# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany February 2, 2025

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

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 chur



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**

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

#### C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

*P*: God proclaims these words of assurance:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

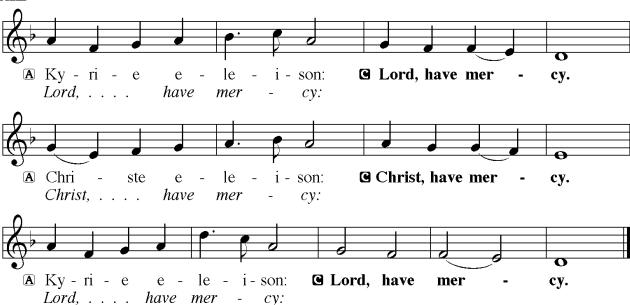
\*OPENING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#### \*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





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray ... Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen.

#### FIRST READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,

and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,

for I am with you to deliver you,

says the Lord."

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,

to pluck up and to pull down,

to destroy and to overthrow,

to build and to plant."

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

# PSALM 71:1-6 (read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup> In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.

<sup>4</sup> Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup> I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my strength; my praise shall be always of you.

#### **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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

#### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



# \*Gospel Luke 4:16-30

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>16</sup> When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- <sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."
- <sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' <sup>24</sup> And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. <sup>25</sup> But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; <sup>26</sup> yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. <sup>27</sup> There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

HOMILY Pastor Traci

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW # 723

#### \*APOSTLES' CREED

- A: 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: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
- A: God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness. Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- A: We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace, hear our prayer.
- A: We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**
- P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. 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 ... God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. C: Amen.

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

*P:* The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

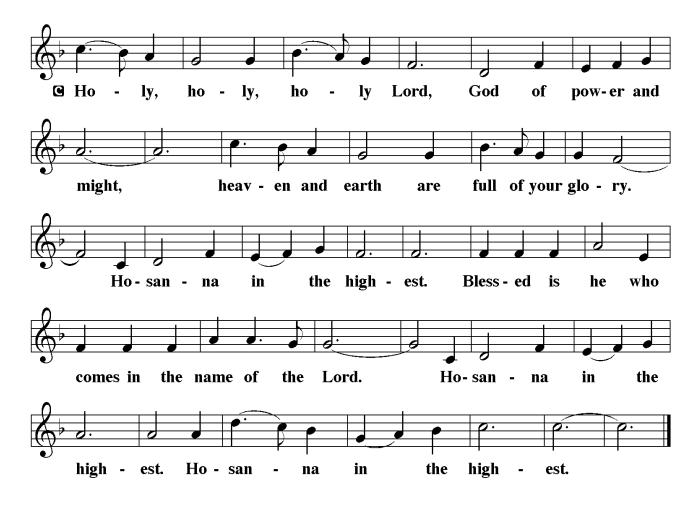
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### \*PROPER PREFACE

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. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. 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:



#### \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

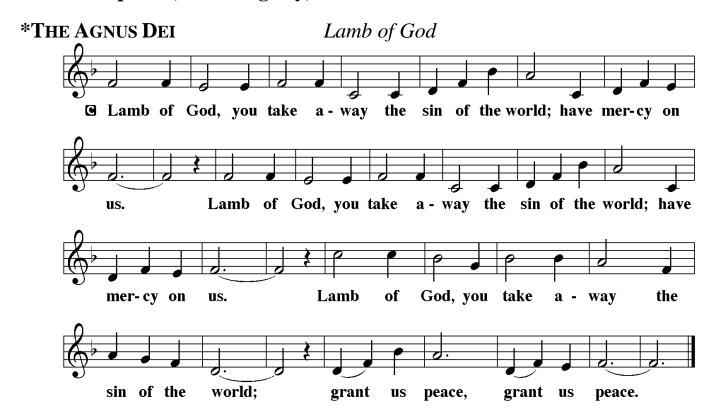
Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. *C*: Amen.

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

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

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW # 717

#### \*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... Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, C: Amen.

#### \*BENEDICTION

P: The Spirit of the triune God  $\oplus$  bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. C: Amen.

\*SENDING SONG

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW # 314

\*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope. C: Thanks be to God.

#### \*POSTLUDE

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**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of Carol Weyandt by Barry and Carla Brumbaugh.

# **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 Acolyte – Ben Decker

Our Assisting Minister – Stacy Kuster

Our Lector – Amanda and Ben Decker

Our Usher – Jeff Garner

Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Elaine Buchart

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 is on vacation 2/3–2/9.

In case of emergency call Pastor MJ Irvin-Stellabotte 814-934-9941.

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

#### **This Week Events**

**Today** – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Thursday – Food Pantry 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allegheny St.

Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Dr. Ramon Burket, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Ron Focht, Jim Fritz, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Pat Mountain, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Karyl Sawinski, Doug Smith, Margie Smith, Robyn Smith, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

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

Lutheran Disaster Response is one of the first organizations in and last organizations out of communities affected by natural and human-made disasters. 100% of gifts to LDR earmarked for a specific aid response help affected people in that area until recovery efforts are complete.



## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

# LOS ANGELES WILDFIRES

Scan to give online



Give through your congregation or make out your check to Lutheran Disaster Response and send it to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Lutheran Disaster Response" or "U.S. Wildfires" on your check's memo line.



## LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

# **HURRICANE HELENE**

Scan to give online



Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write "Where needed most" or "Hurricane Response" on your check's memo line.



# **Parish Directory**

Please submit changes to your address or telephone number to the office at 814-793-2413 or stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com ASAP so it can be included in the 2025 Parish Directory.

# Offering Envelopes

Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive offering envelopes (or if you would like to have your name/address changed or removed).

# **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.

# **Martinsburg Food Pantry**



Volunteers from Salem Church, along with regular volunteers, will be assisting with the distribution of food on Thursdays, February 6 and February 20, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am.



**The items most needed are:** Beverages, Fruit, Kidney Beans, Pasta Sauce, Paper Towels.

Many thanks to those that helped at the two Thursdays in January: Carla Brumbaugh, Lottie Ebersole, Sarah Detwiler, Nan Grove, Connie Lamborn, Peggy Steinfurth, and Audrey Stern! Also, we thank and appreciate the monetary gifts of \$130. from St. Matthew members!

Thanks and appreciation for your help!

Linda Smith

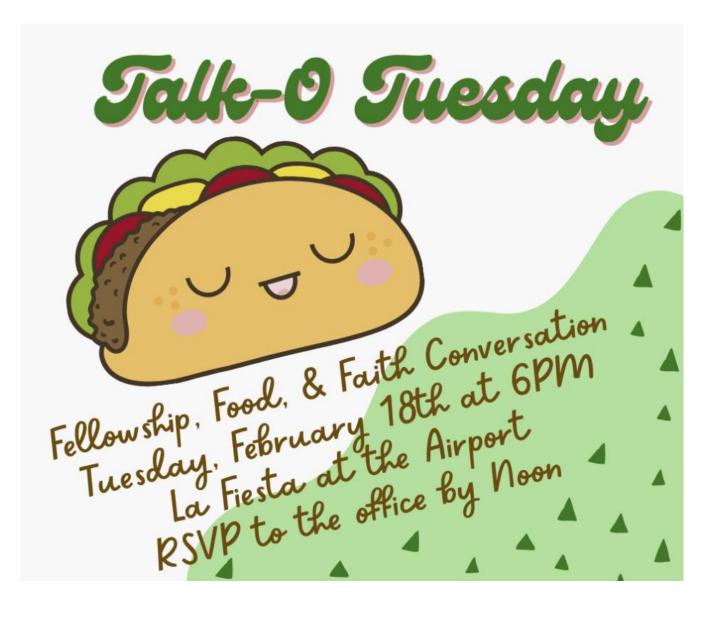
# **Church Messenger**

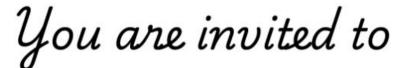
The February 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. 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.

#### **Altar Flowers**



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00







Who: Volunteers who want to serve their congregation by

bringing the sacrament to members at home

Where: St. Matthew Lutheran Church (Fellowship Hall)

115 E Penn Street, Martinsburg PA

When: Saturday, March 1st from 9AM to 11AM

Continental Breakfast is Provided

RSVP: Pastor Kevin Shock, Assistant to the Bishop

kevin.shock@alleghenysynod.com by February 25th

Suggested donation of \$5 to defray the cost of your home communion kit

#### \*OPENING HYMN P

#### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW #843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

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

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#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

#### Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW # 717



- Let jus tice flow like streams of spar-kling wa - ter, pure,
- Let righ teous ness roll oth - ers' as cares we heed, on
- So may God's plumb line, straight, de fine our mea - sure true,



en - a-bling growth, re - fresh-ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure. stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed. ev - er - flow - ing an peace per-vade this world our whole life through. and jus-tice, right, and

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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