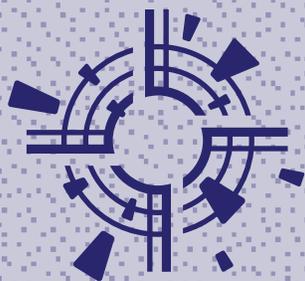


# Child of Blessing Lectionary Resource

Installment 2



PRESBYTERIAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
MUSICIANS



*Your participation in this experiment is part of a broader movement toward inclusion in worship.*

*Your feedback, ideas, and questions truly help shape our next steps and are a gift to the larger Church.*

*I would love to invite your congregation into a Lenten challenge: a new habit to try on for this holy season.*

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## Contents

3	Introduction
9	Transfiguration of the Lord
11	Season of Lent
29	Holy Week
38	Season of Easter

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# Introduction

Welcome to the second installment of liturgical resources with Child of Blessing! Your participation in this experiment is part of a broader movement toward inclusion in worship. Your feedback, ideas, and questions truly help shape our next steps and are a gift to the larger Church.

There are over thirty congregations currently field-testing these resources. Your average worship attendance ranges from 25 to 800 persons. The median number of children attending your congregations is ten. This means that half of you typically have ten or fewer children on Sundays, and half of you have eleven or more children on Sundays. You come from sixteen different states, and you embody a variety of worship traditions. You share a common commitment to being a place of welcome and refuge for people of every age.

With this installment, we make our way through Transfiguration, Lent, Holy Week, and the start of the Easter season. Lent is traditionally a season of examination and intention. Many of you likely take on a Lenten discipline. In that spirit, I would love to invite your congregation into a Lenten challenge: a new habit to try on for this holy season. Choose at least one challenge from this list, preferably an item that you have never tried before. Communicate with your congregation. Share that you are trying this as a Lenten discipline: a way to be open to God's guidance and movement. Here are a few ideas:

- Share Communion every week during either Lent or Easter. Choose the season that will best nurture your congregation. The sacraments are central to our worship. They are multi-sensory and participatory by nature. They root us in God's love, and connect us with the Church of past, present, and future. Eucharistic prayers for both Lent and Easter are included in this resource.
- The confession and pardon sequences in this resource include tearing paper or fabric, as well as pouring water into the font. Invite a child or youth to lead one or both of these actions every week. If your sanctuary typically has a glass or ceramic pitcher, you may want to consider a lighter-weight material. You may even need a small stepstool near the font.
- Involve a child or youth in spoken liturgy each week. Meaningful moments might include:
  - Passing of the Peace: "The peace of Christ be with you."
  - Assurance of Pardon: "We are forgiven" is frequently the final line in the pardon for this resource.
  - Prayer for Illumination and Prayer after Communion: Use the prayer included in this resource, or work with a child ahead of time to write his/her own prayer.
 If you have strong and interested readers, a child or youth could lead

any portion of the service typically led by an adult liturgist, including the Scripture, Call to Worship, and Affirmation of Faith.

- If your church dismisses children after a children's sermon, find a time to welcome them back into the sanctuary. This could happen during a hymn or during the offering. For a greater stretch, consider keeping all ages together for the season of Lent.
- Involve youth and children in the preparation and clean-up of Communion elements, before and after worship. If you have elders or deacons involved in this act, encourage those leaders to talk about the meaning of the sacrament as they work together.
- Several of the Gospel readings during Lent are lengthy narratives. Consider sharing one or more of these readings by using multiple voices or a readers' theatre. Try to include people of all ages when possible.

Feel free to create your own Lenten discipline! Maybe the ideas here spark something new, or maybe there is something else you have been wanting to try. Whatever you decide on, I would love to hear from you and support you.

With gratitude,



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Each installment of this resource will feature a theological concept that has implications for multigenerational worship. Use this as a prompt for small group conversation in your community.

As the Great Commandment teaches us, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deut. 6:5).

We worship not only with our words and minds, but with gestures and bodies, feelings and energy, acts of creativity and silent prayers. Intergenerational practices help to expand our liturgical repertoire, drawing on the gifts of every member.

**In what ways do you experience God’s presence in worship?  
What aspects of worship don’t require speaking or reading?**

*David Gambrell*

5

## INTRODUCTION TO LITURGY

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Weekly liturgy suggestions include a Call to Worship and Confession and Pardon for each week and suggestions for prayers for illumination, responses to the reading of the Word, and prayers of thanksgiving after the offering, and eucharist liturgies for each season. These seasonal prayers can be repeated each week, and some weekly liturgy is also repeated over the course of a season or may follow a repeated pattern.

Liturgy is written with a few ideas in mind:

- Repeating call-and-response refrains invites a congregation to understand and claim them. Practice repeating refrains in different ways, with different tones and emphases.

Notes about formatting:

- Unbolded, unitalicized text is intended to be spoken by one voice, usually a liturgist, but can be spoken by a congregant from where they are seated, a child, or a pastor from the pulpit. Part of the intention is to think broadly about what “worship leader” means.
- Some liturgy meant to be spoken by one liturgist should not be printed in the bulletin or projected on a screen to encourage congregants to feel more present and less reliant on the printed word. In this document, we’ve used shading to indicate liturgy that is not meant to be printed.

- Italicized text indicates guidance for the worship leader or for the one(s) who plan(s) worship.
- Bolded text is intended to be spoken by the whole congregation and should be printed or projected for everyone to see.

### **Call to Worships**

Call to Worship options throughout this installment use repeated lines; the congregation repeats each line spoken by the leader. There are a few options for communicating the pattern to the congregation. As is the case in this document, you may want to print each line twice in the bulletin with the repeated line in bold, indicating where the congregation is invited to repeat. Alternatively, you may choose not to print the words in the bulletin, in which case a leader will need to invite the congregation to repeat each line after them. You may also choose to do both of these things. Here are some spoken options for inviting participation before the Call to Worship:

1 Repeat after me as God gathers us for worship.

2 (Lent) In ways that honor your soul, I invite you to echo me  
as we come to worship the God who meets us here.

3 (Easter) In ways that honor your soul, I invite you to repeat after me as we  
enter into Easter joy.

Additional wording specific to the day or season appears before the Call to Worship throughout this resource.

### **Confession and Pardon Sequences**

Confession and Pardon sequences throughout this installment include a few actions that may be new:

- Many of the Confession and Pardon sequences indicate a connection to the font, table, or cross. These invitations usually have to do with the worship leader's movements in the sanctuary and hope to make connections with sacrament. When indicated, the action of pouring water may be led by a child or youth.
- The action of tearing fabric or paper is incorporated into the Confession and Pardon sequences in Lent. This action can also be led by a child or youth.

*Shavon Starling-Louis*

## Great Thanksgivings

This resource provides brief communion liturgies for Lent and Easter. These prayers are intentionally simple and accessible, designed for worshipers of all ages. Their structure is based on ancient communion prayers, and their language and imagery is drawn from scripture.

It is hoped that the brevity and simplicity of these liturgies will encourage and enhance the celebration of weekly communion, especially during these important times in the liturgical calendar. As the “family meal” of the church, the Eucharist is an inherently intergenerational and inclusive event, accessible to worshipers of any age or ability. Indeed, children often comment that communion is a highlight of the worship service.

Notice the repeated phrase “we give you thanks” in these prayers. Thanksgiving is the central theme of the Lord’s Supper and the meaning of the word “Eucharist.” Notice also that each prayer has three main sections, punctuated by spoken or sung responses. The three sections focus on God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, reflecting our trinitarian faith.

Rubrics (in italics) indicate optional sung or spoken responses, as well as a potential place for the words of institution and prayers of intercession. The responses provide a valuable opportunity for active congregational participation in the prayer. Using standard wording and repeated melodies allows non-readers to learn the responses by heart.

This resource also provides simple, accessible language for the words of institution. These words may be used in three places: as an invitation to the table, during the Great Thanksgiving (as indicated in a rubric), or at the breaking of the bread. If your congregation is celebrating weekly communion during a particular season, consider keeping the words of institution in a consistent place throughout that span of weeks.

You may notice that the prayer for the Holy Spirit (“Pour out your Holy Spirit ...”) is repeated in each Great Thanksgiving. This is a theologically critical element of the liturgy. We believe that Jesus is truly present through the work of the Holy Spirit, uniting us as the body of Christ and leading us in witness and service to the world.

Some congregations may wish to include prayers of intercession during the communion liturgy. A rubric provides for this option after the prayer for the Holy Spirit. If included, these should be very brief: a list of names, places, or two- to three-word phrases. This is an opportunity to feature the voices of other leaders, including children.

The last paragraph of each Great Thanksgiving serves a double purpose. In the context of Sunday morning worship, it anticipates the sharing of communion and closes the prayer with a trinitarian doxology. But it may also be used as a table prayer for ordinary meals on any day of the week, connecting communal worship with common life. The wording may be abbreviated as follows:

For the meal we are about to share  
and for every gift of your grace,  
we give you thanks, O God. Amen.

*David Gambrell*

## INTRODUCTION TO CONGREGATIONAL SONG

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Congregational music suggestions for Lent were compiled under the themes of prayer and spiritual journey. Lent can be difficult season (especially Holy Week) for young children to comprehend. In my own children's choir rehearsals and preschool chapel lessons, I speak of Lent as a time when we pray and listen more closely to learn from Jesus the way to live as God's people on earth. The music suggested illustrates this concept, as the music was selected with repetition and simplicity in mind. Music from Taizé, Shape-Note hymnody, and African American spirituals are found frequently throughout the seasonal suggestions, as they illustrate the themes of prayer and spiritual journey through music.

The congregational music suggestions for Easter greatly contrast those in Lent, as I have included many global selections of joyous and celebratory nature. Additionally, there are many variations of the "alleluia" to mark its return to our hymns and liturgy after its Lenten omission. Global hymnody, especially from West African contexts, is often felt in the body and encourages movement. This is particularly attractive to children in worship and can often aid in their learning of the hymn text and melody.

*Dillon Swanson*

## ABBREVIATIONS LIST

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- ACS *All Creation Sings: ELW Supplement* (Augsburg Fortress, 2020)  
 ELW *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (Augsburg Fortress, 2006)  
 G3 *Gather, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.* (GIA, 2011)  
 GTG *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2013)  
 LS *LifeSongs* (Augsburg Fortress, 1999)  
 SSS *Santo, Santo, Santo* (GIA, 2019)  
 OLOF *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism* (GIA, 2018)

# Transfiguration of the Lord

Color: White

Exodus 24:12–18	The glory of God settles on Sinai, where Moses spends forty days.
Psalms 2	God says: You are my son; the nations will serve the Lord.
or Psalm 99	The Lord reigns; worship God on the holy mountain.
2 Peter 1:16–21	The apostle recounts Jesus' transfiguration, fulfilling prophecy.
Matthew 17:1–9	On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the mountaintop, beloved ones.  
**Come to the mountaintop, beloved ones.**  
Light shines here.  
**Light shines here.**  
Mystery meets us here.  
**Mystery meets us here.**  
We are not alone.  
**We are not alone.**

9

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font*  
Even in places of holy light,  
we sometimes turn away.  
Let us return to God,  
whose glory welcomes us just as we are.

*Silence*

God of shining light,  
**God of shining light,**  
You show us love,  
**You show us love,**  
but we turn away.  
**but we turn away.**  
You speak truth,  
**You speak truth,**  
but we don't believe it.  
**but we don't believe it.**  
You call us all beloved,  
**You call us all beloved,**  
but we turn from your voice.

*Open arms, palms facing upward.*

*Place hands over heart.*

*Turn palms outward.*

*Place hands over heart.*

*Turn palms outward.*

*Place hands over heart.*

*Turn palms outward.*

**but we turn from your voice.**

Forgive us.

**Forgive us.**

Fill us with your light.

**Fill us with your light.**

Help us to follow.

**Help us to follow.**

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water into the font*

God's glory is not a spotlight that blinds.

It is a light that guides.

In Jesus Christ, we are seen,

we are known, and we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With both palms facing you,  
move hands upward in front of you.*

*Raise both hands slowly.*

*waving both hands in the air with a twisting movement*

10

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## *Music*

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### **Opening Hymn**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, refrain, WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, GTG 127

### **Hymn Responding to the Word**

Transform Us, PICARDY, W<sub>4</sub> 880

### **Sending/Closing Hymn**

We Are Marching in the Light of God, SIYAHAMBA, GTG 853

# Season of Lent

# Liturgy

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## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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Let us pray together with our whole selves  
as we listen to God's word among us.

God, you whisper in the wilderness.  
**God, you whisper in the wilderness.**  
Touch our ears to listen,  
**Touch our ears to listen,**  
open our minds to wonder,  
**open our minds to wonder,**  
soften our hearts to receive,  
**soften our hearts to receive,**  
and steady our feet to follow.  
**and steady our feet to follow. Amen.**

*Place hands near ears.*

*Hold hands beside head.*

*Cross palms on chest.*

*Place hands on knees.*

## RESPONSE TO HEARING THE WORD READ

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This is the Word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Cross hands gently over chest or extend hands forward,  
rocking slightly forward as a sign of receiving.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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God of provision and mercy,  
We offer our hands.  
**We offer our hands.**  
We offer our hopes.  
**We offer our hopes.**  
We offer our time.  
**We offer our time.**  
We offer our lives.  
**We offer our lives.**  
Receive them in love,  
**Receive them in love,**  
multiply them for good,  
**multiply them for good,**  
and guide us by grace.  
**and guide us by grace. Amen.**

*Stretch hands forward*

*Lift head gently.*

*Circle your wrists slowly in front as clock's hands.*

*Embrace yourself gently or bow slightly.*

## *Ideas*

Consider ways to involve children in the sharing of Communion on a regular basis. Include children and their families in the preparation and clean-up of the elements before and after worship.

If some children leave the sanctuary during the service, find a way to bring them back in to participate in Communion.

Invite children to move closer to the table during worship. If your church has a practice of inviting children forward for a children's message during the service, invite children to stand in a circle around the table during that time. Let them see the elements up close. Explain what will happen later in the service.

Find times to practice the responses in the Great Thanksgiving ("and also with you") so congregants of every age will be ready to participate.

13

### **Great Thanksgiving**

*The introductory dialogue may be included here:*

The Lord be with you ...

We give you thanks, O God,  
for love that never lets us go—  
you are patient and kind,  
reaching out with open arms  
to welcome your children home.

*The Sanctus may be sung or spoken:*

With angels, saints, and all creation,  
we join the hymn that never ends:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord ...**

We give you thanks for Jesus,  
who teaches us how to love one another—  
taking care of those who are sick,  
being friends to those who are lonely,  
and helping those who are in need.

*The words of institution may be spoken here.*

*A memorial acclamation may be sung or spoken:*

Great is the mystery of faith ...

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,  
 as we share this bread and cup—  
 bring us together as one body,  
 sharing the good news of Jesus  
 and working for good in the world.

*Prayers of intercession may be included here.*

Hear our prayers for the world you love ...

Help us to follow the way of Jesus,  
 breaking down dividing walls  
 and building up your church.

For the meal we are about to share  
 and for every gift of your grace  
 we give you thanks, O God,  
 through Jesus, in the Spirit,  
 now and always. **Amen.**

*The great Amen may be sung or spoken.*

### **Words of Institution**

*For use at the invitation to the table,  
 during the Great Thanksgiving,  
 or at the breaking of the bread*

At this table, we remember  
 how Jesus took bread, blessed it,  
 broke it, and shared it with everyone,  
 saying: This is my body, given for you.  
 At this table, we remember  
 how Jesus took the cup,  
 saying: This cup is the promise  
 that I will love you always.  
 At this table, we look forward  
 to the great meal we will share  
 with the whole family of faith  
 when Jesus comes again.

## GATHERING

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### Opening hymn

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days, ST. FLAVIAN, GTG 166  
Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery, THOMAS, ELW 334 (stanzas for each week of Lent)  
Pave the Way with Branches, PAVE THE WAY, ACS 928 (Palm/Passion Sunday)  
Live in Charity/Ubi caritas, UBI CARITAS, GTG 205 (Maundy Thursday)  
They Crucified My Lord, CRUCIFIXION, GTG 219 (Good Friday)

### Kyrie/Petition (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Forgive Us Lord/Perdón, Señor, CONFESIÓN, GTG 431  
Lord, Have Mercy, SINGAPURA, GTG 576  
Restore in Us, O God, stanza 1, BAYLOR, GTG 434

### Gloria/Response to Forgiveness (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Restore in Us, O God, stanza 3, BAYLOR, GTG 434  
Peace of God Be with You/As-salaamu lakum, AS-SALAAMU LAKUM, GTG 448

15

## WORD

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### Hymn Responding to the Word (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Sign Us with Ashes, PHOENIX, GTG 433 (Ash Wednesday)  
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me, WALK WITH ME, GTG 775 (Lent 1)  
What Wondrous Love is This, WONDROUS LOVE, GTG 215 (Lent 2/ Palm/Passion Sunday)  
Jesus Loves Me, JESUS LOVES ME, GTG 188 (Lent 3)  
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, AMAZING GRACE, GTG 649 (Lent 4)  
When Jesus Wept, WHEN JESUS WEPT, GTG 194 (Lent 5)  
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love, CHEREPONI, GTG 203 (Maundy Thursday)  
Were You There, WERE YOU THERE, GTG 228

## EUCHARIST

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### Doxology/Refrain of Thanksgiving (choose one to sing throughout the season)

Restore in Us, O God, stanza 4, BAYLOR, GTG 434  
Take, O Take Me as I Am, TAKE ME AS I AM, GTG 698

### Communion Hymns and Responses

(choose one or more to sing throughout the season)

Eat This Bread, BERTHIER, GTG 527  
 In the Singing, BREAD OF PEACE, GTG 533  
 Let Us Break Bread Together, LET US BREAK BREAD, GTG 525  
 Come to the Table of Grace, TABLE OF GRACE, GTG 507

## SENDING

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**Sending/Closing Hymn** (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Seek Ye First, LAFFERTY, GTG 175  
 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me, GREEN TYLER, GTG 543  
 Stay with Me, STAY WITH ME, GTG 204 (Maundy Thursday)  
 Jesus Remember Me, REMEMBER ME, GTG 227 (Good Friday)

**Benediction Response** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Bless the Lord, BLESS THE LORD, GTG 544  
 Farewell, Good Friends, shalom, CHAVERIM, GTG 540

### *Playlist Link*

16

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



# Ash Wednesday

Color: Purple

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17	The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.
or Isaiah 58:1–12	The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.
Psalms 51:1–17	Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10	Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!
Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21	Don't flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

## Ideas

Use children's artwork as bulletin cover art. Invite children to make drawings in response to biblical stories and choose one to feature each week. You can also organize an art exhibition of children's work in a fellowship hall or other central location as a way to include children and the gifts they bring.

The color for Lent is purple. Invite children to look for this color in the sanctuary during worship.

17

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, dust and breath,  
 come, broken and beloved—  
 Let us begin again.  
**Let us return to God.**

*One hand placed on heart,  
 the other open in front of you.*

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Lift up a clear dish or bowl that contains the ashes for imposition.*  
 God does not ask us to come cleaned up,  
 but to come close.  
 Let us bring our whole selves to the One  
 who formed us from dust  
 and breathes new life into us.

*Silence*

God of mercy,  
**God of mercy,**  
 You made us from dust,  
**You made us from dust,**  
 but we do harm to the earth

*Open palms facing upward.*

*Touch forehead gently,*

*then lower hands*

**but we do harm to the earth**  
 when we should take care of it.  
**when we should take care of it.**  
 You have breathed your life into us,  
**You have breathed your life into us,**  
 but we hide from each other  
**but we hide from each other**  
 when we should gather near.  
**when we should gather near.**  
 Forgive us.  
**Forgive us.**  
 Renew us.  
**Renew us.**  
 In Jesus' name.  
**In Jesus' name.**

*Reach out hands grasping motion.*

*Gesture toward others gathered.*

*Place both hands over face.*

*Uncover face.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing you,  
move hands upward in front of you.*

*Standing by the baptismal font, pour water.*

God is full of mercy,  
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.  
 In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Raise both hands slowly.*

# First Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7	The man and woman disobey God, eating forbidden fruit.
Psalms 32	My sin tormented me; but when I confessed, God forgave me.
Romans 5:12–19	Sin and death came from Adam; grace and life come from Christ.
Matthew 4:1–11	Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness and is tested by the devil.

## *Idea*

Place rocking chairs in the sanctuary to include families with babies or those who need movement.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We begin this journey together—	<i>Open hands placed gently on chest,</i>
<b>We begin this journey together—</b>	<i>then slowly stretched outward, palms up.</i>
It is a journey into the wilderness.	
<b>It is a journey into the wilderness.</b>	
It is a journey of questions and quiet.	
<b>It is a journey of questions and quiet.</b>	
It is a journey of courage and trust.	
<b>It is a journey of courage and trust.</b>	

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font.*  
 Even in the wilderness,  
 God is not absent.  
 God meets us with grace in the empty places.  
 Let us offer what is heavy,  
 and trust the One who carries us.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has been torn.*

Companion God,  
**Companion God,**

We are tempted by pride;  
**We are tempted by pride;**  
 We don't always admit when we are wrong.  
**We don't always admit when we are wrong.**  
 We are tempted by power;  
**We are tempted by power;**  
 We want to be the best,  
**We want to be the best,**  
 even at the expense of others.  
**even at the expense of others.**  
 Still, you promise to stay with us.  
**Still, you promise to stay with us.**  
 Forgive us.  
**Forgive us.**  
 Lead us.  
**Lead us.**  
 In Jesus' name.  
**In Jesus' name.**

*Lift chin slightly.*

*Clench fists,*

*then open hands slowly.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing toward you,  
 raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Pour water*

God's love is wider than the wilderness.  
 Christ walks with us in every lonely place.  
 We are not alone. In Christ, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Raise both hands slowly.*

# Second Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Genesis 12:1–4a	The Lord says to Abram: I will make you a blessing to the nations.
Psalms 121	My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Romans 4:1–5, 13–17	Consider Abraham; the promise of God depends on faith.
John 3:1–17	Those who seek God’s kingdom must be born of water and Spirit.
or Matthew 17:1–9	On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us forward, <b>God calls us forward,</b> even when we do not know the way. <b>even when we do not know the way.</b> God calls us to trust, <b>God calls us to trust,</b> even when we do not understand. <b>even when we do not understand.</b> God calls us beloved, <b>God calls us beloved,</b> even before we believe it. <b>even before we believe it.</b> Let us worship God. <b>Let us worship God.</b>	<i>Place open hands gently on chest, then slowly stretch outward, palms up.</i>
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21

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font.*  
 God does not require perfect understanding;  
 God meets us in our rebelliousness and gives us love.  
 Let us confess our sin and place it in the hands of grace.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has been torn.*

Companion God, <b>Companion God,</b>	<i>with open palms near the body</i>
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you call us forward,  
**you call us forward,**  
 but we hold back.  
**but we hold back.**  
 You offer a new birth,  
**You offer a new birth,**  
 but we cling to the familiar.  
**but we cling to the familiar.**  
 You promise light,  
**You promise light,**  
 but we close our eyes.  
**but we close our eyes.**  
 Forgive us.  
**Forgive us.**  
 Free us and fill us with your Spirit.  
**Free us and fill us with your Spirit.**  
 In Jesus' name.  
**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water.*

Lift up your eyes, not to shame or fear,  
 but to the One who keeps you,  
 who guards your going out and your coming in.  
 In Jesus Christ, we are known.  
 We are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Extend arms outward.*

*Clinch fists and pull towards body.*

*Extend arms outward.*

*Clinch fists and pull towards body.*

*Extend arms outward.*

*Clinch fists and pull towards body.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing toward you,  
raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Raise both hands slowly.*

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# Third Sunday in Lent

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Color: Purple

Exodus 17:1–7	The people thirst and quarrel; God gives them water from a rock.
Psalms 95	Make a joyful noise to the Lord, the rock of our salvation.
Romans 5:1–11	Justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ.
John 4:5–42	Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.

---

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, you who are thirsty.	<i>Place open hands gently on chest,</i>
<b>Come, you who are thirsty.</b>	
Come, you who are weary.	<i>then slowly stretch outward, palms up.</i>
<b>Come, you who are weary.</b>	
Come, you who are longing.	
<b>Come, you who are longing.</b>	
Come to the well that never runs dry.	<i>Lift hands toward mouth as if drinking.</i>
<b>Come to the well that never runs dry.</b>	
Come and be filled by grace.	
<b>Come and be filled by grace.</b>	

23

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font*  
God meets us not in our greatest strength,  
but in our deepest thirst.  
Let us come with honesty to confess our sin,  
bringing the parts of ourselves that are dry, tired, and in need.  
God is already waiting at the well.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has been torn.*

Wellspring of life, <b>wellspring of life,</b> you meet us with love, <b>you meet us with love,</b> but we do not trust it.	<i>Place hands over heart.</i>  <i>Lower hands and turn palms outward.</i>
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**but we do not trust it.**

You offer living water,

*Place hands over heart.*

**You offer living water,**

but we choose what does not satisfy.

*Lower hands and turn palms outward.*

**but we choose what does not satisfy.**

Forgive us.

*Wipe one palm over another.*

**Forgive us.**

Quench our hearts

**Quench our hearts**

and renew our spirits.

*With palms facing toward you,  
raise both hands upward in front of you.*

**and renew our spirits.**

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water.*

Hope does not disappoint us

because God's love has already been poured into our hearts.

You are not condemned or forgotten.

You are held in grace.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.

*Raise both hands slowly.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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# Fourth Sunday in Lent

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Color: Purple

1 Samuel 16:1–13	Samuel anoints David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be king.
Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd; I will live in the house of God always.
Ephesians 5:8–14	Live as children of light; awake and rise, Christ will shine on you.
John 9:1–41	Jesus heals a man born blind; the Pharisees question him about sin.

---

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake, come into the newness of the day.  
**Awake, come into the newness of the day.**  
God welcomes us as we are.  
**God welcomes us as we are.**  
We are alert;  
**We are alert;**  
Our hearts are ready to receive.  
**Our hearts are ready to receive.**

25

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font*  
We confess not because God needs it,  
but because we do.  
Let us return to God,  
whose mercy meets us where we are.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has been torn.*

All-knowing God,  
**All-knowing God,**  
you give us compassion,  
**you give us compassion,**  
but we do not always receive it.  
**but we do not always receive it.**  
You are with us,  
**You are with us,**  
but we do not always notice.

*Place hands over heart.*

*Open arms.*

*Cover ears with hands.*

*Open arms.*

*Cover ears with hands..*

**but we do not always notice.**

You call us beloved,

**You call us beloved,**

but we do not believe you.

**but we do not believe you.**

Forgive us.

**Forgive us.**

Help us receive your grace

**Help us receive your grace**

and live as your people.

**and live as your people.**

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water.*

God is near,

naming us with love

and calling us forward in grace.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Open arms.*

*Cover ears with hands.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing you,  
raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Place one hand over heart.*

*Sweep the other hand as if clearing a path.*

*Raise both hands slowly.*

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# Fifth Sunday in Lent

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Color: Purple

Ezekiel 37:1–14      In a valley of dry bones, Ezekiel has a vision of hope for Israel.  
Psalm 130            Out of the depths I cry; the Lord has power to forgive and redeem.  
Romans 8:6–11      Set your mind on the Spirit, not the flesh; God will give you life.  
John 11:1–45        Jesus, the resurrection and the life, raises Lazarus from the dead.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

In ways that honor your soul and body,  
repeat after me as God gathers us.

We come with longing,  
**We come with longing,**  
out of the depths,  
**out of the depths,**  
into God's presence,  
**into God's presence,**  
toward life made new.  
**toward life made new.**

*Place one hand over heart.*

*Slowly extend both arms outward, palms open.*

27

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font*  
Even when all feels lost,  
we dare to name our lament and longing  
as God draws near.  
Trusting that God can hold it all,  
let us confess our sin with honesty and hope.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child  
or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has  
been torn.*

God, we bring you our sorrow  
**God, we bring you our sorrow**  
and you weep with us.

*Wipe hands across cheeks, as if drying tears.*

**and you weep with us.**

You hold our grief,

*Cross arms over chest.*

**You hold our grief,**

but we do not trust your care.

*Lower arms to sides.*

**but we do not trust your care.**

You call us by name,

*Cross arms over chest.*

**You call us by name,**

but we do not respond.

*Lower arms to sides.*

**but we do not respond.**

You invite us to rise,

*Raise arms.*

**You invite us to rise,**

but we stay wrapped in what has been.

*Lower arms to sides.*

**but we stay wrapped in what has been.**

Forgive us.

*Wipe one palm over another.*

**Forgive us.**

Unbind us and call us to new life.

*With palms facing you,*

**Unbind us and call us to new life.**

*raise hands upward in front of you.*

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water.*

Beloved of God,

there is no place so deep that God will not go with you,

no grief so wide that Christ will not meet you in it,

and no tomb so sealed that the Spirit cannot call you out.

You are unbound by love. *Raise hands slowly from sides to above shoulders,*

You are forgiven. *then open them wide, like a deep breath made visible.*

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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# Palm/Passion Sunday/ Sixth Sunday in Lent

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Color: Red and/or Purple

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

Psalms 118:1–2, 19–29 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 31:9–16 Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11 Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Matthew 26:14–27:66 After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

or Matthew 27:11–54 [abbreviated reading] Jesus is tried and crucified.

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29

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed is the One  
**Blessed is the One**  
who comes in love,  
**who comes in love,**  
who walks the way of sorrow,  
**who walks the way of sorrow,**  
who does not turn away.  
**who does not turn away.**  
Hosanna!  
**Hosanna!**  
Hosanna in the Highest!  
**Hosanna in the Highest!**

*Wave palm branches or wave one open hand.*

*Place one hand over heart.*

*Slowly lower palm branches.*

*Wave palm branches or wave one open hand.*

*Wave palm branches or wave one open hand.*

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font*  
We confess not because God needs it,  
but because we do.

Let us return to God,  
whose mercy meets us where we are.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has been torn.*

All-knowing God, <b>All-knowing God,</b> you give us compassion, <b>you give us compassion,</b> but we do not always receive it. <b>but we do not always receive it.</b>	<i>Place hands on heart.</i>
You are with us, <b>You are with us,</b> but we do not always notice. <b>but we do not always notice.</b>	<i>Open arms.</i>
You call us beloved, <b>You call us beloved,</b> but we do not believe you. <b>but we do not believe you.</b>	<i>Cross ears with hands.</i>
Forgive us. <b>Forgive us.</b>	<i>Open arms.</i>
Help us receive your grace <b>Help us receive your grace</b> and live as your people. <b>and live as your people.</b>	<i>Cover ears with hands..</i>
In Jesus' name. <b>In Jesus' name.</b>	<i>Open arms.</i>
	<i>Cover ears with hands.</i>
	<i>Wipe one palm over another.</i>
	<i>With palms facing you, raise hands upward in front of you.</i>

*Pour water.*

God is near, naming us with love and calling us forward in grace. In Christ, we are forgiven. <b>Thanks be to God! Amen.</b>	<i>Place one hand over heart, Sweep the other hand outward like clearing a path. Raise both hands slowly.</i>
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# Maundy Thursday

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Color: Purple (Until Church is Stripped)

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14 Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.

Psalms 116:1–2, 12–19 What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord's Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 Jesus washes the disciples' feet and gives a new commandment.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to worship around the table,  
**Come to worship around the table,**  
where love kneels to serve,  
**where love kneels to serve,**  
bread is broken,  
**bread is broken,**  
and we are made whole.  
**and we are made whole.**

*Stretch arms outward with palms up.*

31

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Near the font or beside a basin and towel*  
Even in the company of Christ,  
we deny we know him.  
Let us return to God, trusting the One  
who washes our feet and feeds our souls.

*In silence, tear paper or fabric and allow space for the sound to be heard. A child  
or youth might enjoy leading this. Keep silence for a time after the paper has  
been torn.*

Jesus, our Teacher,  
**Jesus, our Teacher,**  
you knelt to serve,  
**you knelt to serve,**  
but we prefer to stand.  
**but we prefer to stand.**

*Place both hands over heart.*

*Touch knees or bow head slightly.*

*Slowly raise palms to shoulder height.*

You broke bread with betrayers, *Hold one hand out flat as if offering something.*  
**You broke bread with betrayers,**  
but we guard our hearts. *Cross arms gently over chest.*

**but we guard our hearts.**

You love us fully,

**You love us fully,**

but we love only in part.

**but we love only in part.**

Forgive us.

**Forgive us.**

Wash us again.

**Wash us again.**

Make us your Body.

**Make us your Body.**

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water.*

The Christ who kneels to wash us  
is the same Christ who lifts us up.

In the name of Jesus,

you are loved and forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Invitation to the Table**

Beloved of God,

this is the table where Jesus gathered with friends

to wash tired feet,

to share sacred stories,

to offer bread and blessing.

This is the meal of mercy.

God knows every wound

and still saves a place for each of us.

Come not because you are certain,

but because you are hungry.

Come not because you are perfect,

but because you are loved.

This table is for all, for you.

*Touch one hand to heart, then the other.*

*Open palms, then slowly close into soft fists.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing you,  
raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Cup hands in front of you.*

*Raise both hands slowly.*

**Great Thanksgiving***The introductory dialogue may be included here:*

The Lord be with you ...

Holy God,  
 from the beginning you have provided  
 day and night,  
 the promise of a rainbow,  
 manna in the wilderness,  
 oil that never ran dry,  
 multiplied loaves,  
 steadfast love.  
 With your people in every time and place,  
 we praise your name and lift our hearts:

*Raise both hands in a wide arc.**The Sanctus may be sung or spoken:***Holy, holy, holy Lord...**

On this night,  
 we remember Jesus,  
 who tied a towel around his waist,  
 knelt in humility,  
 and washed the dust from our lives.

We remember how he broke bread  
 in the face of betrayal  
 and lifted the cup  
 In the shadow of suffering.

We remember his hands,  
**We remember his hands,**  
 breaking and offering.  
**breaking and offering.**  
 We remember his words,  
**We remember his words,**  
 spoken in love for all.  
**spoken in love for all.**  
 We remember his command  
**We remember his command**  
 to love one another  
**to love one another**  
 as he has loved us.  
**as he has loved us.**

*The words of institution may be spoken here.  
A memorial acclamation may be sung or spoken:  
Great is the mystery of faith ...*

Send your Spirit, O God,  
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup.  
Make them for us the presence of Christ,  
so we may be the presence of Christ  
to one another and to the world.

By your Spirit,  
make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in service to your love.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God,  
forever and ever. **Amen.**  
*The great Amen may be sung or spoken.*

34

#### **Words of Institution**

*For use at the invitation to the table,  
during the Great Thanksgiving,  
or at the breaking of the bread*

At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took bread, blessed it,  
broke it, and shared it with everyone,  
saying: This is my body, given for you.  
At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took the cup,  
saying: This cup is the promise  
that I will love you always.  
At this table, we look forward  
to the great meal we will share  
with the whole family of faith  
when Jesus comes again.

#### **Prayer After Communion**

Holy One,  
you have met us at the table.  
You have fed us with love broken and shared.  
You have washed us with grace that knows no end.  
Now send us into the world  
to serve with humility,  
to love without limits,  
and to remember who we are:  
your Body, your Beloved.  
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving: Sample Format for the Bulletin**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...With your people in every time and place,  
we praise your name and lift our hearts:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

...and lifted the cup  
In the shadow of suffering.

We remember his hands,  
**We remember his hands,**  
breaking and offering.  
**breaking and offering.**  
We remember his words,  
**We remember his words,**  
spoken in love for all.  
**spoken in love for all.**  
We remember his command  
**We remember his command**  
to love one another  
**to love one another**  
as he has loved us.  
**as he has loved us.**

Send your Spirit, O God,  
upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup...  
all honor and glory are yours, almighty God,  
forever and ever. **Amen.**

APRIL 3, 2026

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# Good Friday

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No Color

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.

Psalm 22

A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.

Hebrews 10:16–25

Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.

or Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.

John 18:1–19:42

Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come with trembling hearts

**We come with trembling hearts**

to remember the pain,

**to remember the pain,**

to feel the silence,

**to feel the silence,**

and to face the cost of love.

**and to face the cost of love.***Place hands over heart.**Open arms slowly toward the ground, palms down.*

36

**CONFESSION AND PARDON***Standing near a bare cross or seated low to the ground.*

On this day of shadows,

we confess what we would rather ignore.

Let us turn to God

who never withholds mercy,

even when we nail it to a tree.

God who knows pain,

**God who knows pain,**

you bore the weight of injustice,

**you bore the weight of injustice,**

but we turn away.

**but we turn away.**

You carried the cross,

**You carried the cross,**

but we choose comfort.

**but we choose comfort.***Touch forehead, then heart.**Lower hands slowly.**Turn head to the side.**Stretch arms outward in the shape of a cross.**Wrap arms around self.*

You cried out for us,  
**You cried out for us,**  
 but we stay silent.  
**but we stay silent.**

Forgive us.

**Forgive us.**

Uncover what we hide.

**Uncover what we hide.**

Soften our hardened hearts.

**Soften our hardened hearts.**

Hold us in your mercy.

**Hold us in your mercy.**

Through Christ our Savior.

**Through Christ our Savior.**

*Place hands over mouth.*

*Lower hands and bow head.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing toward you,  
 raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Silence may follow. Consider using a single chime or drumbeat.*

Even here, *kneeling or sitting by the cross or shrouded table.*  
 in the aching silence of Good Friday, *Cup your hands in front of you,*  
 grace does not vanish. *then raise them as if offering or receiving.*

Through Christ's wounds,  
 we are forgiven, held in God's love.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

# Season of Easter

# Liturgy

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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Let us pray for the Spirit to shine through the Word.

Risen Christ,	<i>Bring both hands to chest, palms facing up.</i>
<b>Risen Christ,</b>	
Break open our silence,	<i>Part hands slowly outward.</i>
<b>Break open our silence,</b>	
Speak peace to our fear,	<i>Touch heart with both hands.</i>
<b>Speak peace to our fear,</b>	
and help us trust your good news.	
<b>and help us trust your good news. Amen.</b>	

## RESPONSE TO HEARING THE WORD READ

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This is the Word of new life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Cross hands gently over chest or hands extended forward,  
 rocking slightly forward as a sign of receiving.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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Let us give thanks for all we offer and all we receive.  
*Open arms, palms facing upward, throughout the unison prayer.*

**Generous God,**  
**You have given us life;**  
**you have shown us love.**  
**We give what we can**  
**to grow what matters.**  
**Use these gifts to nourish joy,**  
**share justice,**  
**and build resurrection hope. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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*The introductory dialogue may be included here:*

The Lord be with you ...

We give you thanks, O God,  
for love that is stronger than death—  
safe passage through deep waters,  
a seed that sprouts from a stump,  
dry bones that rise up and dance.

*The Sanctus may be sung or spoken:*

With angels, saints, and all creation,  
we join the hymn that never ends:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord ...**

We give you thanks for Jesus,  
who is alive and right here with us—  
like bread when we are hungry,  
like water when we are thirsty,  
like a shepherd when we are lost.

*The words of institution may be spoken here.*

*A memorial acclamation may be sung or spoken:*

Great is the mystery of faith ...

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God,  
as we share this bread and cup—  
bring us together as one body,  
sharing the good news of Jesus  
and working for good in the world.

*Prayers of intercession may be included here:*

Hear our prayers for the world you love ...

Help us to show and tell  
the joy of new life in Jesus,  
life forever, and for everyone.

For the meal we are about to share  
and for every gift of your grace  
we give you thanks, O God,  
through Jesus, in the Spirit,  
now and always. **Amen.**

*The great Amen may be sung or spoken.*

**Words of Institution**

*For use at the invitation to the table,  
during the Great Thanksgiving,  
or at the breaking of the bread*

At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took bread, blessed it,  
broke it, and shared it with everyone,  
saying: This is my body, given for you.  
At this table, we remember  
how Jesus took the cup,  
saying: This cup is the promise  
that I will love you always.  
At this table, we look forward  
to the great meal we will share  
with the whole family of faith  
when Jesus comes again.

# Music

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## GATHERING

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**Call to Worship** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded, refrain, IN DIR IST FREUDE, GTG 242

Come into God's Presence, COME INTO HIS PRESENCE, GTG 413

Hallelujah, HALLELUJAH, GTG 590

**Opening Hymn** (Choose one for each service during the season.)

Jesus Christ is Risen Today, EASTER HYMN, GTG 232 (Easter Sunday)

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright, PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, GTG 254 (Easter 2)

**Gloria/Response to Forgiveness** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Glory to God/Gloria a Dios, MACHU-PICHU, GTG 585

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, stanza 3, LASST UNS ERFREUEN, ELW 367

You Have Put on Christ, BAPTIZED IN CHRIST, GTG 491

Alleluia, CELTIC ALLELUIA, GTG 587

42

## WORD

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**Hymn Responding to the Word** (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks, ALLELUIA NO. 1, GTG 240 (Easter Sunday)

Touch that Soothes and Heals, CIVILITY, ACS 939

## EUCHARIST

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**Doxology** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, OLD HUNDREDTH, GTG 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow, LASST UNS ERFREUEN, GTG 609

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, stanza 4, LASST UNS ERFREUEN, ELW 367

**Communion Hymns and Responses** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Feed Us Lord, FEED US, GTG 501

This is the Feast of Victory, FESTIVAL CANTICLE, GTG 513

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, LINSTEAD, GTG 526

## SENDING

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**Sending/Closing Hymn** (Choose one for each service of the season.)

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia, MFURAHINI, HALELUYA, GTG 251 (Easter Sunday)

In the Bulb There Is a Flower, PROMISE, GTG 250 (Easter 2)

**Benediction Response** (Choose one to sing throughout the season.)

Be Not Afraid, BE NOT AFRAID, GTG 243

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah, HALLE, HALLE, GTG 591

### *Playlist Link*

Use this QR code to access a Spotify playlist that includes recordings of many of these suggestions. This playlist can be shared with congregants, especially those with children, so that families can play music in the car or at home between services. This may help children to learn music for worship and feel more included during worship.



APRIL 5, 2026

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# Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Sunday

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Color: White and Gold

Acts 10:34–43	Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.
or Jeremiah 31:1–6	The prophet proclaims God's everlasting love and faithfulness.
Psalms 118:1–2, 14–24	I will not die, I will live; this is the day that the Lord has made.
Colossians 3:1–4	If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above.
or Acts 10:34–43	Peter testifies to Jesus' death and resurrection; Jesus is Lord of all.
John 20:1–18	At the empty tomb, the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene.
or Matthew 28:1–10	Women find Jesus' tomb empty; he has been raised from the dead.

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44

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Love has broken through!  
**Love has broken through!**  
 The stone is rolled away!  
**The stone is rolled away!**  
 We are alive with hope!  
**We are alive with hope!**  
 Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen!**  
 Christ is risen indeed!  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

*Raise both arms slowly upward, palms open—  
 as if lifting joy to the sky or reaching for new life.*

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Stand near the font, or hold a flower or branch.*

Even on Easter morning,  
 when joy meets us like the rising sun,  
 we carry sorrow and shame within.  
 Let us confess our brokenness  
 to the One who makes all things new.

*Silence*

God of resurrection,  
**God of resurrection,**  
 You call us by name,  
**You call us by name,**  
 but we do not always hear.  
**but we do not always hear.**  
 You open the grave,  
**You open the grave,**  
 but we are trapped by fear.  
**but we are trapped by fear.**  
 You offer joy,  
**You offer joy,**  
 but we cling to sorrow.  
**but we cling to sorrow.**  
 Forgive us.  
**Forgive us.**  
 Raise us to new life.  
**Raise us to new life.**  
 Help us trust the miracle and walk in your light.  
**Help us trust the miracle and walk in your light.**  
 In Christ's name we pray.  
**In Christ's name we pray.**

*Press hands over heart.*

*Place hands near ears, as if listening.*

*Gently shake head.*

*Lift both hands slowly from low to high.*

*Pull arms in close to body.*

*Stretch hands wide.*

*Fold arms across chest.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*With palms facing toward you,  
 raise hands upward in front of you.*

*Pour water into the font.*

Here is the Easter truth:  
 Love is stronger than death.  
 Christ is risen, and we rise with him.  
 In Jesus Christ,  
 we are made new, forgiven, and free.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

*Open arms into a wide embrace  
 Bring hands to your heart*

APRIL 12, 2026

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# Second Sunday of Easter

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Color: White and Gold

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

Peter addresses the people: Jesus is risen, and we are witnesses.

Psalm 16

You protect me from death, O God, and show me the path of life.

1 Peter 1:3–9

We have a new birth into a living hope through Jesus' resurrection.

John 20:19–31

Jesus shares the Holy Spirit; a week later, he appears to Thomas.

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## CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!

*Place both hands over heart,***Christ is risen!**

Christ is risen indeed!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

Even behind locked doors,

*Extend hands outward as if opening a door.***Even behind locked doors,**

Blessed are those

**Blessed are those**

who still dare to believe.

**who still dare to believe.**

## CONFESSION AND PARDON

*Stand near the font or a closed door.*Even when we are afraid,  
even when doubt weighs heavy,

God shows up,

bearing peace and offering grace.

Let us open our hearts and confess our need for forgiveness.

*Silence*

Risen Christ,

*Place hands over heart.***Risen Christ,**

We close the door in fear,

*Gently fold arms across chest.***We close the door in fear,**

but sometimes we shut you out too.

*Turn slightly away.*

**but sometimes we shut you out too.**

You come bearing peace—

**You come bearing peace—**

but we hold onto to our worry.

**but we hold onto to our worry.**

You offer new life—

**You offer new life—**

but we hold onto what is broken.

**but we hold onto what is broken.**

Forgive us.

**Forgive us.**

Unlock our hearts.

**Unlock our hearts.**

Fill us with your peace.

**Fill us with your peace.**

Make us witnesses to your love.

**Make us witnesses to your love.**

In Jesus' name.

**In Jesus' name.**

*Pour water into the font.*

Christ does not wait until we are ready.

He comes while the door is still closed,

speaks peace,

and breathes the Spirit upon us.

In Jesus Christ,

You are not condemned.

You are forgiven.

You are sent out.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Hold hands out to receive.*

*Clench fists*

*Hold hands out to receive.*

*Clinch fists.*

*Wipe one palm over another.*

*Place hands open and lifted slightly.*

*Cup hands as if receiving something.*

*Open arms wide to share.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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