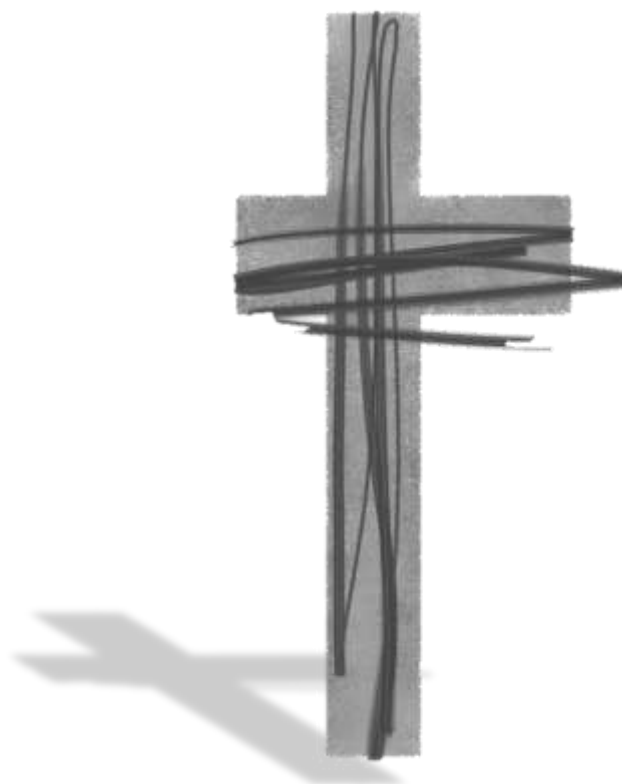


Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19th, 2023

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Variations on "Awake, O Sleeper"

-C. Gläser

***WELCOME**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Knowing that we turn from the light, let us bring our confession to God.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God;

We are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, pass judgement on others, and pursue what is unfruitful and sinful. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light, that we may see ourselves rightly, and do what is pleasing to you, that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. Amen.

Once we lived in darkness, but now we are called to what is good and right and true. Jesus, the Light of the world, gives us eyes to see; and through his mercy, forgives all our sins. A new life is ours, for Christ shines on us. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

520

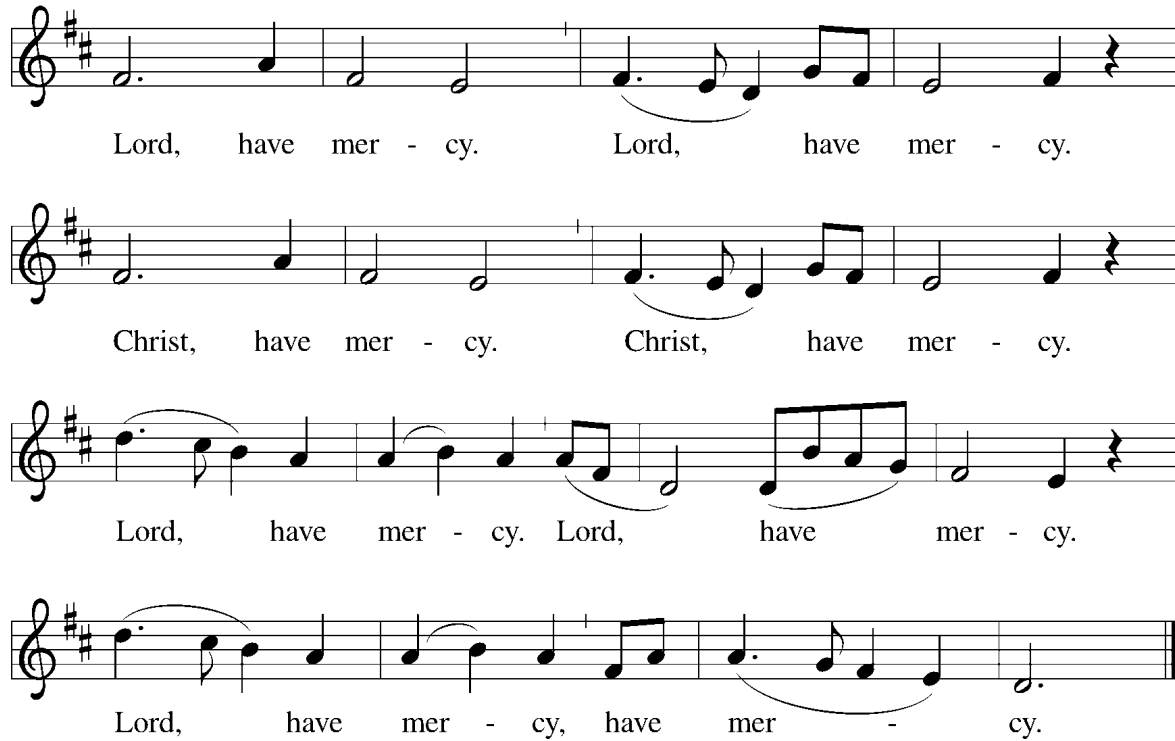
**Please Stand As You Are Able*

*APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you.

*KYRIE

152



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

WORD

PSALM 33:1-8

*Read responsively. Congregation reads **bold** type.*

¹Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous.

Praise is fitting for the upright.

²**Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make music for God with a ten-stringed harp.**

³Sing for the Lord a new song;
play your instruments skillfully with joyful sounds.

⁴**For your word, O Lord, is right,
and faithful are all your works.**

⁵You love righteousness and justice;
Your steadfast love fills the whole earth.

⁶**By your word were the heavens made,
by the breath of your mouth all the hosts of heaven.**

⁷You gather up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin;
and store up the depths of the sea.

⁸**Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all who dwell in the world stand in awe.**

SECOND READING *Ephesians 5:8-14*

A reading from Ephesians

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***LENTEN VERSE** *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now, verses 1 & 2* # 527

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise in

hearts in true de - vo - tion bow. Your
end - less hymns through all our days; in -

Spir - it send with light di - vine, and
crease our faith and light our minds; and

let your truth with - in us shine.
set us free from doubt that blinds.

***NARRATIVE GOSPEL READING** *John 9:1-41*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Amazing Grace*

779

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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

In this season of repentance, let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers we offer, O God, in the name of the One who endured the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Soul, Adorn Thyself With Gladness* -G.F. Handel

*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

In gratitude O God, we come to your table, bringing our offerings with gladness and gratitude, and sharing what we have so abundantly received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

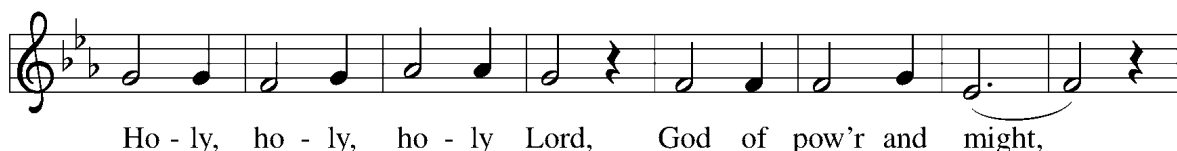
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PROPER PREFACE**

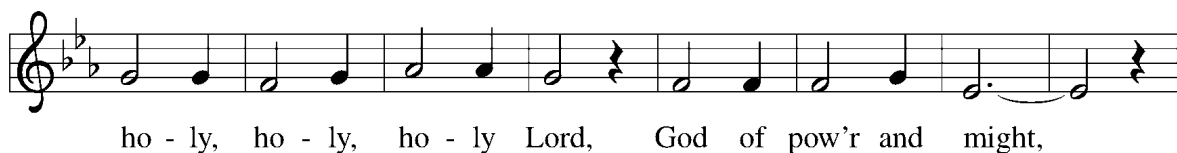
.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**


190



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



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



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

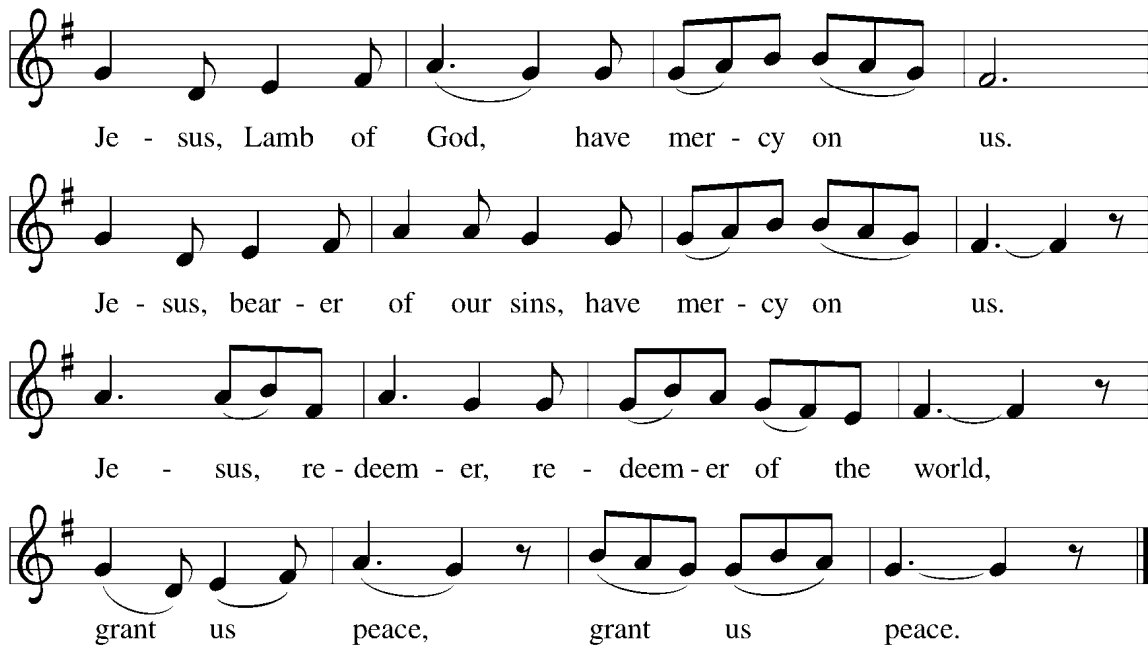
*LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

LAMB OF GOD

199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Please allow space between yourself and others.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you would like the communion elements brought to you in the pew.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the abundant gifts of grace and mercy you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the gift of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

Arise! Shine; for the light of Christ is upon you. May the love of God † Father, Son, and Spirit enable you to walk in this light in his name. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness # 843

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace; led by the cross of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D minor

-C. Fink

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Joanne Scanlon
Livestream Recorder.....	Andrew Spillane
Counters	Amy Irish, Jim Krapf
Ushers	Skip Waterstreet, Bob Heinig
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT FORUM AND COFFEE HOUR

****TODAY* at 10:45 a.m.***

Join us today as we welcome guest speaker Chris Scribani for a presentation and short video about the ministry of the Open Door Mission in Rochester.

FAITH-FILLED FUN DAY ON SUNDAY

****TODAY* 4:00-5:00 p.m.***

"Jesus Calms the Storm"

All children ages 2 through 6th grade are invited to participate in these afternoons of faith and fun. Join us for a new twist on faith formation for our Atonement children: a Vacation Bible School-type gathering once a month on Sunday afternoons! Each session will include story time, crafts, games, and snacks related to the Bible story of the day. We look forward to seeing you!

CHILDREN NEEDED FOR TWO SPECIAL CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

****TODAY* during worship***

A musical Children's Moment with David McCarthy and Hand Chimes.

Sunday, March 26th 9:30 a.m.

A skit about Ezekiel and Dry Bones involving children of all ages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Wednesdays, March 22nd, 29th

6:30 p.m. Cake, Coffee, and Conversation

7:00-7:30 p.m. Service of Evening Prayer and Candle Lighting

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, March 23rd, 30th

11:00-12:00 Noon in the Church Library

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Saturday, March 25th, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon

This workshop is designed for children in Grades 1-4 who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Join us for communion instruction, a craft, and an opportunity to make communion bread! Parents are invited to join us for the last half hour of class.

Children who attend the workshop will be invited to receive their First Communion on Sunday, March 26th at our 9:30 a.m. service.

Please contact Pastor Gail to sign up your child.

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT: Birthday Cake Bags

Help us provide a special treat for families in need with a ***'Birthday Cake Bag'***. Each bag provides supplies for a birthday cake celebration. *We will be collecting these bags in the church narthex during Lent (through Palm Sunday, April 2nd).*

See the display in the narthex for details. Place all items into a paper bag/tote bag with handles (gift bags work well, and they can also be used to give a gift).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPRING DIRECTORY UPDATE

We are updating our Church Directory for Spring!

If you have any corrections or changes to your name, address, phone, or children's names, or don't see yourself or your child on our monthly birthday lists, please contact the church office by Sunday, March 26th.

We will have updated copies of the Directory available in the narthex on Sunday, April 2nd.



IT'S TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!

Easter flowers are available to order in honor or in memory of a loved one. The plants will decorate the altar area on Easter morning and may be taken home following worship.

Deadline to order: Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

Given By: _____

Number of plants: _____ @ \$8.00 each = total \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

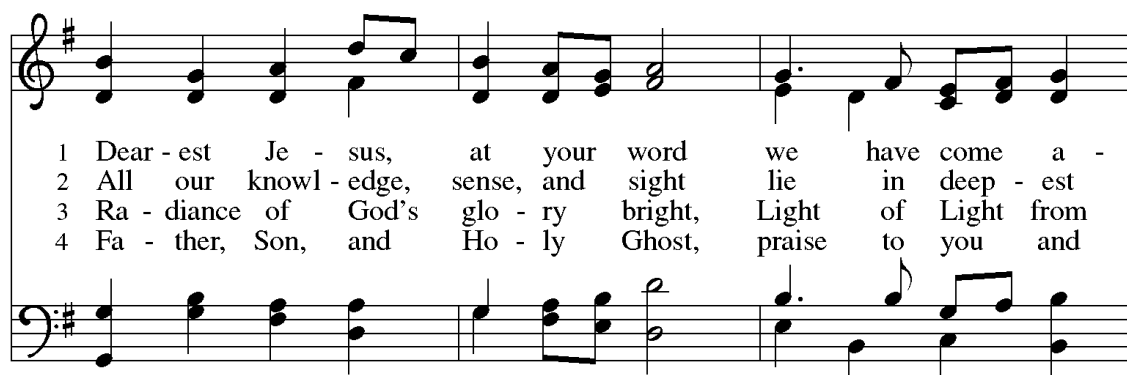
In Honor of: _____

Please return this form with payment to the church office.

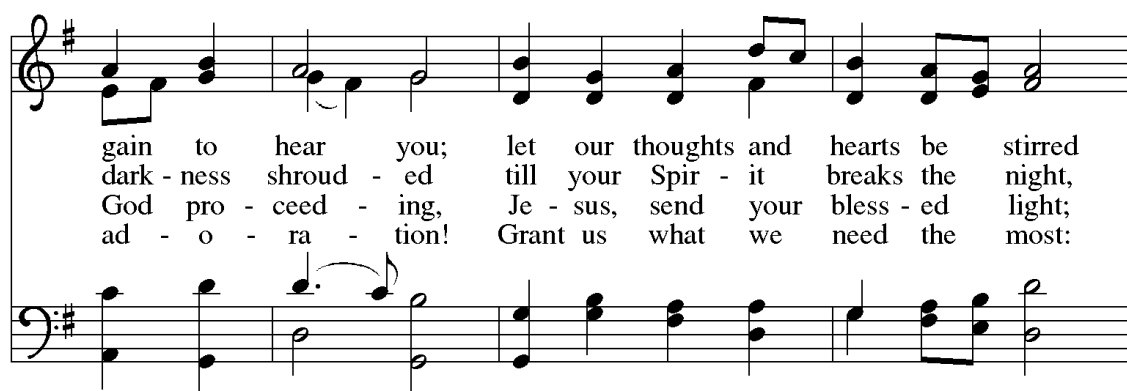
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Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



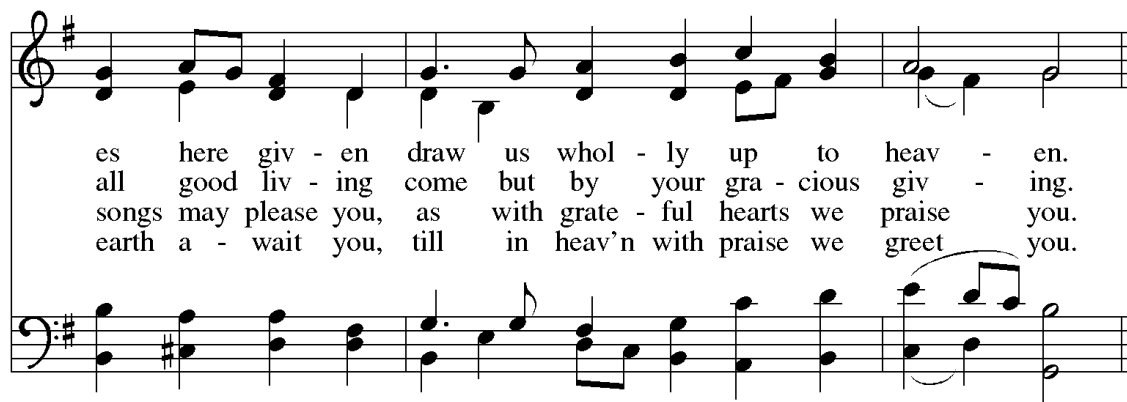
1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

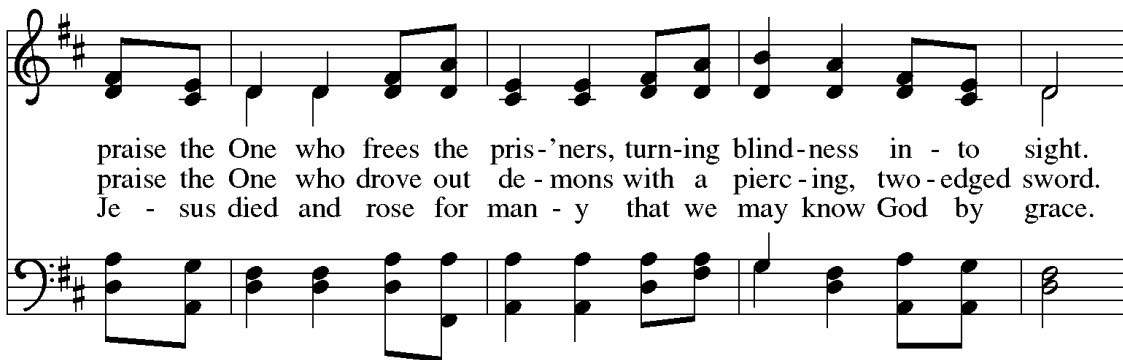
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

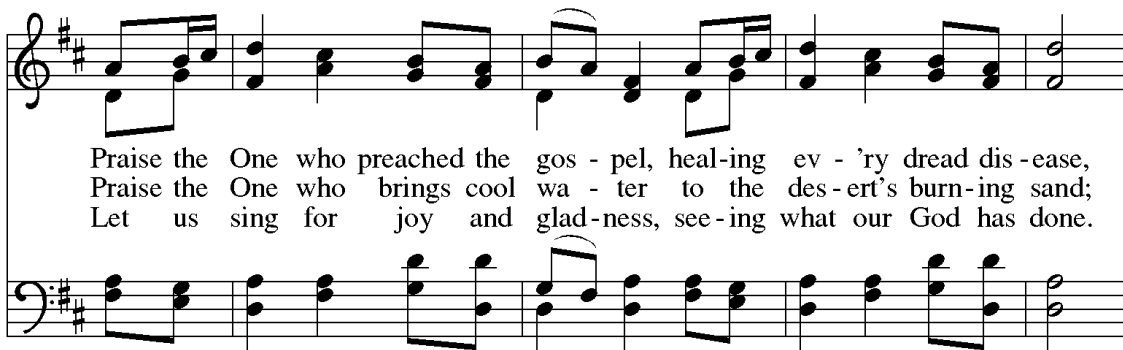
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



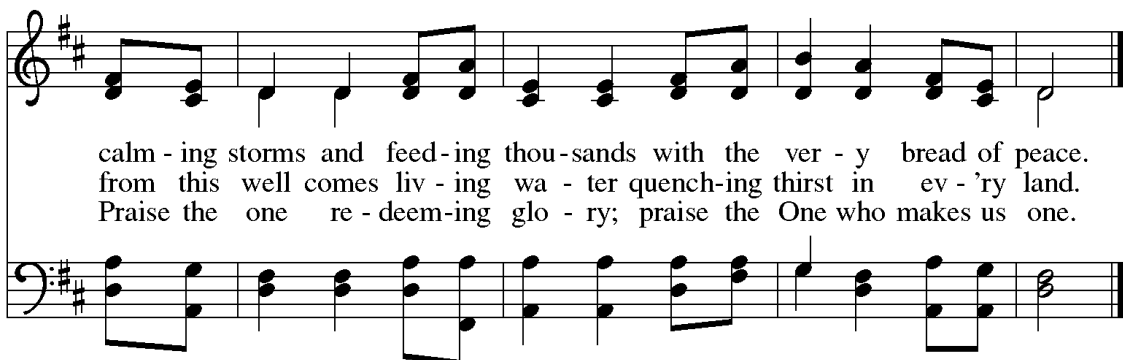
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



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.

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell : (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation

or learning more about our ministries,

please speak to our Pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

***Invite** all people into the presence of the living God,*

***Prepare** for ministry in daily life and*

***Go** into the world as disciples*

Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

"Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light."

Ephesians 5:8



Visit our web site at: www.atonementrochester.org
Follow us on Facebook: fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/
Contact us via Email: office@atonementrochester.org
Call us via phone at: (585) 442-1018
Office hours: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs