

“Growing God’s Kingdom”



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14th, 2021

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET
MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059
(717)-436-6213

RADIO: AM 1700

OFFICE EMAIL: mlchurchoffice@gmail.com

WEBSITE: mlcmifflintown.org

TODAY’S INTRODUCTION: *The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today’s gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Andrea Cameron
Barbara Geedey
Barb Geedey & Jessie Reed
Paige Martin
Gabby Reed

Vicar
Organist
Choir Director
Lector
Altar Guild
Acolyte
Offering Presenter

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT March 14, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer.

C Amen.

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Fountain of living water,

C pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

P Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

C Amen.

GATHERING

* GATHERING HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

bulletin, pg. 12

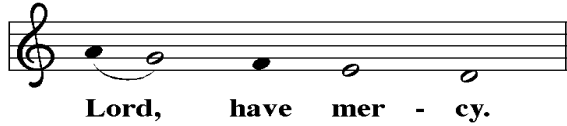
* GREETING

P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

* KYRIE (Congregation sings responses)

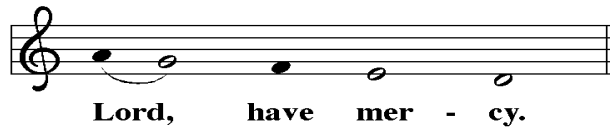
P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P 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.



P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

FIRST READING.....Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

L: Here ends the reading.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM:.....Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (*responsively*)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.
²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.
¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.
¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.
²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.
²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD,
for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.
²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

SECOND READING.....Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else.
⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to

come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

* LENTEN ACCLAMATION (In Unison)



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.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

* GOSPEL.....John 3:14-21

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)**

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For 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.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)**

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Vicar Leister
bulletin, pg. 13

* APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

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

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ("Create in Me")

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING PRAYER

*** BLESSING**

P You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you + that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

C Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)

*** HOLY COMMUNION**

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

P 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.

P 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.

P The Body of Christ given for you. (Wafer)

P The Blood of Christ shed for you. (Juice)

P God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING CHIMES

PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AND DISPOSE OF AT HOME!

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WELCOME TO ALL!

JUST A THOUGHT – Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury (1904 – 1988): Calvary is the key to an omnipotence which works only and always through sacrificial love.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Vicar Leister at sleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Vicar Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Vicar Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at sleister@gmail.com.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION will be offered following the sending hymn in order to minimize any contact during the meal. We will be using communion kits that are pre-packaged and sealed that include a wafer and grape juice. Each person desiring to share in the meal will take a packaged kit when you receive a bulletin.

MARCH’S “MISSION OF THE MONTH” at Messiah will be for the “Texas Storm Relief.” The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to the ELCA. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This idea was born when budgeted funds were unused during the 2020 calendar year due to the shutdowns from the Covid-19 Pandemic. This is just one way in which we can extend our mission in Christ’s love beyond the walls of our church building.

COPIES OF JANUARY 13, 2021 PPC MINUTES are available in the Adult Sunday School Room.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT:

February 24, 2021 Attendance – 16

Total Offering	\$ 390.00
Other Funds	<u>120.00</u>
General Fund	\$ 270.00

Other Funds

Benevolence	\$ 40.00
Building Fund	<u>80.00</u>
Total	120.00

February 28, 2021 Attendance – 32

Total Offering	\$3,094.00
Other Funds	<u>638.00</u>
General Fund	\$2,456.00

Benevolence	\$ 120.00
Flowers	18.00
Building Fund	450.00
CJEMS	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$ 638.00

2021 LENTEN SERVICES – Vicar Leister will be conducting weekly Lenten services at Messiah this year, with the assistance of Lay Leader Andrea Cameron. The services will be held each Wednesday during Lent starting at 7:00 p.m. The sermon topics listed below for the Lenten services are selected from the document from Pope Francis titled, “*Do You Want to Fast this Lent?*”

March 17 – Fast From Bitterness

March 24 – Fast From Selfishness

As with our Sunday services, masks and social distancing will be required. More information will be forthcoming regarding Holy Week services, so stay tuned!

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER – Kate Swales is serving as our congregation’s camperson with Camp Mount Luther again this year. She has information on programs for the summer. If you have additional questions, you can contact her or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Since our congregation has a camperson, each camper from our church will receive Camel Bucks from Kate for use at the camp store this summer! Campers who attended camp at Mount Luther in the past should have already received the camp brochures in the mail (additional brochures are available in the Adult Sunday School Room). For more information on Camp Mount Luther or to print the camp registration form, visit www.campmountluther.org. Submit your camp registration form to Kate along with a \$50 payment payable to Messiah Lutheran Church which will go toward the non-refundable deposit. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc. Kate will submit the registration forms to Mount Luther. We ask that you submit your registration form and payment to Kate prior to April 15th so that we receive the early registration discount. Because Camp Mount Luther is accepting a lower number of campers this summer, Chad Hershberger recommends that families register their campers as soon as possible. Registration will not be accepted within the two weeks prior to each camp week.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19. If you are interested in participating in this challenge, you can make as few or as many as you would like. Please call or email Cynthia Smith for details about this project at 717-994-4999 or gramcynthia49@yahoo.com.

MESSIAH NEEDS YOU – We need two voting members to serve at this year’s Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 19, 2021 (Assembly will be all digital). You may check for information at <https://www.uss-elca.org/assembly/>. Two voting members are needed while others may attend as visitors – digitally. Our two voting attendees also need to attend the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on Sunday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. At this point, we would attend this meeting digitally also. The intent is to use the conference meeting as a training/dry run for the Synod Assembly voting process. The registration fee of \$65.00 is paid by the church. Please email Vicar Leister at sleister@gmail.com or call at 717-436-8589 if you have any questions and would like to attend.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

NEW BATH-SIZE BARS OF SOAP (4 oz. to 5 oz., preferably Ivory or unscented Dove) is continuously collected as an on-going project for Lutheran World Relief. Please place soap in the basket on the blue table in the Adult Sunday School Room.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH:

ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOODS, OVER-THE-COUNTER COLD AND FLU MEDICINES, PAPER TOWELS, COUGH DROPS, DISH DETERGENT, AND LAUNDRY DETERGENT. DONATIONS OF CASH/CHECKS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED!

PRAYER LIST

Shirley Aumiller	Terri Gayer	Shirley Miller
Tyson Aurand	Ken Geedey	Jim Minick
Carole Baker	Eddi Kay Gill	Claire Mummah
Donna Barton	Paul Goss	Landon Musser
Lindsey Barton	Amy Hart	Carole Nace
Donna Bell	Beth Harris	Darve Nace
Julie Berryman & Gary Bechtold	Harry & Jennifer Heikes	Austin Parker
Nick Beward	Sue Henderson	Noel Peachey
Roxanne Boyer	Ken Henry	Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Charlotte Burd	Nox Hepburn	Dave Phelan
Andrea Cameron	Jason Hockenberry & Family	Butch & Sandy Pines
Pam Campbell	Curt & Judy Houtz	Betty Ranck
Dan Carlin	Dean Hutchinson	Keith Ranck
Ruth Cisney	Matt & Jennifer Hutchinson	Mackenzie Shearer
Cade Clark	Brenda Imes	Ronald Shearer
Curtis Clark	Annie Ingle	Bobby & Eva Sieber
Kim Clark	Doc Johnston	Family of Carol Smith
Randy Clark	Guy Kerstetter	Mike Sparks
Terry Coder	Denny King	Donald Speece
Jean Compton	Darvin Krouse	Bob & Jeanette St. Clair
Leann Crimmel	Pam Lawson	Charles Stump
Will DeLancy	Michael Lozano	Alice Swartz
Guy Dillman	Carol Lyter	Dorothy Towsey
Fred & Dot Dowling	Zaden Mabey	Rich Walters
Renee Dzikowski	Anthony Martin	Dr. Glen Webb
Neil & Pat Fisher	Carlen McClure	Erma Williamson
Janie Fogleman	Alice McClure	Jim Woltman
Jerald (Jerry) Foltz	Isabel Meinsler	Mackenzie Wray
Bentley Fulkroad	Messiah Mutual Ministry	George Zimmerman
Joan Fulkroad	Cecilia Miller	Linda Zimmerman
Michal Gayer	Ellwood Miller	
	Larry Miller	

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

Ray Bramm	Minnie Minick
Ruth Cisney	Edith Nipple
Max Ernest	Carol Simonton
Margaret Guss	Sieber & Ona Stoner
Gail Henderson	Ken Stuck
Mona Lawson	Kitty Walters
Jane Marhefka	

**EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM
MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**



Easter Sunday is April 4, 2021 and in keeping with Messiah Lutheran Church tradition, Lilies you purchase will be “planted” around our altar to help us celebrate the special occasion.

Please complete the order form below and attach **a check**, made payable to “**Messiah Lutheran Church**” and print **Easter Lilies** in the memo line. Then, please attach the check to the order form and place it in the offering plate or return to the church office by **March 25, 2021**. *PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR ORDER!!*

FLOWERS MAY BE PICKED UP FOLLOWING THE EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30 AM.

Thank you for helping to beautify our space and for supporting our church!

EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

LIST THE DEDICATION AS FOLLOWS:

Please check one: In Honor Of () OR In Memory Of ()

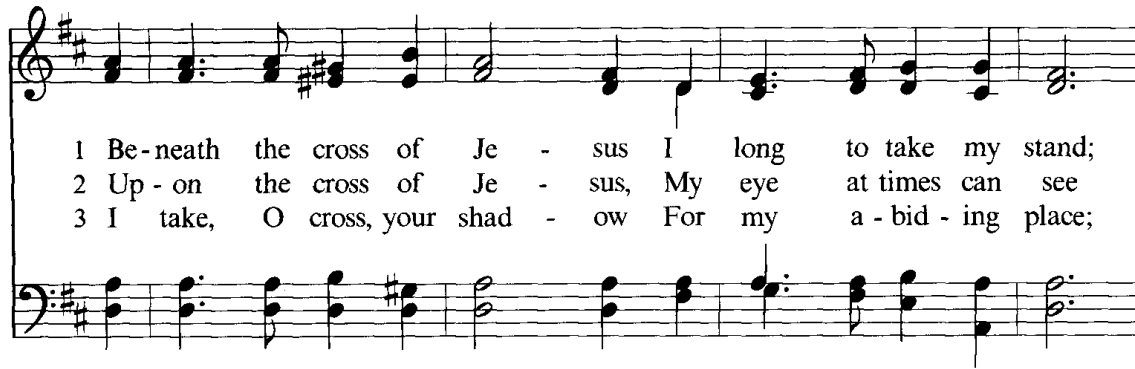
I would like to order the following:

Easter Lilies (4 to 6 blooms) \$9.00 # of plants _____ X \$9.00 = \$ _____

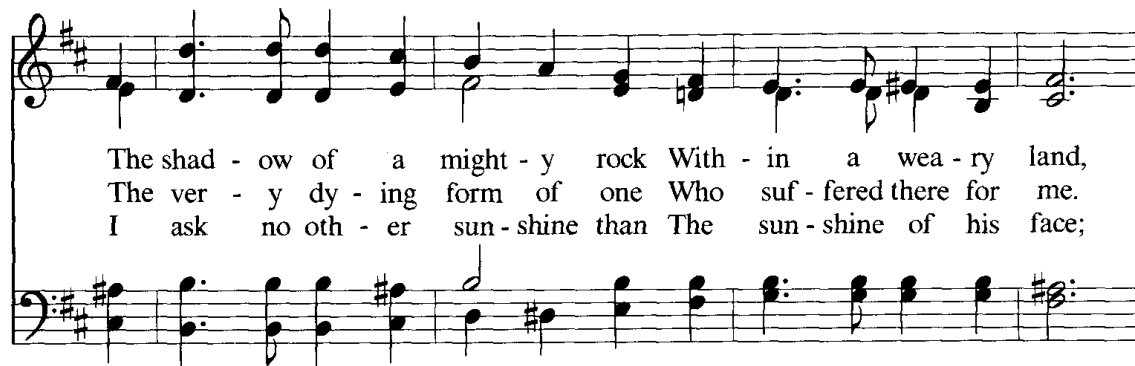
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

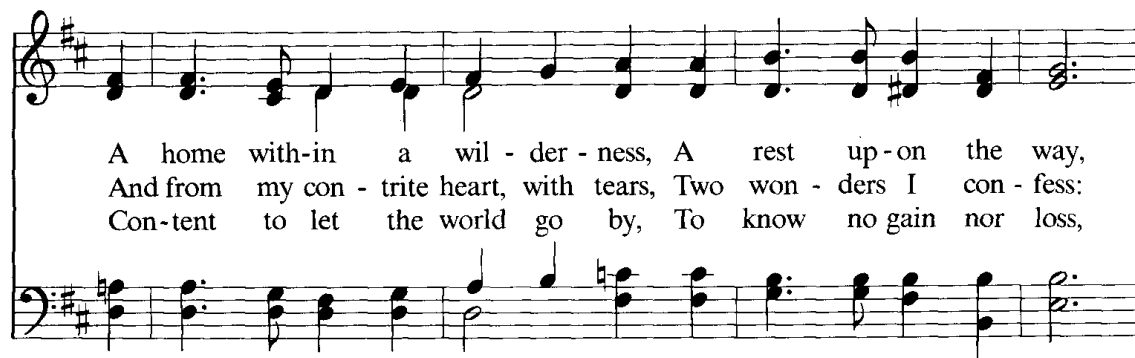
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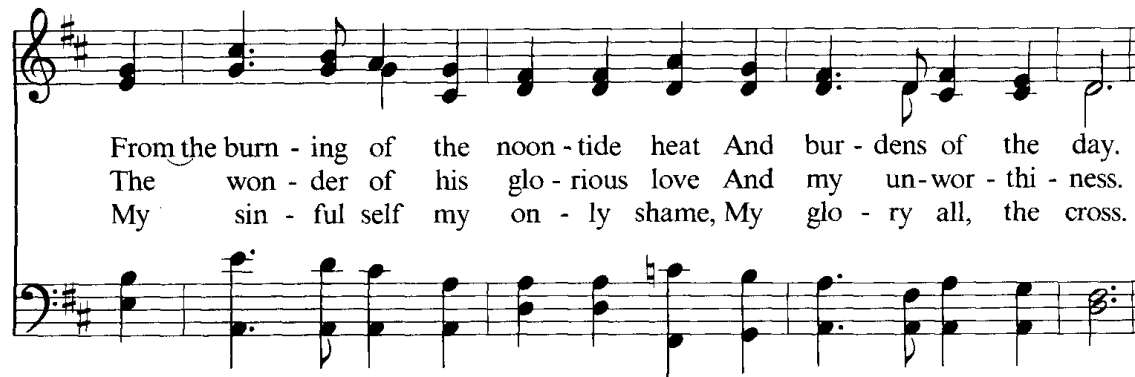
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, My eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow For my a - bid - ing place;



The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wea - ry land,
The ver - y dy - ing form of one Who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of his face;



A home with - in a wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, Two won - ders I con - fess:
Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,



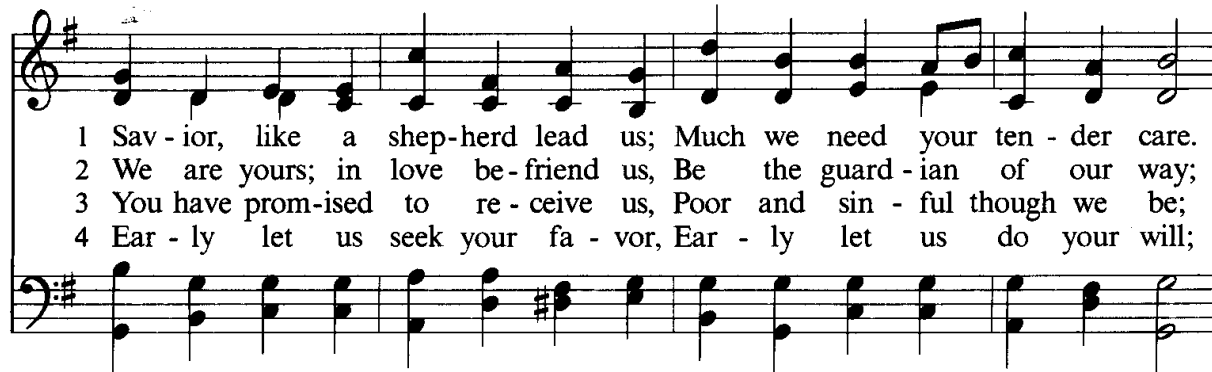
From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And bur - dens of the day.
The won - der of his glo - rious love And my un - wor - thi - ness.
My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869
© Tune: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

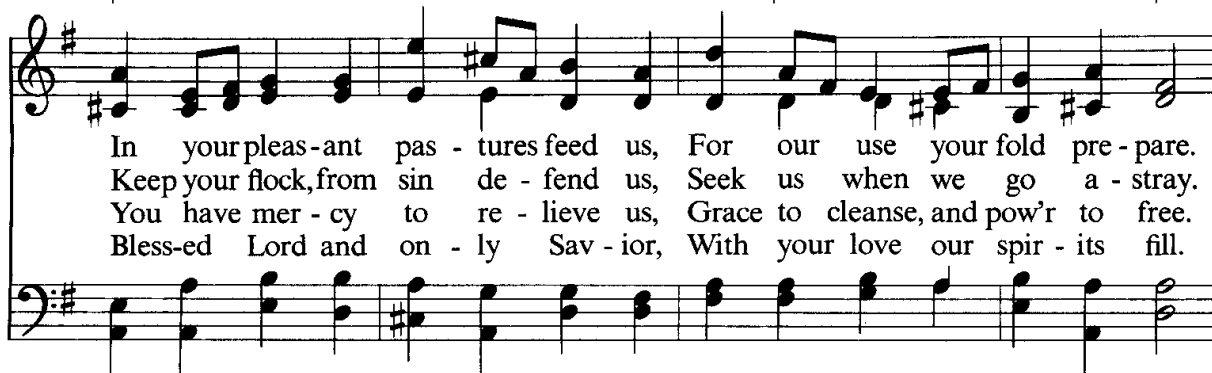
ST. CHRISTOPHER
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Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

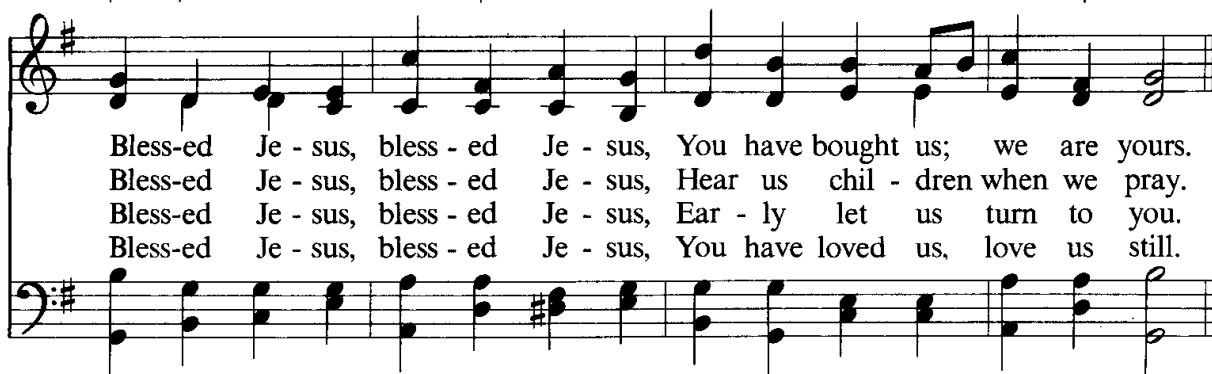
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1 Sav - ior, like a shep - herd lead us; Much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, Be the guard - ian of our way;
3 You have prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, Ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use your fold pre - pare.
Keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
You have mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With your love our spir - its fill.



Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have bought us; we are yours.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, You have loved us, love us still.

Text: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
Tune: Ludwig M. Lindeman, 1812-1887

HER VIL TIES
87 87 87