

Saint Martin Lutheran Church

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026, 10:30 am

The Day: Today on this first Sunday in Lent we go back to the beginning, to Genesis, and the story of the fall of Adam and Eve. What is it that keeps us close to God? What pulls us away? Do we faithfully follow the Word of God, or make exceptions and additions along the way? How does Satan snake his way into our vision to distort it? What about our actions? Do we stand up for what's faithful and righteous, or go along with whatever is set before us on the journey? Just as Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem, may our eyes and vision be set on him.

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 #319

O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

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.

G 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.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, 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

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

L A reading from the book of Genesis, the 2nd chapter, beginning at the 15th verse.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And the woman said to

the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 32



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you for-
gave the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble;**

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;

you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**8 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

**9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near
you.”**

**10 Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

**11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

L A reading from Romans, the 5th chapter, beginning at the 12th verse.

12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

15 But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of

grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

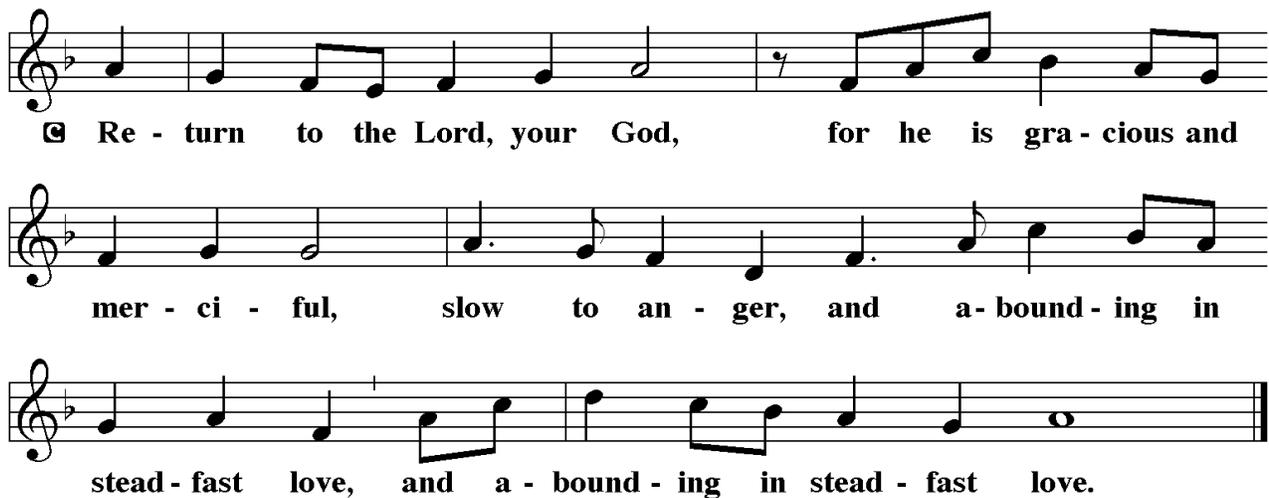
¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

“Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you,’

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

“A Vision of Life and Death”

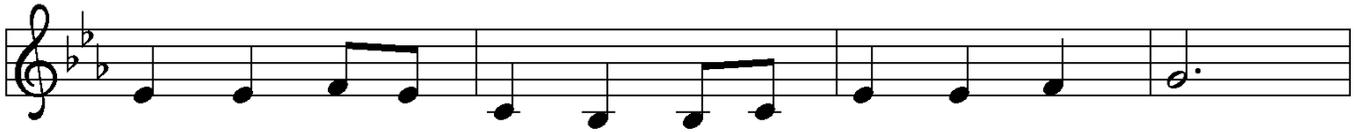
Pastor Beatty

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

BE THOU MY VISION

ELW #793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of 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.**

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, **G** hear our prayer.*

A O Lord, since the days of Adam and Eve we are beset by many temptations. Through the work of your one, holy, catholic church, fix the eyes of all the world on our Lord Jesus, who bore temptation for us. Through the witness of the Church, bring us through the evils of this fallen world. Lord, in your mercy,

G hear our prayer.

A Almighty God, you take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they turn from evil and live. Give all bishops, pastors, deacons, and church workers, especially our own pastor Mark, the courage and strength to faithfully proclaim your law-gospel word and administer your holy sacraments, so that by this sacred work all sinners may be turned from death to life by the proclamation of Christ. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, preserve all catechumens and their teachers, all children and their parents, and every Christian home from the assaults of the evil one. As your Son overcame Satan in the desert, so also give us the victory through Christ and his Word. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A O Lord, you have established earthly authorities to punish evil and praise those who do good. Grant our president Donald, our governor Brian, and all rulers humble their hearts to resist the allure of power and to worship you alone. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Merciful Father, though we deserve nothing of your kindness, you have shown yourself to be the strength of the weak, the healer of the sick, and the hope of those who mourn. Hear us on behalf of those who are troubled in mind, body or spirit, the dying, and those who grieve, especially those named in our bulletin and those we name before you now. (*after silence count to 10.*) Sustain them through their afflictions and pain, heal them according to your gracious will and deliver the dying to everlasting life. Lord in your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, you covered the shame of our first parents with animal skin and thereby foreshadowed the perfect sacrifice of your Son. Give us the garments of repentance and faith, that we may receive your Son's body and blood for the forgiveness of all our sins. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Merciful Father, though you gave us stewardship of your good creation, we love the gifts more than the giver. Save us from trusting in our possessions more than in your Son. Teach us to use what you have provided to help those in need and to relieve the poor, the unemployed, and the oppressed. Lord in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Lord of life, we thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally 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.

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

A The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

A Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

A 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:

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.

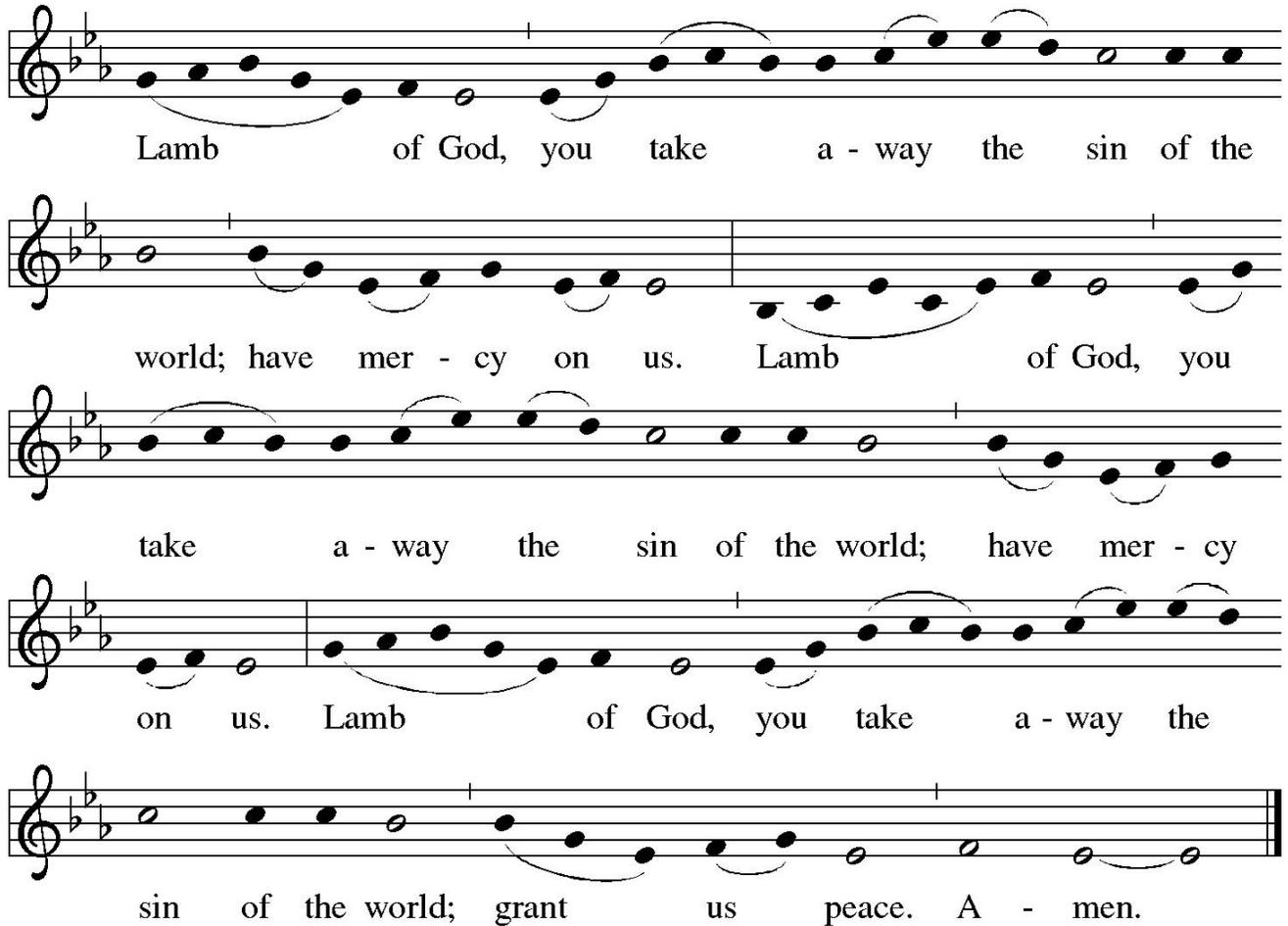
LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

ELW #484

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.
Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

O LORD, WE PRAISE YOU

ELW #499



1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you, in thanks -
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en, life to
 3 Lord God, be - stow on us your grace and fa - vor, that we



giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
 win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
 geth - er here in love and u - nion, nor re - pent this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest com - mu - nion. O Lord, have mer - cy!



May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our
 Lord, your kind - ness so much did move you that your
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; by this



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead
 blood now moves us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
 ho - ly ban - quet re - make us. Give your church, Lord, to see



in all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

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.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A The Lord be with you.

C 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 #322, vv 1-4

OH, LOVE, HOW DEEP



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

C Live The Mission!

Together!

POSTLUDE

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