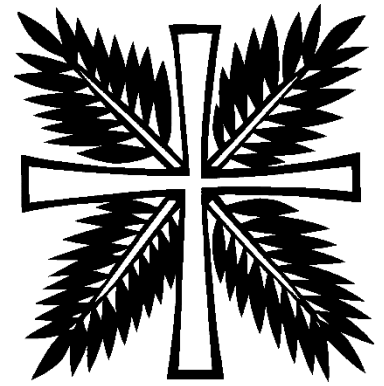


Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship



We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Holy City

Stephen Adams, Composer

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

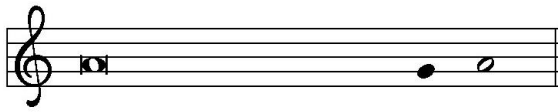
ELW # 344

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

***KYRIE**

ELW # S147



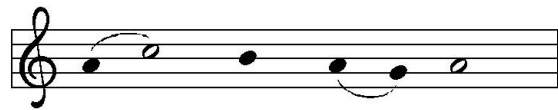
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



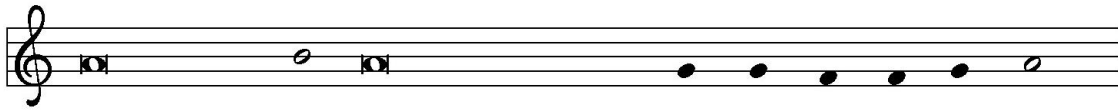
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

***HYMN OF PRAISE**

Glory to God

ELW # S148

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray ... Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 31:9-16 (read responsively)

⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**
¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances;
when they see me in the street they avoid me.
¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind;
I am as useless as a broken pot.**
¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.
¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.
I have said, “You are my God.**
¹⁵My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.
¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.”**

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW # S151b

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.

*Gospel: Mark 11:1-11

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, [Jesus] sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ just say this, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.’” ⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

“Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹¹Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. *C:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

Pastor Traci

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us confess our faith through 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 THE CHURCH**

A: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A: Blessed One, today the church sings glad hosannas as we enter Holy Week. Prepare us to bear witness to Christ's suffering and death endured for our sake. Gather your people around the cross and comfort us with resurrection hope. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Renew your good creation and protect the balance of life on earth. Encourage the work of foresters, scientists, arborists, gardeners, and river keepers. We pray for the health of pollinating insects, songbirds, and native plants. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Establish peace and justice among the nations. Hold to account any with authority to judge others. Grant that courts, legislatures, and local governments will serve with integrity and compassion. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Bring hope to any who feel forsaken or forgotten. Make a way for refugees and asylum seekers. Reunite families enduring separation. We pray for any who are incarcerated, institutionalized, or in foster care, that they may know your love. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Give energy and joy to pastors, deacons, worship leaders, and musicians. Bless baptismal candidates, their sponsors, confirmands, and teachers. Watch over those who travel. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Blessed One, our times are in your hand. Sustain us in discipleship throughout our lives and receive us into everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

***THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

A: Let us pray... Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **C: Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW # S152

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

***PROPER PREFACE**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***SANCTUS**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

ELW # S153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*P:*Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **C: Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed 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 tri - al
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. A - men.

***THE AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God

ELW # S154



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, grant us peace.

***INVITATION**

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

***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**

A: Let us pray... Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life **C: Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

P: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

Go to Dark Gethsemane

ELW # 347

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Share your bread. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The Palms

Jean Faure, Composer

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and
that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew
Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott
Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree
Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings
Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka
Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck
Our Sexton – Phil Claar
Our Assisting Minister – Elaine Smith
Our Lector – Peggy Steinfurth
Our Acolyte – Gavin Kuster
Our Usher – Melissa Fetzer
Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Jane Fagans
Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster
Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*Local Needs*”

This Week at St. Matthew:

814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon. – Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – *Palm Sunday*
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Worship & Music Meeting, Zoom 6:00 pm

Tuesday – Knotty Ladies, Quilting Room 12:30-3:00 pm

Wednesday – No Lenten Meal or Service.

Thursday – Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7:00 pm

Friday – Office Closed
Prayer Vigil 6:00 am-6:00 pm, at home
Tenebrae Service 7:00 pm

Sunday – *The Resurrection of Our Lord*
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Vivian Beach, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Ginny Sell, Bill Stahl.

Prayer Concerns: Dawn Alexy, Amy & Family, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Kaye Burket, Caleb, Diane Cappel, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry & Cathy Creek, Greg Dick, Pastor Sharon Erb, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Joe Harteis, Rodger Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Baby James, Darren Kreutzer, Linda Lehman, Kristen Malloy, Ruth Marshall, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Charles Minnick & Family, Nathan, Deb Peters, Bob & Annette Ritchey, Paul Ruth, Ron Short, Denny Smith (Shelly Hill), Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Craig Werner, Emily Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Pat Winston, Tom Woodrow, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.**

Away at School: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Camryn Gates, Elizabeth Haffling, Jeff Hoenstine.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for the Carl Alexy family upon his death on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting, along with the regular helpers, to distribute items on Thursdays, April 4 and 18. The pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m., and other times by appointment.



Following are the most needed items for April: Ravioli, Jello, Instant Oatmeal, Crackers and Cleaning Products

These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

Monetary gifts may be sent to our new mailing address:
P.O. Box 310, Martinsburg, PA 16662

Thank you!
Linda Smith

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024



Our Congregational Council has called a special **Congregational Meeting** for **Sunday, April 7**, immediately following the conclusion of worship, in accordance with Section C10.02 of our Constitution.

The sole business to be conducted at that meeting will be a vote regarding a proposal by the Property Committee to contract with **Snowberger Construction LLC** of **Martinsburg** to remove the existing concrete porch, ramp, steps and a portion of the sidewalk at the Maple Street entrance. They will then install a new concrete porch, steps, and ramp. The ramp will be wider with dual railings to bring it into ADA compliance.

The Property Committee solicited five bids for this work, as follows:

- Snowberger Construction LLC. \$10,935.00
- Cordell Construction \$11,600.00
- Valley View Builders \$12,065.00
- Dwayne Smith Construction \$12,475.00
- Ralph J Albarano - No Bid

Upon the removal of the worn carpet at the Maple Street entrance for replacement last summer, it was determined that the concrete underneath the carpet was deteriorating and would need replaced. Upon consultation with Russell Dickson of RGD Engineering, the Property Committee made a proposal for the necessary work. **At March's meeting, the Council expressed unanimous support for the Property Committee's proposal.**

If you have any questions before next Sunday's meeting, please contact our Property Committee Chair, Ed Kreider.

Welcome

We officially welcome Don and Christine Bulger to the St. Matthew congregation by letter of transfer.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, March 29th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. **There are two open slots that need to be filled: 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.** The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. **Please sign up by Monday, March 25th** If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 814-793-2413.

Church Messenger

The March 2024 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Office Closure During Inclement Weather



On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.

BLAIR-HUNTINGDON CONFERENCE

WACKY BOWLING

FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran
at PENN STATE



Fun Spin
on Bowling
No Skill
Required!



MORRISONS COVE
MEMORIAL PARK LANES

April
7
4-6PM

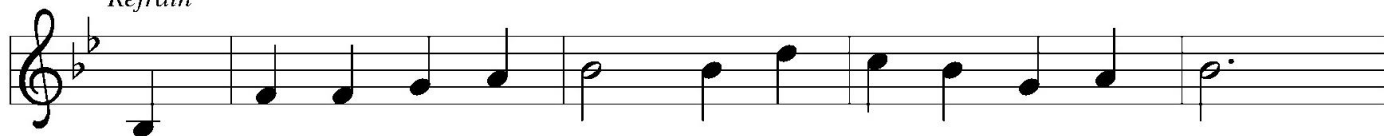
Suggested Donation **\$20**

Teams or Individuals

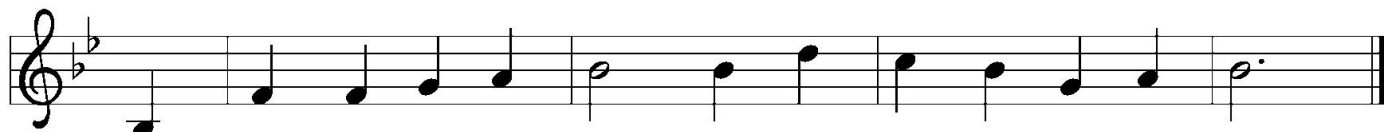
Walk-ins Welcome but Space is Limited

RSVP: blairhuntingdonlutherans@gmail.com

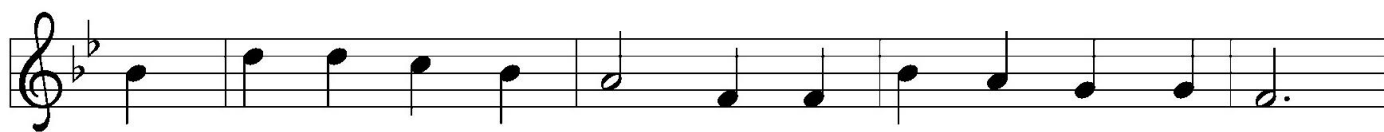
Refrain



All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or to you, re - deem - er, king,

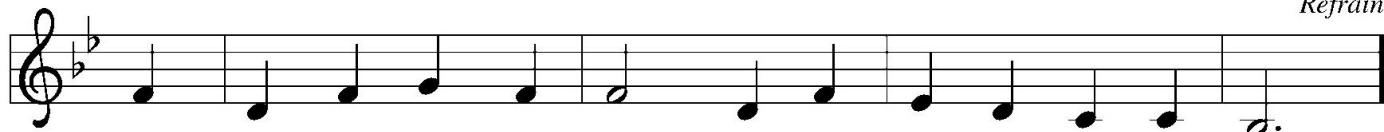


to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san - nas ring.



- 1 You are the king of Is - rael and Da - vid's roy - al Son,
- 2 The com - pa - ny of an - gels are prais - ing you on high;
- 3 The mul - ti - tude of pil - grims with palms be - fore you went;
- 4 To you, be - fore your pas - sion, they sang their hymns of praise.
- 5 Their prais - es you ac - cept - ed; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

Refrain



now in the Lord's name com - ing, our King and Bless - ed One.
 cre - a - tion and all mor - tals in cho - rus make re - ply.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore you we pre - sent.
 To you, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 great au - thor of all good - ness, O good and gra - cious King.

Text: Theodulph of Orleans, c. 760–821; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN, Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635

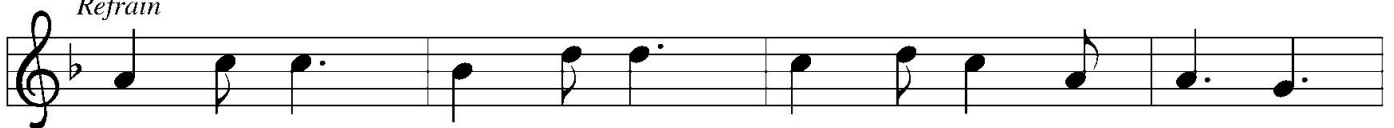


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

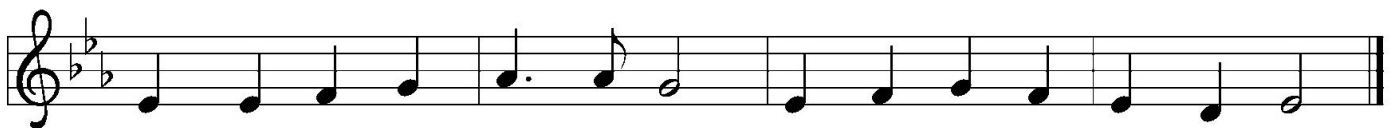
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath - less clay;



your Re - deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm - wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Music: GETHSEMANE, Richard Redhead, 1820-1901