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy

Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

L A reading from Romans, the 8th chapter, beginning at the 6th verse. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

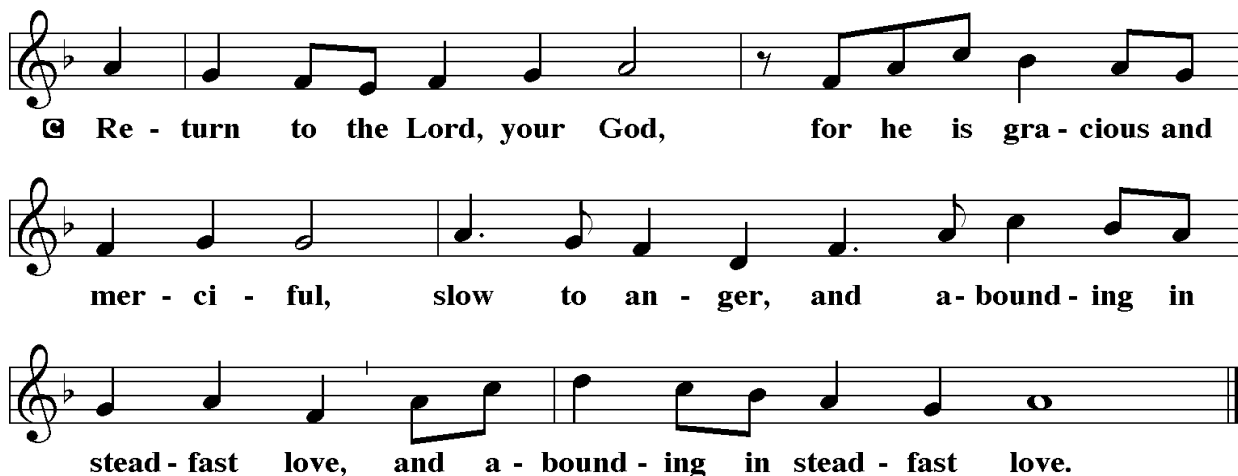
⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

LENTEN VERSE



C 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 11th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

G **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.” ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴ And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha,

the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.”⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.”⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.”⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him,

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

“Deeply Moved”

Pastor Beatty

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #325

I WANT JESUS TO WALK WITH ME

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.**

INTERCESSIONS OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

***P/A** Lord in Your Mercy, **C** hear our prayer.*

A Heavenly Father, by water and the Spirit your Son has raised your one holy, catholic, and apostolic church to new life. Make this congregation strong in your Spirit, that we may shun the works of the flesh and live in this world expecting the resurrection and the life of the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A We pray for catechumens. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen their wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Mighty God, you have shown us your great mercy through the death of your Son. May all who partake of his Supper come with repentant and humble hearts to taste the body and blood of Christ, which was given and shed for our life. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders especially our President Donald, our governor Brian, and all leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice. Free all who live in places of war and violence, especially Ukraine, Iran, Israel, the nations of the Middle East, Christians in Africa, and around the world. Guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty and economic suffering that weighs down so many. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A O great Redeemer, we hope in you, for with you there is steadfast love and redemption. We cry to you on behalf of those suffering in body, mind or spirit including those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. *(after silence count to 10)* Grant them healing and relief from their burdens, according to your will. Lord, in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

- A** We offer our thanksgiving for all who have died in the faith. Give us such faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Lord, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

*Peace be with you. **R** *Peace be with you.**

Sit

OFFERING

The ushers collect our gifts of tithes and offerings, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.

ANTHEM

Psalm 130

arr. Paul O. Manz

Stand as gifts are presented.

OFFERTORY



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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

A Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PREFACE

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with a red 'P' for the beginning of a phrase and a red 'C' for the beginning of a new sentence. The lyrics are: **P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you. **P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord. **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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SANCTUS

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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 *(Sung)*

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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. A - men.

The musical score for 'Agnus Dei' is written in a single system with five staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. 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.'

COMMUNION HYMNS

EAT THIS BREAD

ELW #472

Refrain
"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.
Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

The musical score for 'Eat This Bread' is written in a single system with two systems of staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry. OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.'

WHAT FEAST OF LOVE

ELW #487



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?
2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?
3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?
What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?
What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen + you and keep you in God's grace.

G Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

A Let us pray: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be

hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Life is short, and we do not have much time
To gladden the hearts of those who journey with us.
So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind;
Living in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

ELW #327

THROUGH THE NIGHT OF DOUBT AND SORROW



1 Through the night of doubt and sor - row, on - ward
2 One the light of God's own pres - ence on the
3 One the strain that lips of thou - sands lift as
4 On - ward, there - fore, sis - ters, broth - ers; on - ward,



goes the pil - grim band, sing - ing songs of ex - pec -
ran - somed peo - ple shed, chas - ing far the gloom and
from the heart of one; one the con - flict, one the
with the cross our aid. Bear its shame, and fight its



ta - tion, march - ing to the prom - ised land. Clear be -
ter - ror, bright - 'ning all the path we tread. One the
per - il, one the march in God be - gun. One the
bat - tle till we rest be - neath its shade. Soon shall

fore us through the dark - ness gleams and burns the
 ob - ject of our jour - ney, one the faith which
 glad - ness of re - joic - ing on the far e -
 come the great a - wak - 'ning; soon the rend - ing

guid - ing light; pil - grim clasps the hand of
 nev - er tires, one the ear - nest look - ing
 ter - nal shore, where the one al - might - y
 of the tomb! Then the scat - t'ring of all

pil - grim step - ping fear - less through the night.
 for - ward, one the hope our God in - spires.
 Fa - ther reigns in love for - ev - er - more.
 shad - ows, and the end of toil and gloom.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!
 Together!

POSTLUDE