



*Welcome to Worship at  
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026  
6:15 pm*

Photo by Judy Lund

A photograph of bare trees silhouetted against a warm, orange and pink sunset sky. The trees are dark and intricate, with many thin branches reaching across the frame. The sky is a gradient of colors, from a pale pink at the top to a bright orange at the bottom, suggesting the sun is low on the horizon. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

*Welcome and Announcements*



# Near the Cross

Witnessing the Passion of Jesus

Lenten Worship Series

Wednesdays, February 25 - March 25

5:00 pm- Light meal  
6:15 pm- Worship



The March 4 meal served by the Memorial Committee  
will be spaghetti and meatballs.



# Are you interested in a...



## **Lenten Reading Plan: A Countdown of Hope**

Get ready for Easter with this family Bible Reading Plan. From Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday, read a promise from God each day. May God bless you as you discover his love and faithfulness through Scripture.

Copies of the plan can be found on the bulletin table.  
Plan includes a bonus activity - fun for the whole family!



# Cardboard Recycling is available

We are called to be good stewards of God's creation.

We have received permission for people from Zion's congregation to recycle cardboard at the Warroad School. Below is a picture of the recycle bin located on the back side of the High School by their maintenance shop. Please recycle only corrugated cardboard.

The sign reads:

**Only Corrugated Cardboard**

**No Packing Materials**

**No Cereal Boxes**

**No Garbage**

**Flattened Cardboard**







## Prayers for the HEART<sup>h</sup>

Throughout the season of Lent, we have the opportunity to practice intentional prayer together in a visual way.

There is a clear jar in the entrance to the Sanctuary with blank paper hearts for you to write a name, a situation, or anything else you would like to pray for. Prayers placed in the jar will stay in the jar **unread** - but are certainly heard by our faithful God of hope and love.

On Maundy Thursday, as an act of worship, we will burn these prayers, taking to heart Psalm 141:2 "Let my prayer be counted as incense before you and the lifting up my hands as an evening sacrifice."





# Noisy Offering

Will be collected **today**.  
All proceeds will go to  
the Warroad Food Pantry.





*Just 3 more days  
of February's  
Kindness Month!*

Help spread kindness around the community! There is a table with blank cards, Post-it notes, little Jesus figures, and pocket prayer squares for you to take and help spread the kindness. You can also go to the e-Messenger, Zion's Facebook page, or the Zion website for more ideas on how we can spread kindness around the community.

*Sharing the Peace*

# Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

ELW# 814 *sing twice*

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**Take, oh, take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.**



## *Greeting*

**L:** The love of God poured into our hearts,  
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all.

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

## *Prayer of the Day*

**L:** Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

# **Noisy Offering!!!**

**Drop your change in the buckets  
and make some noise!**

**Proceeds will go towards  
the Warroad Food Pantry.**



# **Word of God, Come Down on Earth**

ELW #510 v. 1

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- 1. Word of God, come down on earth,  
living rain from heav'n descending;  
touch our hearts and bring to birth  
faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
word made flesh, we long to hear you.**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,  
the twenty-seventh chapter.

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

## Gospel: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-24

<sup>1</sup> When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. <sup>2</sup> They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

<sup>11</sup> Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.” <sup>12</sup> But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?” <sup>14</sup> But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

<sup>15</sup> Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?”

<sup>18</sup> For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. <sup>19</sup> While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, “Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.” <sup>20</sup> Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. <sup>21</sup> The governor again said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release for you?” And they said, “Barabbas.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” All of them said, “Let him be crucified!” <sup>23</sup> Then he asked, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

<sup>24</sup> So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

# *Reflection*

Pilate & Mrs. Pilate

# Change My Heart, O God

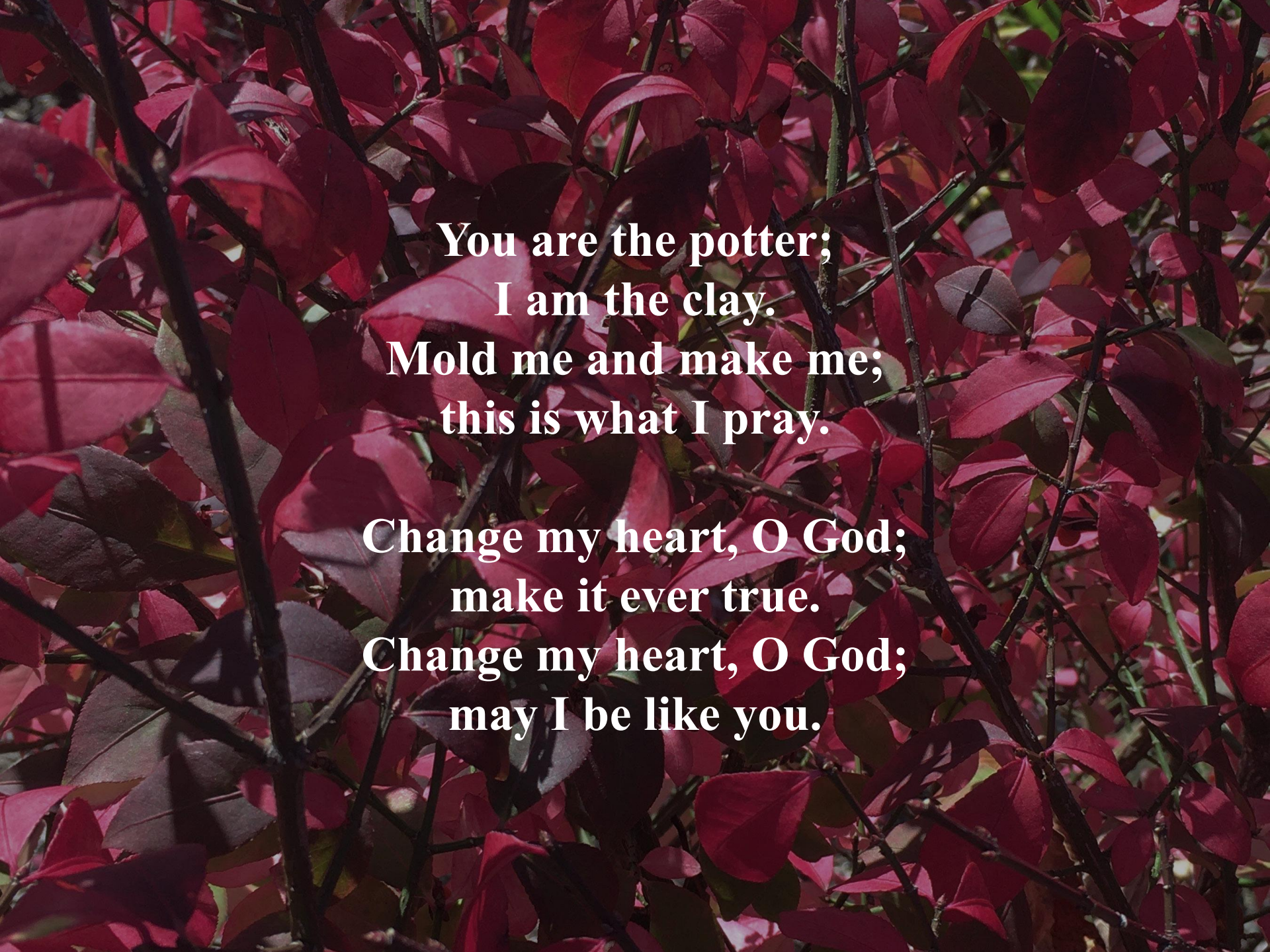
ELW #801

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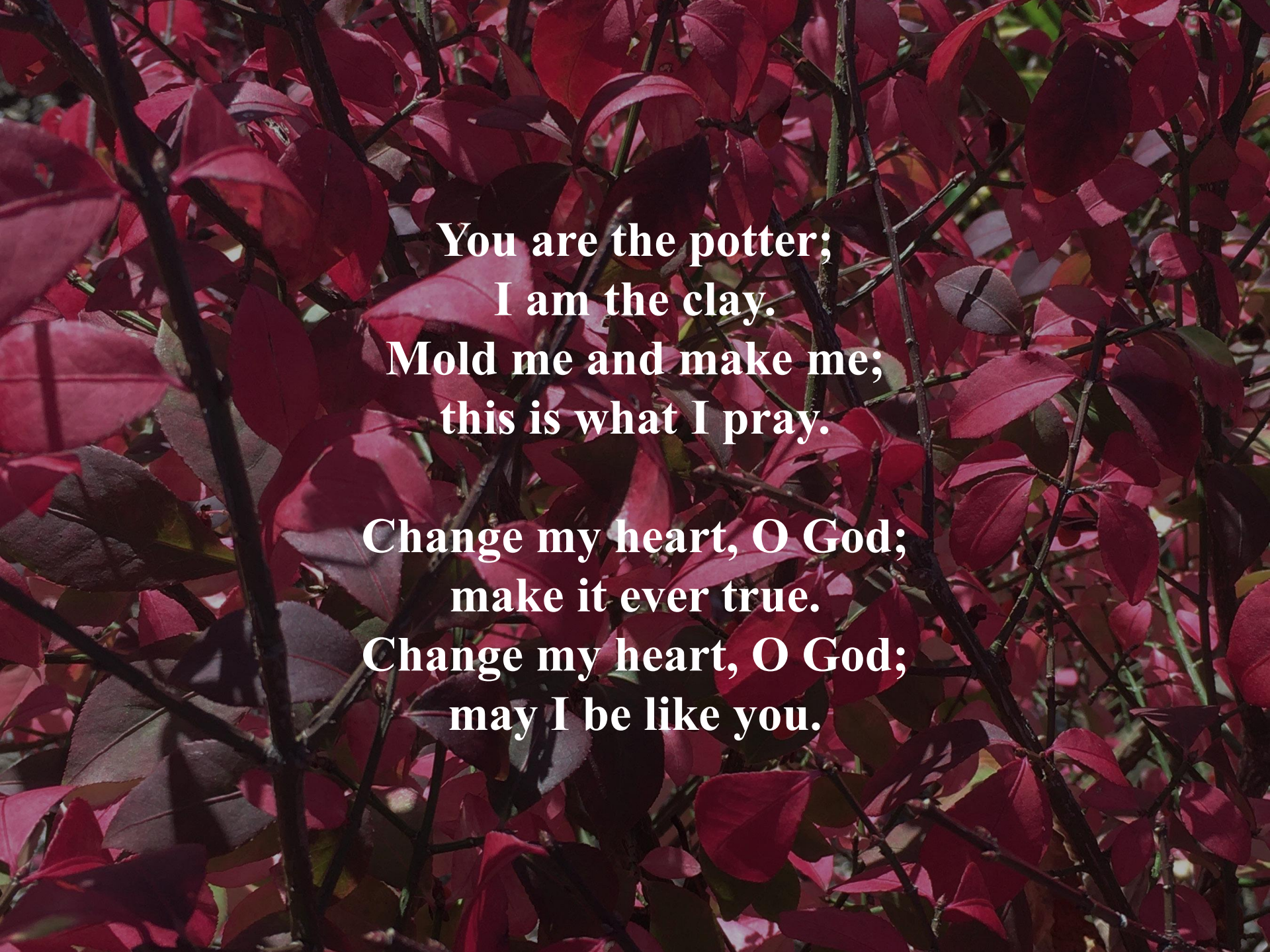
**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.**

**Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**



**You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**



**You are the potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.**

**Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.**

# *Offering*



# **Take My Life, That I May Be**

ELW #685 v. 1

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870. Public Domain.

- 1. Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

# *Offering Prayer*

**L:** God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings for the sake of your gospel and the world you made and love.

**C:** **Amen.**

# *Prayers of Intercession*

Response after each petition:

**L:** Lord, in your mercy.

**C:** **Hear our prayer.**

**L:** Receive our prayers and grant us your mercy, O God, in the name of the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C:** **Amen.**

# *The Lord's Prayer*

**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.**

**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.**

# *Blessing*

**L:** God the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C:** Amen.

# Oh, Praise the Gracious Power

ELW #651 vv. 1-3

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1. Oh, praise the gracious pow'r  
that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith  
all strangers far and near:

We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!



**2. Oh, praise persistent truth  
that opens fisted minds  
and eases from their anxious clutch  
the prejudice that blinds:**

**We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!**



**3. Oh, praise inclusive love,  
encircling ev'ry race,  
oblivious to gender,  
wealth, to social rank or place:**

**We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!**



# *Dismissal*

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



*Thank you  
for worshipping  
with us!*

*God bless you!*