

# Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



## Word and Sacrament

*“Little Church with a BIG Heart”*

**Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church**

February 1, 2026 11:00AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## **Welcome to Worship!**

This morning we celebrate the **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red hymnals in the pews.

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

## **Holy Communion**

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, you will come up to the Altar and receive the elements.

## **Praying People**

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

## **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

## **Announcements**

We will have a **children's sermon** today. Afterwards, children will leave for the **nursery**.

The parish **Annual Meeting** will be held downstairs immediately after service today. All voting members are expected to be present. Those not eligible to vote may observe the meeting. We thank the Council members who are ending their terms for their faithful service.

The deadline for submitting material for the Lent/Easter **newsletter** is February 3.

Council will meet at **The House Next Door** on Saturday at 10 a.m. for a retreat.

**Bible study** will begin February 22.

The **Eternal Candle** is lit in January in memory of Richard Polak, donated by Lora Maurer.

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community in need.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell/Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness***

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

C Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C you call us to life in community,  
but we have served our own interests  
at the expense of our neighbors.

We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.

We say the right words,  
but our hearts are far from you.

Turn us to seek your face.

Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,  
that we may do justice, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.

C Amen.

**P** The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name.  
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.  
**C** Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW # 522

## As We Gather at Your Table



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

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## APOSTOLIC 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Canticle of Praise



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.

## **Prayer Of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## **Children's Sermon and Nursery**

### **WORD**

**A** I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

**C** **Amen.**

## **First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup> “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab  
devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

<sup>6</sup> “With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 15**

A <sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your holy hill?

C <sup>2</sup> **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,  
who speak the truth from their heart;**

A <sup>3</sup> they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to  
their friends;  
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

C <sup>4</sup> **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor  
those who fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take  
back their word.**

A <sup>5</sup> They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they  
take bribes against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

<sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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### Gospel Acclamation



P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 5<sup>h</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

## **SERMON**

**Hymn of the Day:** ELW # 725

# When the Poor Ones

## *Cuando el pobre*



1 Cuan-do\_el po-bre na-da tie-ne y\_aún re-par-te,  
 1 When the poor ones, who have noth-ing, still are giv-ing;  
 2 When com-pas-sion gives the suf-f'ring con-so-la-tion;  
 3 When our spir-its, like a chal-ice, brim with glad-ness;  
 4 When the good-ness poured from heav-en fills our dwell-ings;



cuan-do al-guien pa-sa sed y\_a-gua nos da,  
 when the thirst-y pass the cup, wa-ter to share;  
 when ex-pect-ing brings to birth hope that was lost;  
 when our voic-es, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
 when the na-tions work to change war in-to peace;



cuan-do\_el dé-bil a su her-ma-no for-ta-le-ce:  
 when the wound-ed of-fer oth-ers strength and heal-ing:  
 when we choose love, not the ha-tred all a-round us:  
 when our long-ings, free from en-vy, seek the hum-ble:  
 when the strang-er is ac-cept-ed as our neigh-bor:

### *Refrain / Estribillo*



Va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar;  
 We see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way;



va Dios mis-mo en nues-tro mis-mo ca-mi-nar.  
 we see God, here by our side, walk-ing our way.

2 Cuando alguno sufre y logra su consuelo, 3 Cuando crece la alegría y nos inunda,  
 cuando espera y no se cansa de esperar, cuando dicen nuestros labios la verdad,  
 cuando amamos, aunque el odio nos rodee: cuando amamos el sentir de los sencillos:  
 Estribillo Estribillo

4 Cuando abunda el bien y llena los hogares,  
 cuando alguien donde hay guerra pone paz,  
 cuando "hermano" le llamamos al extraño:  
 Estribillo

Text: José Antonio Olivar, b. 1939; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951

Music: EL CAMINO, Miguel Manzano, b. 1934

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## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you**

## Apostle's Creed

P Let us all affirm our faith by using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS

Each petition ends:

A Merciful God, C **receive our prayer.**

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries (*especially Faith in New Jersey and Resistencia en Acción and those seeking justice in Minnesota*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation, *especially Palestine, Sudan, and the United States*. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way (*especially Joe, Nick, Bob, Justin, Billy, Gloria, Rosemary, Nelson, Tom, Shirley, Rich, Heather, Barb, and Gail*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; We pray for our Bishop Christa Compton; We also pray for the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays, and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

At this time, you may offer up prayers for loved ones, thanksgivings to God, or any other intercessions silently or aloud... **(Pause)** Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**(PASTOR)** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.  
**C    Amen.**

## THE OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

A God of majesty,  
no eye has seen, no ear has heard  
what you have prepared for those who love you,  
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.  
Use what we have gathered  
to feed us with the reign of God come near,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
C **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

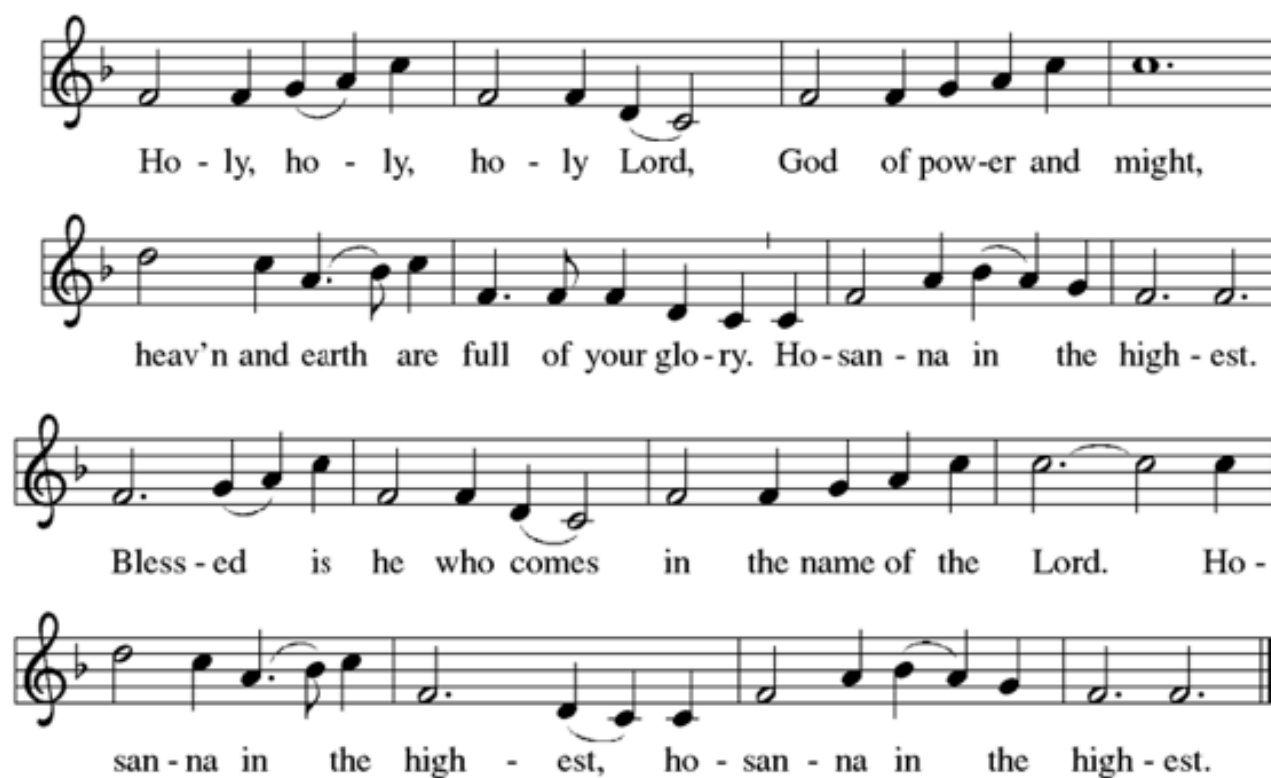
P The Lord is here.  
C **His Spirit is with us.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
C **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

## *PREFACE*

P All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God,  
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your glory  
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi  
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.  
In the waters of baptism  
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,  
the Savior sent to redeem us.  
In the water made wine  
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.  
Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise.



## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**C    Amen.**

### Lord's Prayer

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

**C    Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive  
us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us; and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil – for thine is the kingdom, the  
power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P**    Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

*All are welcome at God's Table. If you would like to share in communion with us today, you are more than welcome to do so. There are no prerequisites at God's table and nothing we do to earn a seat at the table, it is freely given to us by God. Please, come and eat!*

Distribution

## **TABLE BLESSING**

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Radiant God,  
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In the sacrament of his body and blood  
you have drawn us to your heart.  
Send us from this table with delight,  
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,  
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

**+Sending+**

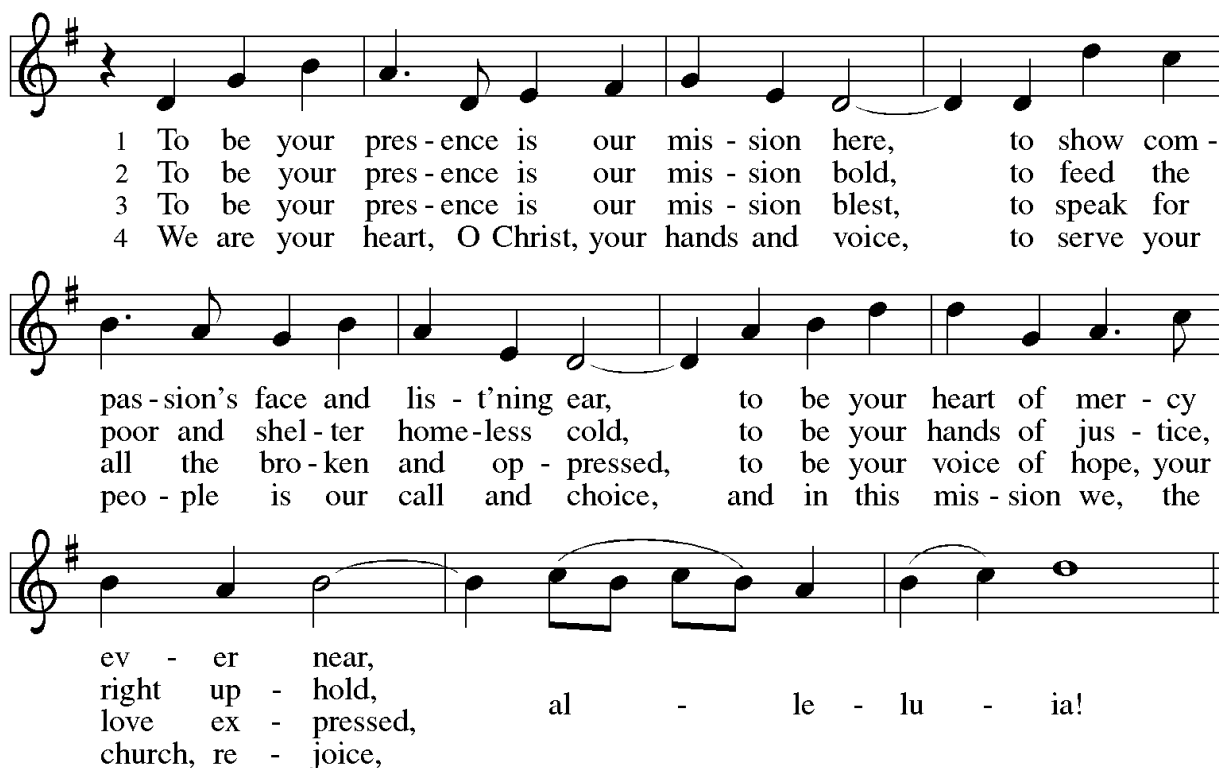
## **Benediction**

P May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✚ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** ELW # 546

## To Be Your Presence



1 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion here, to show com -  
 2 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion bold, to feed the  
 3 To be your pres-ence is our mis-sion blest, to speak for  
 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice, to serve your

pas-sion's face and lis-t'ning ear, to be your heart of mer-cy  
 poor and shel-ter home-less cold, to be your hands of jus-tice,  
 all the bro-ken and op-pressed, to be your voice of hope, your  
 peo-ple is our call and choice, and in this mis-sion we, the

ev-er near,  
 right up-hold, al-le-lu-ia!  
 love ex-pressed,  
 church, re-joice,

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924

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## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Postlude