

St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

PRELUDE.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Music Director

THE ANGELUS

The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.

The first three bells



V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,
R. *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death.

The second three bells

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. *Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The third three bells

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. *And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

The nine bells



V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN



1 There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the wide - ness
2 There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - surc



of the sea; there's a kind - ness in his jus -
up in heaven; there is no place where earth's fail -
of the mind; and the heart of the E - ter -



stice, which is more than lib - er - ty. There is wel - come
ings have such kind - ly judg - ment given. There is plen - ti -
nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind. If our love were



for the sin - ner, and more gra - ces for the good; there is mer - cy
ful re - demp - tion in the blood that has been shed; there is joy for
but more faith - ful, we should take him at his word; and our life would



with the Sa - vior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
all the mem - bers in the sor - rows of the Head.
be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.



Interlude/Conclusion

Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863), alt. Music: *St. Helena*, Calvin Hampton (1938-1984). Copyright © 1977, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND CONFESSION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People **God's mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A brief silence is kept.

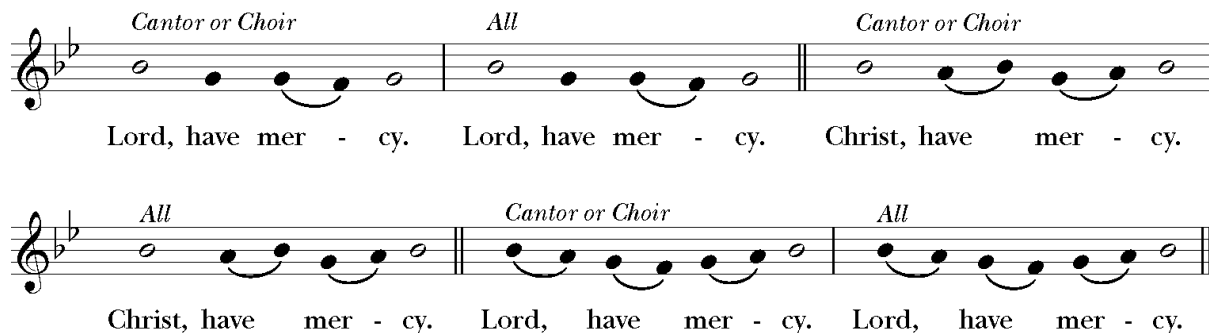
Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON



The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains three measures: the first measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The second staff contains three measures: the first measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the second measure is marked 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4; the third measure is marked 'All' and contains the notes G4, A4, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: 'Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.' on the first staff, and 'Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.' on the second staff.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING.....*Joshua 5:9-12*

A Reading from the Book of Joshua:

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32 (*chanted in unison*)

- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are for|**given**, *
and whose sin is put a|**way**!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no | **guilt**, *
and in whose spirit there is no | **guile**!
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered a|**way**, *
because of my groaning all day | **long**.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and | **night**; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of | **summer**.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my | **sin to you**, *
and did not conceal my | **guilt**.
- 6 I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the | **Lord**.” *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my | **sin**.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of | **trouble**; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not | **reach them**.

- 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from | **trouble**; *
you surround me with shouts of de|**liverance**.
- 9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should | **go**; *
I will guide you with my | **eye**.
- 10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no under|**standing**; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay | **near you**.”
- 11 Great are the tribulations of the | **wicked**; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the | **Lord**.
- 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the | **Lord**; *
shout for joy, all who are true of | **heart**.

THE EPISTLE.....2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Godself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making God’s appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott
Music: William Bradley Roberts

O come to my heart, Lord Je - sus! There is
room in my heart for thee. O thee.

THE GOSPEL.....Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So Jesus told them this parable:

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

THE SERMON.....The Rev. Matthew Wright

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The People respond to each petition, “Hear our prayer.”

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days and grew closer to you in the wilderness: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

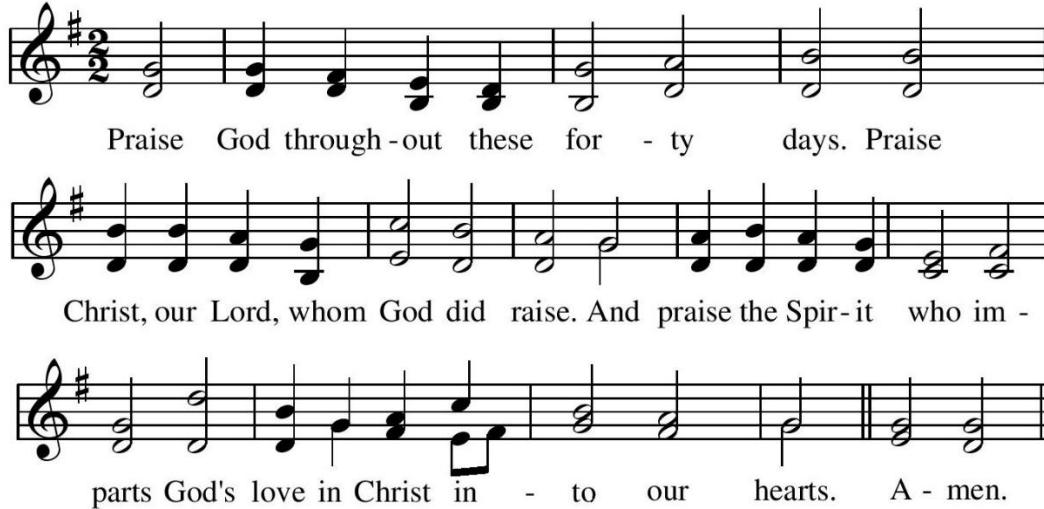
THE PEACE

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

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Parish announcements may be made.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (sung by choir)

DOXOLOGY (sung by all, standing in body or spirit)

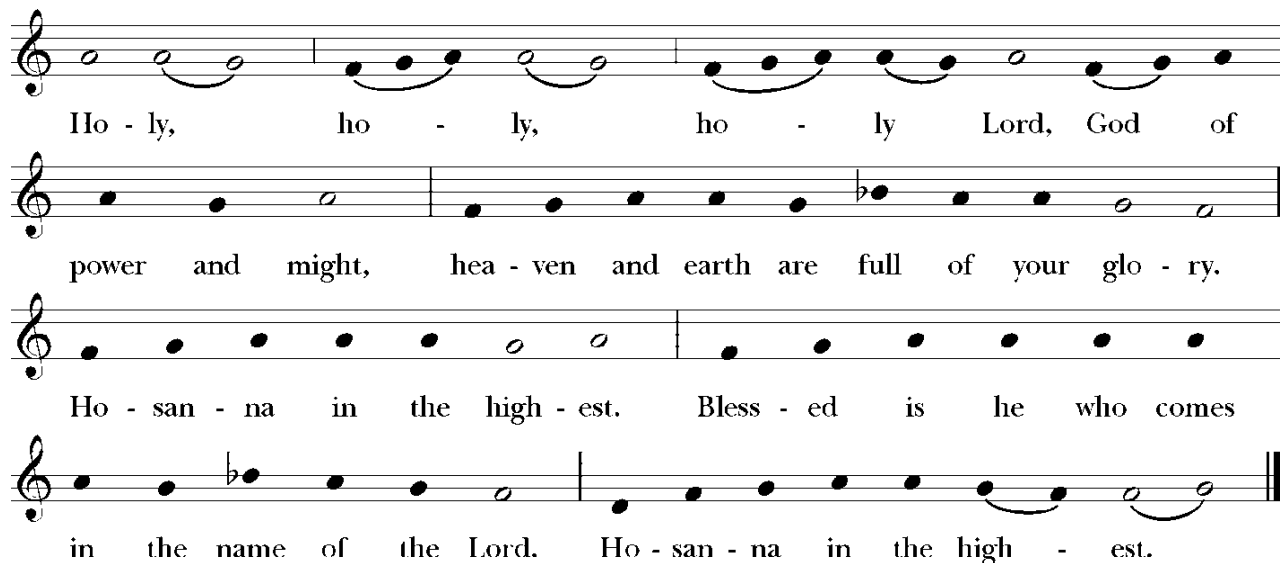


Praise God through-out these for - ty days. Praise
Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise. And praise the Spir-it who im -
parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts. A - men.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
power and might, hea - ven 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 Celebrant continues the Eucharistic prayer.

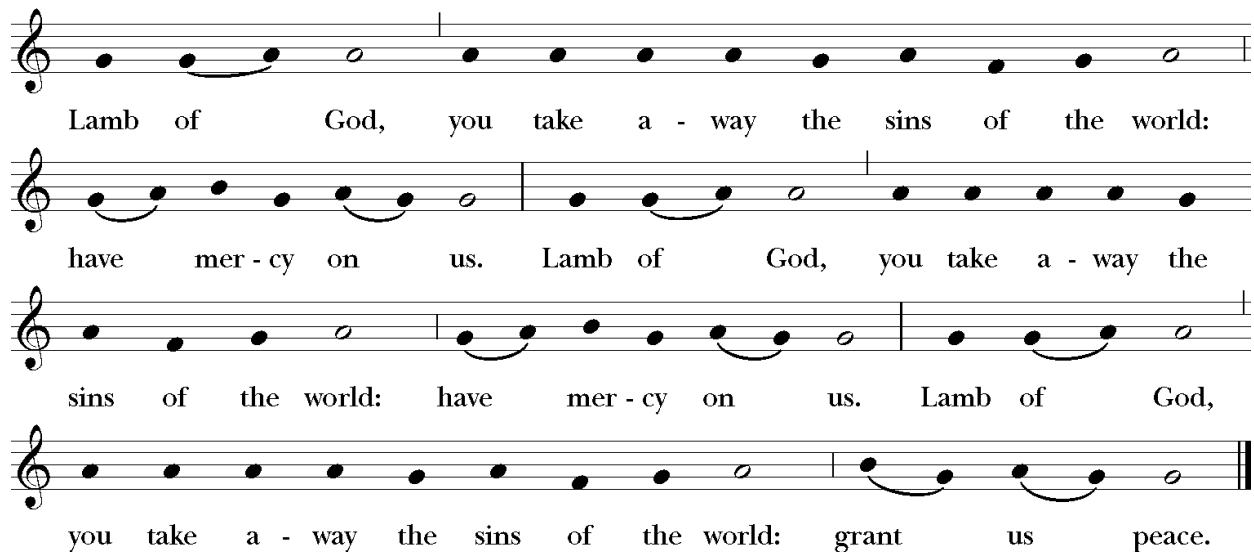
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have

mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

If you are unable to physically participate in Communion, you may offer a Prayer of Spiritual Communion during this time.

A Prayer of Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea,
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive;
 5 Just as I am, thy love un - known
 6 Just as I am, of thy great love



but that thy blood was shed for me,
 with man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt;
 sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve,
 has bro - ken ev - ery bar - rier down;
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,
 here for a sea - son, then a - bove:



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789–1871).
 Music: Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868).

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN (*see following page*)

1 Now quit your care and anx - ious fear and wor - ry; for
 2 To bow the head in sack - cloth and in ash - es, or
 3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The
 4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fac - es to
 5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to
 2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be
 3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -
 4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -
 5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to
 4 dress, who build the old waste plac - es, and in the dark - ness
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the

Unison *Harmony*

1 nigh; re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high;
 2 near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear;
 3 flight, to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 shine. Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 prize. A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Unison *Harmony*

1 re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high.
 2 Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear.
 3 to fight, to fight to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt. Music: *Quittez, Pasteurs*, French carol; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958).

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**