

# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

207 Bob O Link Lane  
Wharton, Texas 77488  
Office phone: (979) 532-1723

*Please, Enter in Silence and Meditation*

## The Third Sunday In Lent

March 24, 2019

This service is offered to God  
and to the community  
that we may journey together  
seeking God's Kingdom  
through sharing Christ's Love  
one with another and with all people.

New? Confused? Don't worry! We are genuinely pleased to have you worship here today. We suspect you may have some questions.

Everybody you see was a newcomer at one time or another and we've all had questions – probably the very same ones. So, don't hesitate to ask a question!

Books? This bulletin contains our liturgy, and all you need along with this bulletin is the blue Hymnal found in the pew rack for singing the hymns. But there is plenty more if you like! We have included the page numbers of the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), also found in the pew rack. This is the sourcebook for our liturgy, and is a wonderful resource for prayer and study.

Episcopal worship invites participation by all the people to experience the risen Christ in this place. We want you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today.

The posture of prayer, whether sitting, standing or kneeling is only a physical manifestation of the inward attitude of prayer. If you adopt the attitude of prayer then you may adapt the posture of prayer to suit your own needs. When you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!

Regardless of what anybody else is doing, don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. Remember, if you need help, ask the person next to you. We like people here at St. Thomas'.

We invite all who are baptized to come forward and join us in receiving Holy Communion. Those who wish to come and receive a blessing may come to the rail and simply fold both arms across their chest to signal their desire.

We are delighted you're here, and we want you to come back. May God bless you this day; you have blessed us with your presence.

# Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Prelude

### Opening Hymn: *Forty days and forty nights*

#### Hymnal 15

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Should not we thy sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Je - sus, Sa - vior, hear our call!  
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;  
5 Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, ev - er con - stant by thy side;

1 for - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
2 fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
3 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant we may not faint nor fall!  
4 round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as min - is - tered to thee.  
5 that with thee we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

## Greeting .....BCP 355

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

# Celebrant

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *Kyrie*:.....Hymnal S-89

*Unison or harmony*

The musical score is written for unison or harmony. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Chri - ste e - le - i - son. — Chri - ste e - le - i - son. — Chri - ste e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

**Collect..... Prayer Book 218**

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**A reading from Exodus 3:1-15**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the

bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to

Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 63:1-8

*(Read responsively by whole verse)*

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; \*  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no  
water.

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy  
place, \*  
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
\*  
my lips shall give you praise.

4 So will I bless you as long as I live \*  
and lift up my hands in your Name.

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, \*  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

6 When I remember you upon my bed, \*  
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, \*  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; \*  
your right hand holds me fast.

## **A reading from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single

day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

*Lector*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      Thanks be to God.

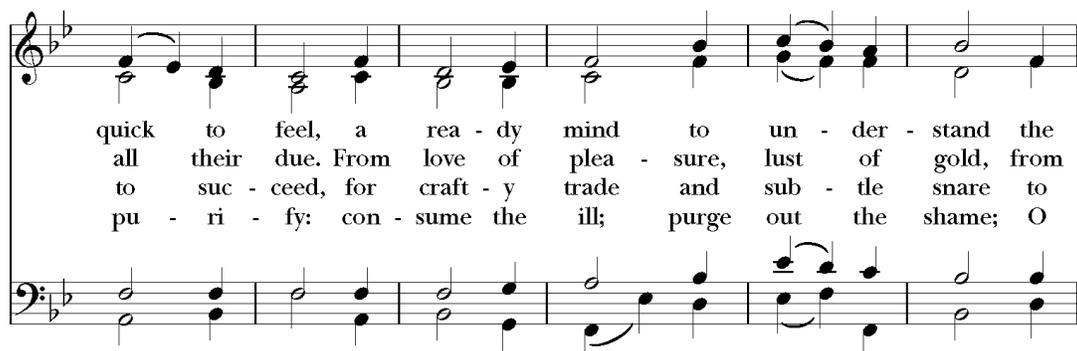
*We all stand.*

# Hymn: *Before thy throne, O God, we kneel*

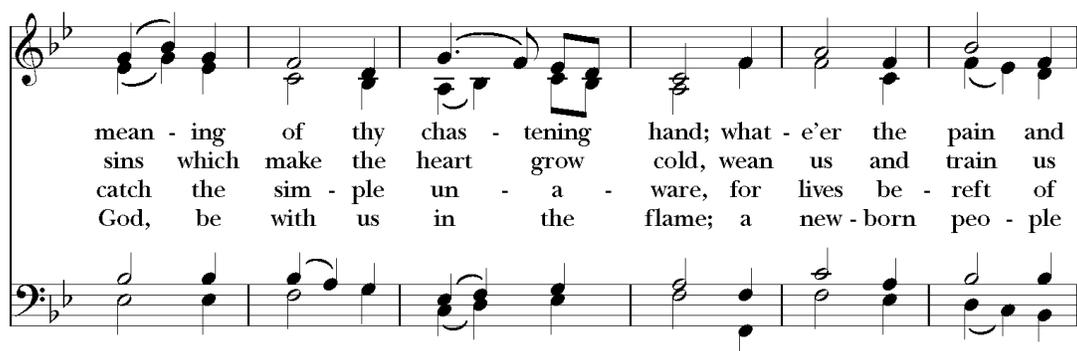
## Hymnal 574



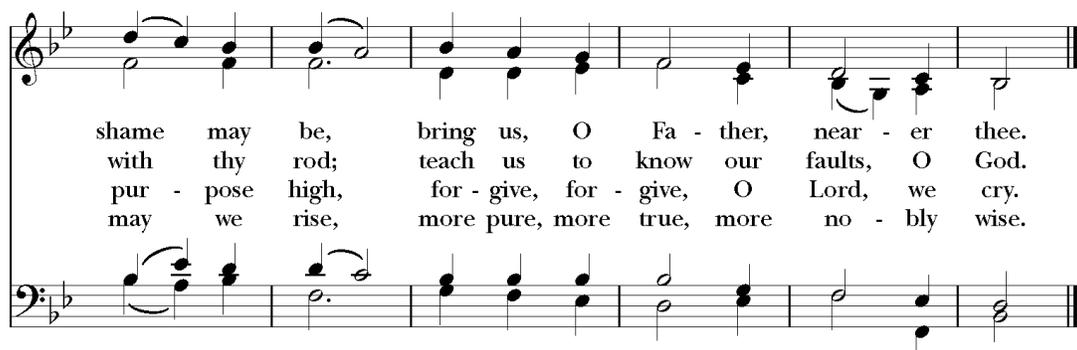
1 Be - fore thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a con - science  
2 Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to  
3 For sins of heed - less word and deed, for pride am - bi - tious  
4 Let the fierce fires which burn and try, our in - most spi - rits



quick to feel, a rea - dy mind to un - der - stand the  
all their due. From love of plea - sure, lust of gold, from  
to suc - ceed, for craft - y trade and sub - tle snare to  
pu - ri - fy: con - sume the ill; purge out the shame; O



mean - ing of thy chas - tening hand; what - e'er the pain and  
sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us  
catch the sim - ple un - a - ware, for lives be - reft of  
God, be with us in the flame; a new - born peo - ple



shame may be, bring us, O Fa - ther, near - er thee.  
with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.  
pur - pose high, for - give, for - give, O Lord, we cry.  
may we rise, more pure, more true, more no - bly wise.

*Remain standing for the reading of The Gospel.*

## The Gospel Luke 13:1-9

*Celebrant*      The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus  
                         Christ according to Luke.

*People*            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them--do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find

none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Sermon ..... The Rev. Jim Abernathey**

**The Nicene Creed.....BCP 358**

*All Stand and say together*

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.

## **Prayers of the People: Form V Prayer Book 389**

*Leader*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord,  
have mercy”  
(or “Kyrie eleison”).

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled  
with truth and love, and be found without fault at  
the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*Here and after every petition the People respond*

*Kyrie eleison. or Lord, have mercy.*

For *N.* our Presiding Bishop, for *N.* (*N.*) our own Bishop(s), for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that they may receive the light of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

For those in positions of public trust  
[especially \_\_\_\_\_], that they may serve  
justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of  
every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who live and work in this community  
[especially \_\_\_\_\_], we pray to you, O  
Lord.

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the  
right use of the riches of creation, that the world  
may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who  
suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in  
danger; that they may be relieved and protected,  
we pray to you, O Lord.

For this *congregation* [for those who are present,  
and for those who are absent], that we may be

delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

For our enemies and those who wish us harm; and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord.

For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

For \_\_\_\_\_, we pray to you, O Lord.

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you

alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest  
in that place where there is no pain  
or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [the ever-blessed  
Virgin Mary, (*blessed N.*) and] all the saints, let us  
commend ourselves, and one another, and all our  
life to Christ our God.

*To you, O Lord our God.*

*Silence*

*Collect*

### **Confession of Sin**

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

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.



*online and by other ways. The tokens can be found in a plate at the back of the church.*

## **Offertory Hymn: Rock of ages, cleft for me** **Hymnal 685**

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Should my tears for ev - er flow, should my zeal no lan - guor know,  
3 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

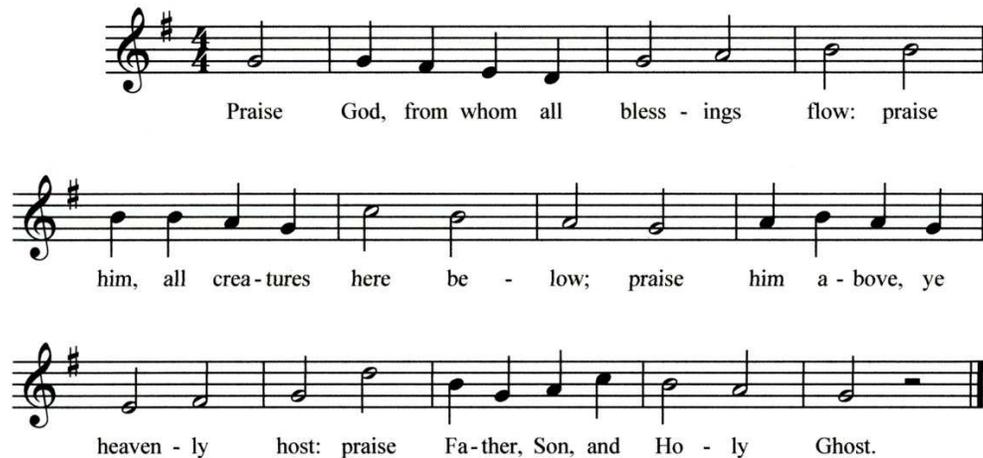
let the wa - ter and the blood from thy wound - ed side that flowed,  
all for sin could not a - tone: thou must save, and thou a - lone;  
when I rise to worlds un - known and be - hold thee on thy throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.  
in my hand no price I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
Rock of a - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

*You are invited to stand as our gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought to the altar.*

# *The Presentation of the Gifts*

## *The Doxology... .. Hymnal 380, vs 3*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow: praise  
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye  
heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

## **The Great Thanksgiving..... Eucharistic Prayer A**

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 him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a [Proper Preface](#) is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

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:

**Sanctus ..... S114**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of  
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen

into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

## **Celebrant and People**

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all

your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.  
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.

## The Great Amen:

## Hymnal S-147



As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your 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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread .....BCP 364**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Fraction Anthem: O Lamb of God*

*Hymnal S-157*



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the  
sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

[*Communicant Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

[*Communicant Amen.*]

## **The Communion of the People**

*All who seek God's blessing are welcome to come to the altar rail. If you are not yet baptized, or do not wish to receive for any reason, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing. All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to enroll as a candidate for Holy Baptism please contact the church office or the Rev. Ken Dimmick.*

*Instrumental: "For the Beauty of the Earth"*  
*by Conrad Cocher, Arr. by Paul Cardall*

**Choir Anthem: "Kyrie Eleison"**  
*Arr. by William Byrd*

**Communion Hymn: O Food to pilgrims given**  
*Hymnal 309*

1 O Food to pil - grims giv - en, O Bread of life from  
 2 O stream of love past tell - ing, O pur - est foun - tain,  
 3 O Je - sus, by thee bid - den, we here a - dore thee,

hea - ven, O Man - na from on high! We  
 well - ing from out the Sa - vior's side! We  
 hid - den in forms of bread and wine. Grant

hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de - lights de -  
 faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a - bun - dance  
 when the veil is riv - en, we may be - hold, in

ny give us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.  
 give us, and all we need pro - vide.  
 hea - ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

## **Postcommunion Prayer    BCP 365**

*Celebrant*

Let us pray.

*People and Celebrant*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Blessing**

# Final Hymn: *We sing of God, the mighty source* ...Hymnal 386

1 We sing of God, the might - y source of all things; the stu -  
 \*2 Tell them I AM, the Lord God said, to Mo - ses while on  
 3 Glo - rious the sun in mid ca - reer; glo - rious the as - sem - bled  
 4 Glo - rious, most glo - rious, is the crown of him that brought sal -

pen - dous force on which all strength de - pends; from  
 earth in dread and smit - ten to the heart, at  
 fires ap - pear; glo - rious the co - met's train: glo -  
 va - tion down by meek - ness, Ma - ry's son; seers

whose right arm, be - neath whose eyes, all pe - riod, power, and  
 once, a - bove, be - neath, a - round, all na - ture with - out  
 rious the trum - pet and a - larm; glo - rious the al - might - y  
 that stu - pen - dous truth be - lieved, and now the match - less

en - ter - prise com - men - ces, reigns, and ends.  
 voice or sound re - plied, O Lord, thou art.  
 stretched-out arm; glo - rious the en - rap - tured main:  
 deed's a - chieved, de - ter - mined, dared, and done.

## **Dismissal**

*Celebrant*     Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

## **Postlude**

Everyone is invited to the parish hall after the service for coffee and fellowship.