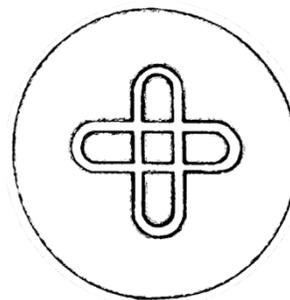


St Mark Lutheran Church

Service of Holy Communion



Welcome to this divine service of worship!

Plain font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by worship leaders.

Bold font indicates portions of the liturgy shared by the congregation.

The obelisk (†) invites the congregation to stand as it is able.

The double obelisk (‡) invites the congregation to kneel or sit as it is able.

March 1, 2026: Second Sunday in Lent

9:00am & 11:00am

Prelude: *Lament*

Frederik Magle

Preparation for Worship

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

‡Confession and Forgiveness

Gathered in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
let us sit or kneel and confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for personal reflection.)

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, my siblings in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, my siblings in Christ, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

†Hymn: *O God of Mercy, God of Light*

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

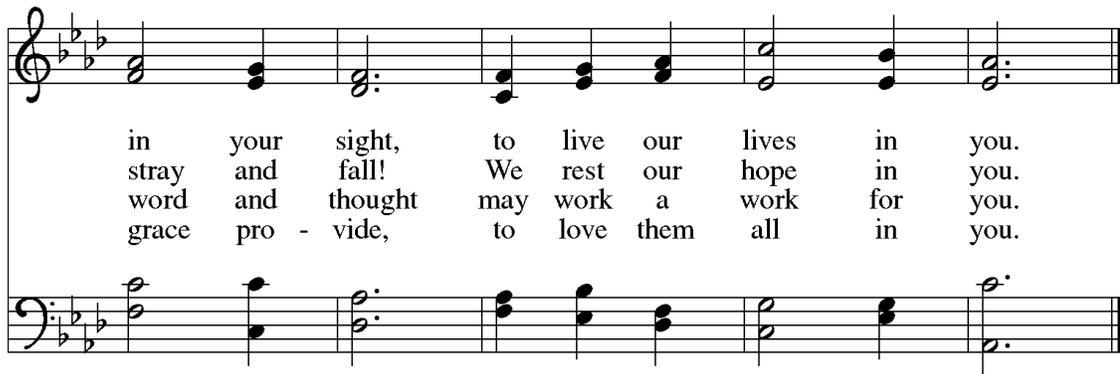
Tune: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896; descant: S Kim



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

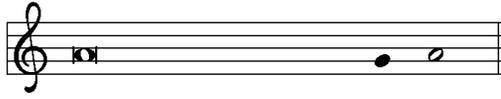
5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

†Greeting

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

†Kyrie



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.



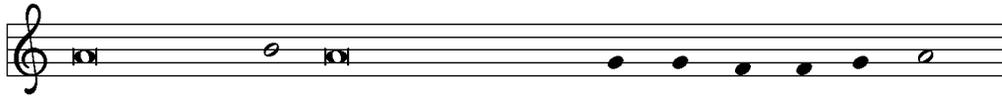
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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,

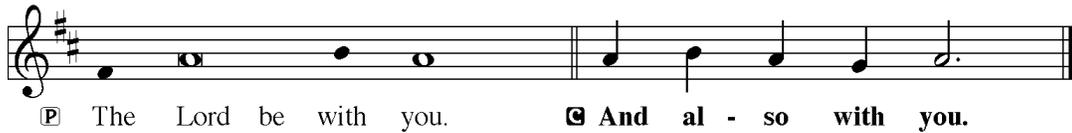


let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

†Salutation & Prayer of the Day



Eternal God, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading: *Genesis 12:1-4a*

A reading from Genesis:

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

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

Psalmody: *Psalms 121*

metrical text: JSN



Unto the hills have I lift- | ed my eyes.
Where is my help to come? Out | from the skies?
But from the Lord who made heav- | en and earth:
there is my Helper, who la- | bored my birth.

**Love will not suffer your foot | to be moved.
God, who is Love, who has helped | you, has proved
Israel’s God neither slum- | bers nor sleeps.
Waking, behold: you, the treas- | ure Love keeps.**

Here at the height of the heat | of the day,
yours is the Lord who will shade | your own way;
therefore, the sun will not strike | you to smite,
neither the moon's subtle chill | give you bite.

Oh, but the Lord will preserve | you from death.
Soul, see the Lord will preserve | your own breath.
Where you breathe out and, too, where | you breathe in,
ever the Lord will preserve | you. Amen.

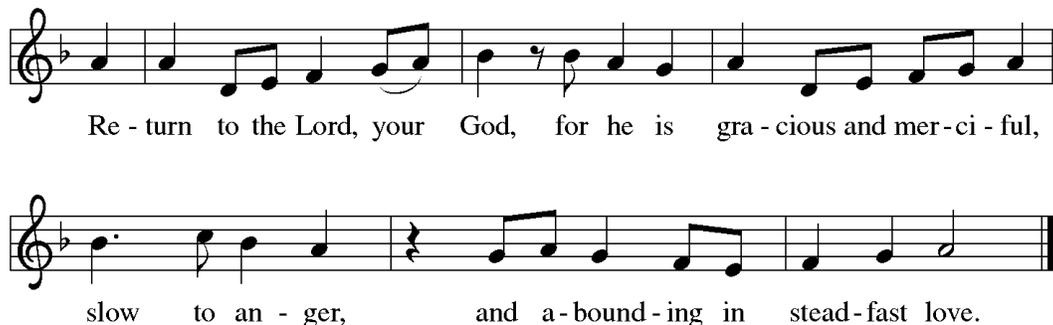
Second Reading: *Romans 4:1-5, 13-17*

A reading from Romans:

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

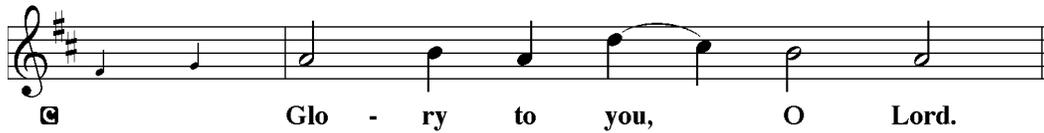
†Lenten Acclamation:



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: *John 3:1-17*

The holy gospel according to John.



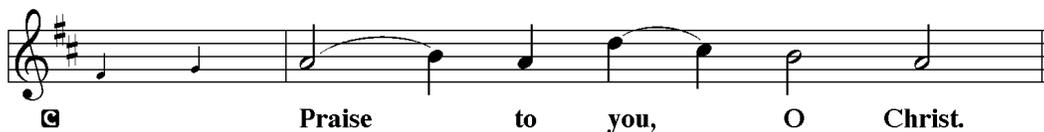
Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.



†Hymn: *Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue*

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b 1951
Tune: O WALY WALY, English traditional



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel's tongue, my faith, my
2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
see: then we will see love face to face.
mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

†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 of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of sacred artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Word Made Flesh to be our safety. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Be gentle with all whom we remember aloud on our lips and silently in our hearts including.... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which lifts this whole world to resurrection safety by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. Amen.

†Peace and Offering Prayer

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

Our offering is given for the mission of the church, and caring for those in need. Offerings may be shared in the plates at the doors of the sanctuary or online by using this QR code with your smart device. As partners in ministry, we thank God for our shared commitment!



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?

I will of-fer the sac-ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will call on the

name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal - va - tion and will

call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,

in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

†Great Thanksgiving (*Dialogue, Preface, Sanctus, Eucharistic and Lord's Prayers*)

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: "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.", and "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

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:

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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "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", and "in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est."

El Shaddai,
God Most High,
as Christ from the waters of baptism and the wilderness of temptation,
as Christ on the cross and the rubble of the overturned temple,
as Christ in the garden of new life and the glory of ascension,
so have you ever raised up wheat from seed and vine from root,
life from dust and prayer from your people on earth.

We thank you for raising, restoring and remembering us to unity
in our Lord Jesus Christ, who, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread,
gave thanks, broke it and gave it for them to eat, 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 them to drink, saying,
“Take and drink, this cup is the new testament in my blood, shed for you and all
people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering Christ’s life, death, resurrection and ascension, we bless your grace
and exercise our salvation with fear and trembling
to take up Christ’s cross and follow.

Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
that we may receive Jesus’ body and blood in, with and under them;
and make us one in Christ, that your own holy prayer be met by your own holy grace,
that we be one, as you are one in love.

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

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



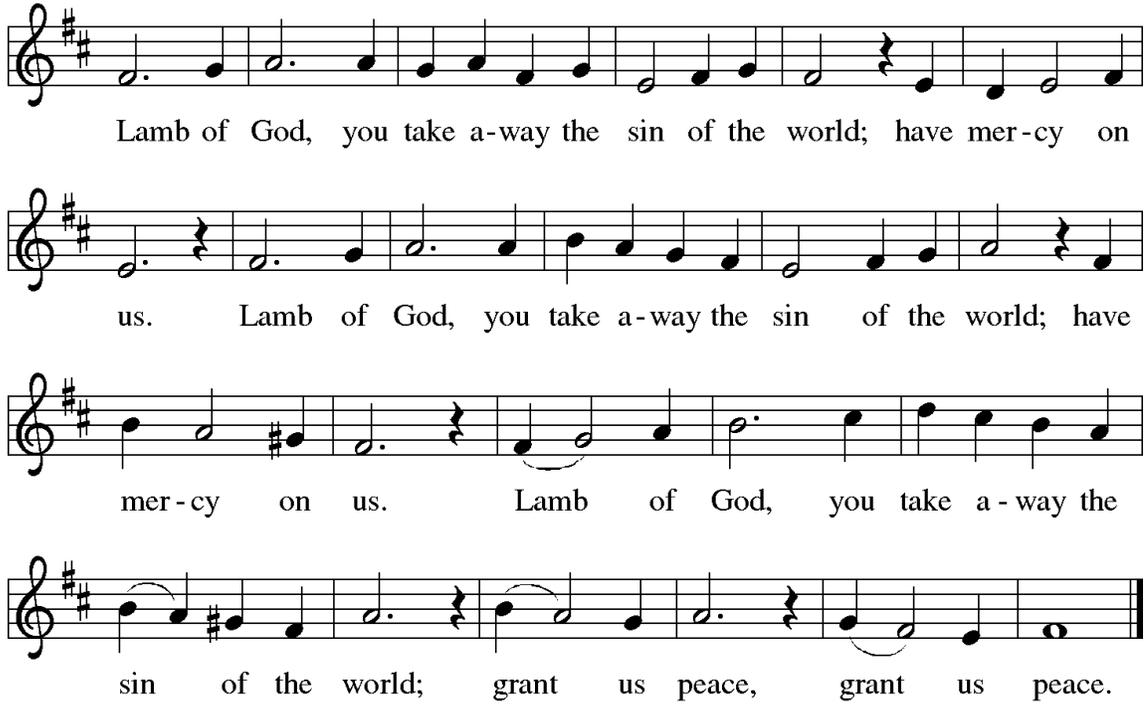
Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

†Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei



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.

Communion — *please see back cover for a note on receiving Holy Communion.*

Communion Music: *Prayer for Guidance*

Allen Pote

†Post Communion Blessing

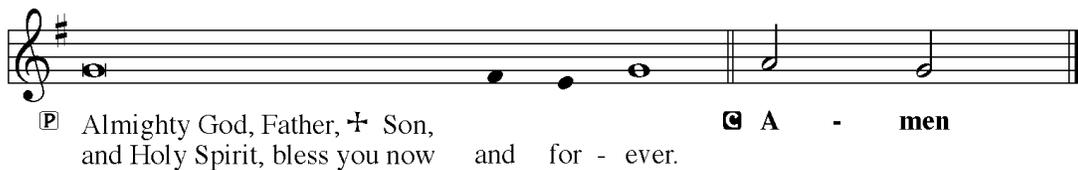
The body & blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you & keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

†Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

†Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever. A - men

†Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

†Dismissal — *from Romans 12:1-2*

I urge you, kindred, by God's mercies: Be not conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *O Love, How Deep*

Kristina Langlois

A Note on Receiving Holy Communion

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice eucharistic hospitality. We invite all baptized Christians to receive Christ's body and blood; all are welcome to receive God's blessing. We trust "a person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sin,' is really worthy and well prepared" to receive this sacrament.

We share Christ's body and blood in bread and wine. After washing hands, our pastor dips the host in the cup to offer the bread and wine together; for the host without wine, please ask the pastor or lay a hand on your chest. Christ is fully present in each of the elements.

Communicants come forward to the feast in continuous procession. Christ is for you.

PJ's reflection on the Gospel: John 3:8 —

"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

His mention of the wind is wonderful
while nuzzled— cuddled closely in the dark—
I smell his breath but cannot see his spark
of open eyes while shadows plunder, pull
my scouring senses out from under me—
he whispers— and I trace his whispers' mark
across my body— and I face a stark
reality: the wind, the thunder, the
electric lightning of a hurricane
that, clouded, blows unseen does not remain
in static place to show its origin
or destination, yet I feel it in
its moment— and I feel this love tonight,
diving questions as they come, is right.

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Parish Administrator: Amanda Kral / akral@smlconline.org
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Handbell Choir Director: Gail Teigeler / handbells@smlconline.org
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