Sunday, March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Lent

WELCOME to Emanuel's Lutheran Church! It is our joy to have you worship with us today.



PRELUDE

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING HYMN "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW 807

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

- P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. Compassionate One,
- C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

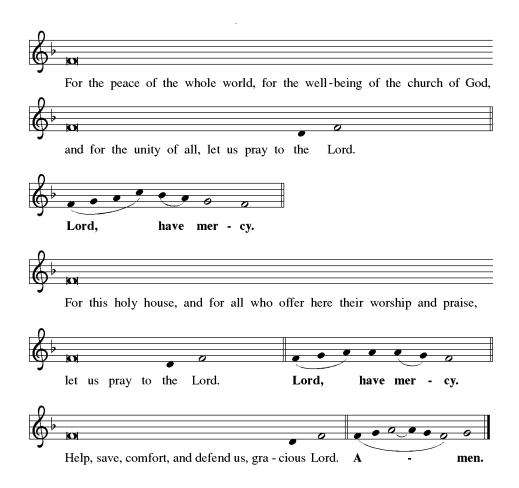
 Amen.
- P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

Children's Church: Kindergarten to 5th Grade gathers in the Chapel.

KYRIE





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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray together.

C: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of 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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM: Psalm 32

Congregation responds with bold text.

- ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered 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.
- ⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
- I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
 - ⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
 - ⁷You 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.
 - ⁹Do 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

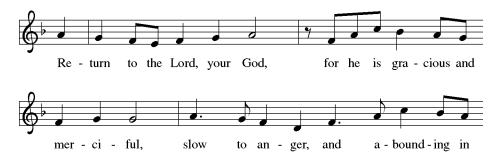
L: A reading from 2 Corinthians.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3So he told them this parable: 11b "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before vou; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.""

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "The Invitation to Grace: Entering the Feast of God's Love" Pastor Marcus

HYMN OF THE DAY "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" ELW 608

APOSTLES CREED

AM: Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

AM: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.

Response to each petition: AM: God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

AM: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

ELW 841

Giving information is located on the back of the bulletin.

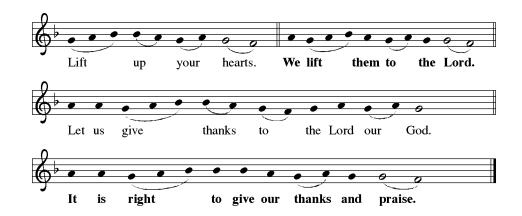
OFFERING PRAYER

Vicar: Let us pray.

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

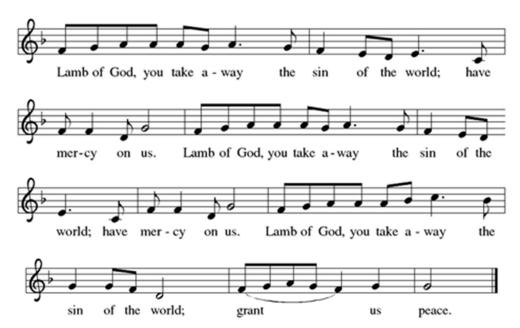
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



COMMUNION

Communion will take place via continuous line (right side) and continuous kneeling (left side). We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and

wine. Children are welcome to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants to the right will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." Gluten free wafers are available. Next, step to the right, to the silver tray that contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses for wine. Lastly, participants will step to the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, simply cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" ELW 779 "Restore in Us, O God" ELW 328

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Vicar: Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling spirit, \oplus bless you now and forever. **C: Amen**

SENDING HYMN "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" ELW 763

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Musician: Edward Workmon, organ

WORSHIP LEADERS for today, March 30, 2025: Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Marcus; Assisting Ministers: Vicar Rudy, Lory Alves; Communion Assistants: Steve Anderson, NEEDED, Jeanne Palmer, Marsha Schroeder, Bill Elley; Reader: Steve Anderson; Ushers: Jacqueline Springs, Rissa Springs, Ilene Cherry, Darlene Zies; Altar Guild: Jeanne Palmer, Marsha Schroeder; A/V Tech: Jonathan Zitelman; Council Greeter: Susan Yeatts; Hospitality: Bev Seidenschwarz, Walter Seidenschwarz; Safety

Attendants: TBD

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, April 6, 2025: Preaching and Presiding: The Rev. Wes Cain; Assisting Ministers: Vicar Rudy, Karen Weinstein; Communion Assistants: Carrie Moseley, Jeannie Hall, Earlene Jarzombek, Jeanne Palmer, Barbara McCall; Reader: Dru Pike; Ushers: Allan Bode, Bill Meier, Ron Schneider, Keith Vinyard; Altar Guild: Carrie Moseley, Cherryl Baethge, Denise Hufnagl, Pam Grandstaff; A/V Tech: NEEDED; Council Greeter: Rissa Springs; Hospitality: Nancy Meier, Bill Meier, Fran Vinyard, Keith Vinyard; Safety Attendants: Dave English, Allan Bode

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in the sanctuary, online, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY STUDIES:

- **THE HERITAGE CLASS** (307): 9:15am. This quarter we are studying the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount with Bible texts appropriate for Lent. Please join us.
- **JOY CLASS**: Bible stories and songs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Class meets the first Sunday of each month in the WMR at 9:00am.
- **HABAKKUK: FAITH IN TOUGH TIMES** (Family Life Center): March 9 April 13 at 9am. Join us for our Lenten study as we study together through the book of Habakkuk and other related Biblical texts as we ponder God's work during challenging times and how we can respond faithfully.
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**: During worship Children's Ministry Coordinator Jordana leads our PK to 5th grade learners to the Children's Church room, just down the hall from the sanctuary, and returns as we share the peace.
- **THE COMPASS COOPERATIVE** gathers on Sundays with our four church partners- Emanuel's, St. Andrew's, Spirit of Joy, and Friedens Church at Spirit of Joy campus. Middle School (6-8 grades) from 4-5pm, dinner for everyone at 5pm, and High School (9-12 grades) from 5:30-6:30pm.'
- **CONFIRMATION CLASSES** for our 6th to 8th graders meet this year on the 4th Sunday of every month after worship in the Women's Ministry Room.

WEEKDAY STUDIES:

Faith Circle (Women's Ministry Rm):3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 **Joy Circle** (Women's Ministry Rm): 2nd Thursday at 9:30 **Ladies Aid** (Women's Ministry Rm): 1st Wednesdays at 2:00

EXTENDED DATES: March 30 and April 6. MAKING YOUR GRIEF COUNT is a now a five-week grief program for those who have experienced loss of any kind to work through their grief, learn about healthy coping tools, and discover a path to healing in a supportive environment. Pastor Darwin Huartson facilitates this program at Emanuel's in the Family Life Center from 2-4pm.

SENIOR SOCIAL CLUB BUS & TRAIN TO BURNET on **Saturday, May 3** has reached its goal of 56 people with a waiting list started. If you are interested in going, please let donna@elcseguin.org know so she can add your name to the wait list. You never know who might have to back out before May 3rd. Donna will be collecting the money for the bus trip starting Monday, March 31st. The cost per person for the bus and train ride is \$65. Lunch in Burnet will be on your own and there is also a concession car on the train. Make your check payable to *Emanuel's Lutheran Church* with *May 3rd bus trip* on the memo line.

GRANDPARENT MILESTONE is a special event for both new and seasoned grandparents. It's a time to connect with others, celebrate the joys of grandparenthood, and discover meaningful ways to share faith with the next generation. Bring the grandkids and enjoy refreshments, activities, and inspiring talks from Vicar Rudy and Donna Simmons. **Sunday, March 30** at 9 AM in the Women's Ministry Room.

LUTHERAN LUNCH BUNCH gathers next on **Sunday, April 6** following worship at Los Cucos. The Lutheran Lunch Bunch is a lively group of post-worship food enthusiasts who gather at a local restaurant on the first Sunday of every month. The Lutheran Lunch Bunch is a place where faith, food, and fun unite. It's the perfect blend of sacred and savory, where everyone leaves nourished—body, soul, and spirit. *Donna Simmons* is the contact.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given in honor of Camryn and Hunter Etchieson's wedding by the bride's parents, Cindy and Dwayne Pique.

1st COMMUNION CLASSES will be held on Sundays **April 6 & 13** at 9am in the Women's Ministry Room. All 5th grade and older youth who have not participated in the class and are wishing to do so are invited. We will gather for study, fellowship, and bake the bread used for Holy Communion at the Maundy Thursday service. It will be at this service, Thursday, April 17, that 1st Communion students and their families will celebrate the Meal together. Please reach out to Pastor Marcus to get your youth on the list for this year's classes.

LENT AT EMANUEL'S

LENTEN EVENING DINNER CHURCH is **Wednesdays**, March 12 – April 9

"Created for Community: A Midweek Lenten Series," enveloped in the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together "with the whole church." Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of "repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love," Lent is also a time for the deepening of community. Using readings from Mark's gospel, this midweek series invites the congregation to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God. Our evening will begin at 6:00pm with a communal meal. There is a place for you at the table.

HABAKKUK: FAITH IN TOUGH TIMES is Sundays, March 9 - April 13 at 9am

Join us for our Sunday morning Lenten study in the Family Life Center. We will read together the book of Habakkuk and other related Biblical texts as we ponder God's work during challenging times and how we can respond faithfully.

HERITAGE BIBLE CLASS SPRING STUDY is **Sundays at 9:15am**

This spring, our Bible lessons follow the theme "Exclusion and Embrace," a series in two units during Lent and the weeks following that encourage us to consider what we need to let go of and what we need to take on as followers of Jesus.

THERE IN GOD'S GARDEN 2025 Lenten Devotional

Everyone is invited to download a copy of the Luther Seminary 2025 Lenten devotional using the QR code here. Save to your phone, tablet, or computer. We are grateful for this complementary resource to use during the beautiful, prayerful, and meditative journey of Lent.



EASTER LILIES. Emanuel's will welcome Easter with beautiful lilies at our 10:30 worship service. You may donate Easter lilies as you rejoice the season, or in memory or honor of loved ones. Plants may be taken home following the service on Sunday, April 20. Giving forms are available in the narthex, the office, and online. Return forms and payment to an offering basket or the church office by April 8. Each plant is \$15.

EGGAPALOOZA: The 3rd annual community wide EGGAPALOOZA is **Saturday, April 12** and we are back at TLU Bulldog Stadium! The egg hunt is free and open to everyone, of all abilities, from ages 2 to 12 years old. Invite your friends, your neighbors, your family, or someone who just looks like they would have fun at an egg hunt and help us have the biggest and best egg hunt in Seguin to date!



HOLY WEEK Emanuel's Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday, April 13: 10:30 am Maundy Thursday, April 17: 6:30 pm Good Friday, April 18: 6:30 pm



Easter Sunday, April 20

Sunrise Service at Spirit of Joy, 7:00 am Continental Breakfast, 8:30 am Worship with Communion, 10:30 am Egg Hunt on the Lawn, 11:45 am

EMANUEL'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL and Ministry Team Liaisons

President, Rissa Springs, Worship Team
Vice President, Bryce Kennedy, Outreach & Service Team
Secretary, Paul Sims, Education Team
Treasurer, Susan Yeatts, Congregational Care Team

Tonya Darnell, Outreach & Service Team
Sheila English, Congregational Care Team
Charles Jobe, Safety Team
Tim Kent, Congregational Care Team
Janelle Leon-Weinman, Congregational Care Team
Bill Salt, Education Team
Darlene Zies, Outreach & Service Team

ALL TEAM MEETING NIGHT Monday, April 7, 2025 5:30pm in the Women's Ministry Room

All of Emanuel's Ministry Teams gather on a single evening each month to share a meal, collaborate, plan, and schedule upcoming events and ministry projects.

EMANUEL'S STAFF

Senior Pastor, The Rev. Marcus Bigott, 830-377-8643 cell, pastormarcus@elcseguin.org
Visitation Pastor- San Antonio, The Rev. Darwin Huartson, dhuartson@porterloring.com
Day School Director, Michelle Martin, mmartin@elcseguin.org
Bereavement and Senior Care Coordinator, Donna Simmons, donna@elcseguin.org
Office and Campus Administrator, Sherry Hardwick, sherry@elcseguin.org
Director of Finance, Jeni Payton, jeni@elcseguin.org
Principal Organist, Edward Workmon, edward@elcseguin.org

Principal Organist, Edward Workmon, edward@elcseguin.org
Director of Choirs, Samuel Bigott, sbigott@ingramisd.net
Seminarian, Vicar Rudy Salazar, vicarrudy@elcseguin.org

Compass Cooperative Program Director, Hannah Hansen, hannah@elcseguin.org
Children's Ministry Coordinator, Jordana Gutierrez, jordana@elcseguin.org

Children's Ministry Attendants, Aaliyah Kirton and Charis Wirtley

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

GIVING AT EMANUEL'S: Donations and tithes to the church may be given by envelopes in the pews, mailed to the church, online, or scanned with QR Code below.



Emanuel's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 379-5046 | info@elcseguin.org Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5 www.EmanuelsLutheranChurch.com

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
- 2 Here I raise my Eb en e zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise. and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home. let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love, Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God; Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove. he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

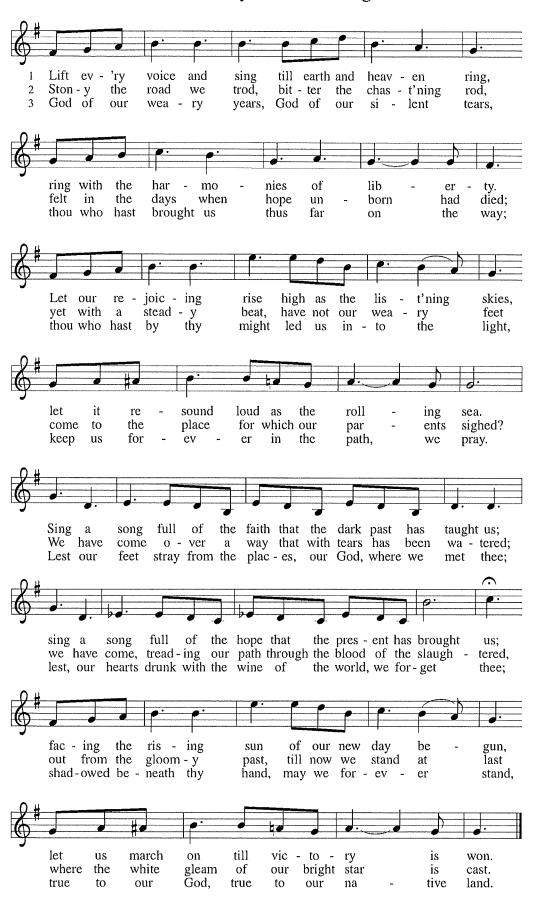
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



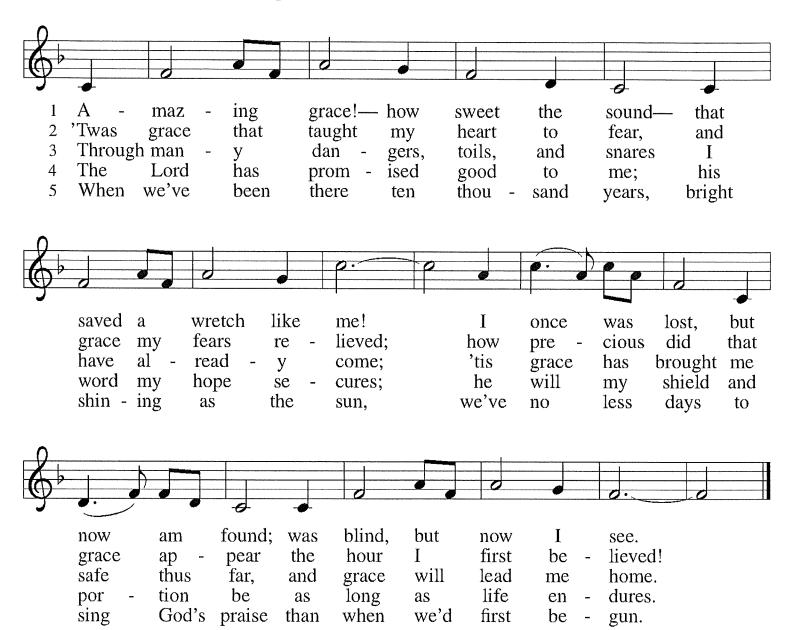
Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Lift Every Voice and Sing



Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

Restore in Us, O God



search-ing ends, may see

you face

to

face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

when all

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we,

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our

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end less song; a bove earth's lam-en ta tion,
- 2 Through all the tu mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion. It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing? What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth. All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.