

A dark blue twilight sky with silhouettes of trees and a glowing orb. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being a bright, circular orb, possibly the moon or a low sun, positioned in the upper left quadrant. The trees are dark and intricate, filling most of the frame. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

*Welcome to Worship at
Zion Lutheran Church*

*Sunday, March 22, 2026
9:00 am*



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 25 meal served by Youth and Family alongside the Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation classes will be sloppy joes.



Prayers for the HEART^h

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

Would you like to support your friends, neighbors, and coworkers when they're struggling, but don't know how?



FREE 2-hour training at Zion

Tuesday, April 14

6:00 pm

A light supper will be provided by the
Congregational Care Committee at 5:30 pm.

**Pre-registration
is required.
Space is limited.**

COMET helps people take the next step after noticing someone might be struggling. This training teaches simple tools to reach out to help someone to shift their mental health path to a place of wellness and away from mental health crisis. This training doesn't expect community members to "fix it," but instead trains people to feel comfortable initiating a supportive conversation.

Register by April 9 by emailing **OFFICE@ZLCW.ORG** or calling 218-386-1733.

Help to beautify our sanctuary when we celebrate Easter!

Order forms are available in the Gathering Space
and are due Sunday, March 29.

The cost is \$10 per lily, hyacinth, or tulip.



Holy Week and Easter

March 29: Palm Sunday

9:00 am– Worship service

April 1: Wednesday

No worship service, classes, or meal

April 2: Maundy Thursday

6:15 pm- Maundy Thursday worship service with Holy Communion

April 3: Good Friday

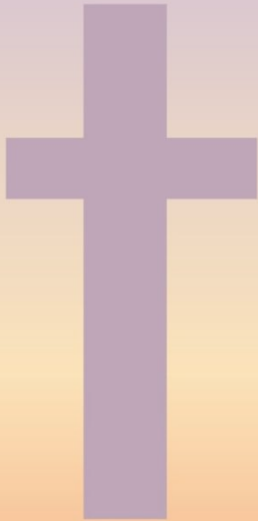
6:15 pm- Good Friday worship service

April 5: Easter

7:00 am- Easter worship service with Holy Communion

8:00-8:45 am- Easter Breakfast

9:00 am- Easter worship service with Holy Communion





Easter **BREAKFAST**

Serving from 8:00 to 8:45 am

Egg bakes, muffins, fruit, milk/juice/coffee

← Volunteer opportunities →
Help serve and/or bring food

Sign-up sheets are located in the Gathering Space.



Help us fill Easter eggs for the Easter Egg scramble!

On March 29, following worship, there will be baskets with the plastic eggs and goodies to be used for filling them. Many hands make light work! Stay after worship for treats and filling the eggs.

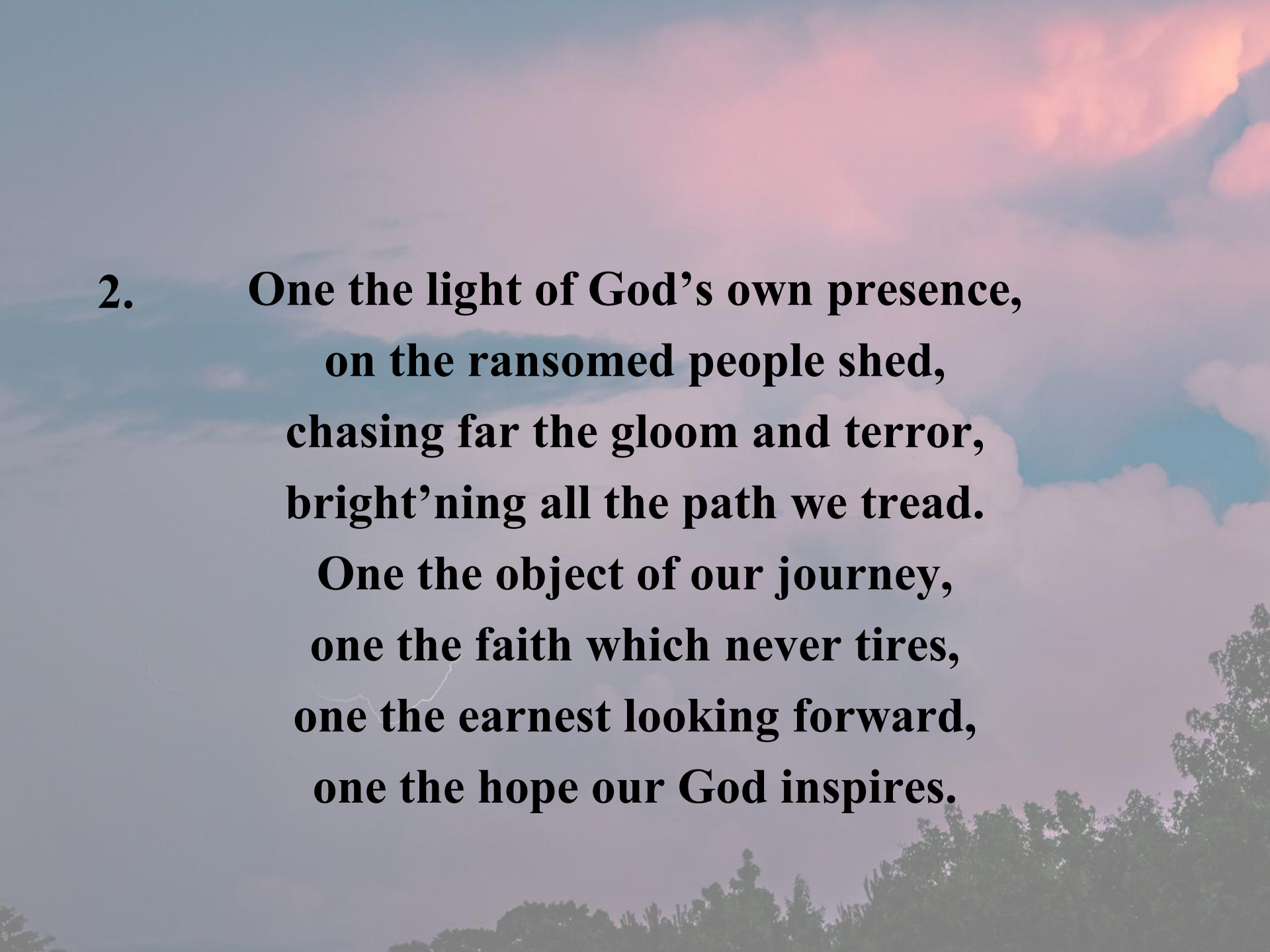
Sharing the Peace

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

ELW #327

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- 1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim
stepping fearless through the night.**



**2. One the light of God's own presence,
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,
one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.**

**3. One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,
one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.**

**4. Onward, therefore, sisters, brothers;
onward, with the cross our aid.
Bear its shame, and fight its battle
till we rest beneath its shade.
Soon shall come the great awak'ning;
soon the rending of the tomb!
Then the scatt'ring of all shadows,
and the end of toil and gloom.**

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin before God, who
removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

L: For seeking worldly delights that deceive
us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

L: For desiring self-reliance instead of
hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

L: For failing to recognize your coming reign
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your
steadfast love.**

L: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition and for disdainning the living water Christ offers:

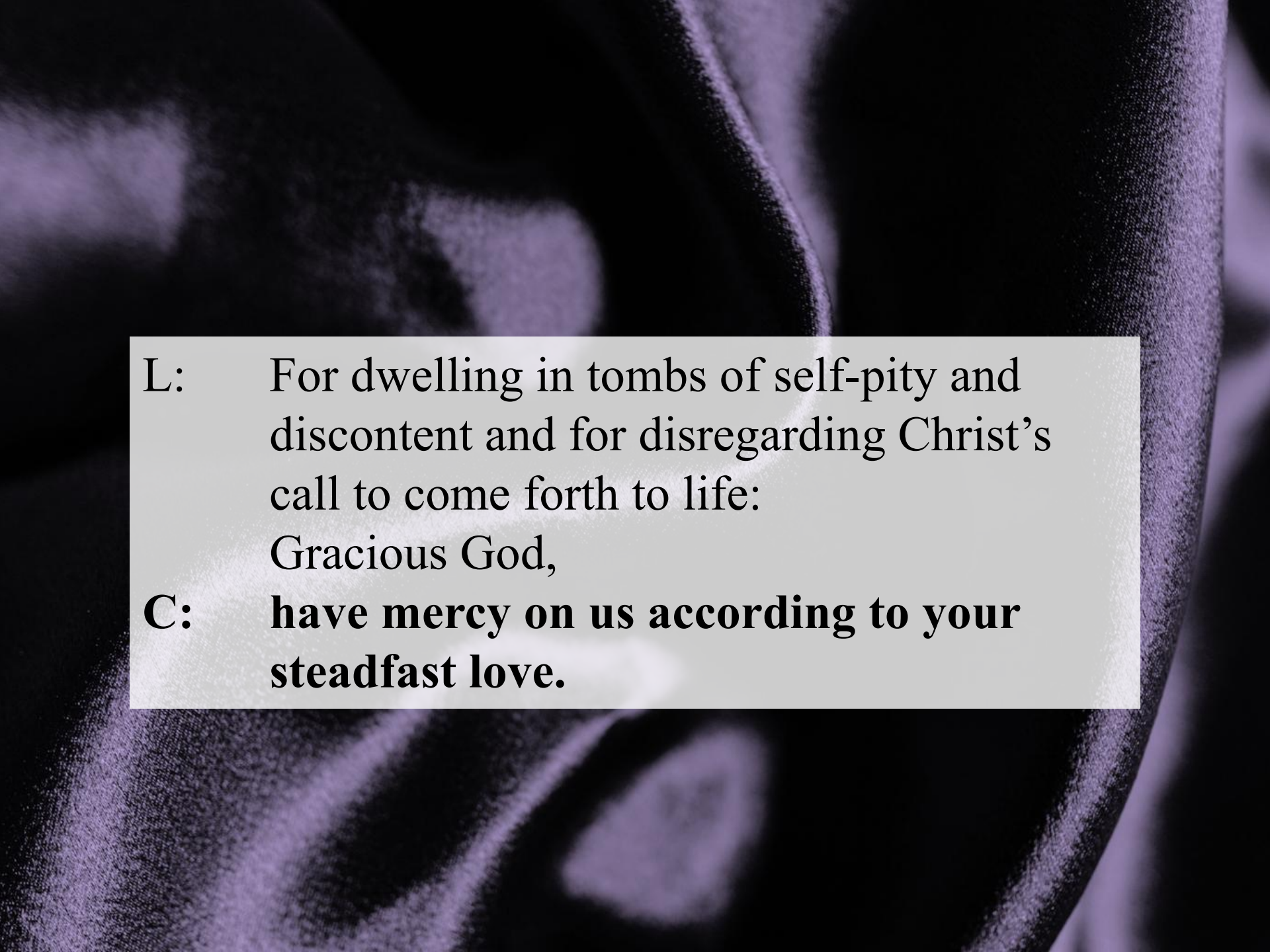
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: For disregarding voices from the margin and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.



L: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

p. 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord,
and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word:
it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ,
and wash away our sin.**

**Pour out your grace and make us whole
that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord;
make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r;
create in us new hearts!**

Canticle of Praise

p. 204

**Glory be to God in heaven;
peace, good-will to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation,
Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you,
we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you;
here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you;
Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you,
God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit,
in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit,
glory be to God on high!**



L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

A Message for All God's Children



First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’”

¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

L: ¹ Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

C: ² **O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears
be attentive to the voice of my
supplication.**

L: ³ If you were to keep watch over sins,
O LORD, who could stand?

**C: ⁴ Yet with you is forgiveness,
in order that you may be feared.**

L: ⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;
in your word is my hope.

**C: ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than
those who keep watch for the morning,
more than those who keep watch for the
morning.**

L: ⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

C: ⁸ For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

p. 205

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you;
you are merciful and kind
slow to anger, rich in blessing,
and with love to us inclined.**

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

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

Please be seated for the reading of the gospel.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.”

¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Judeans who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Judeans who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved.

³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Judeans said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Many of the Judeans, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

How Small Our Span of Life

ELW #636

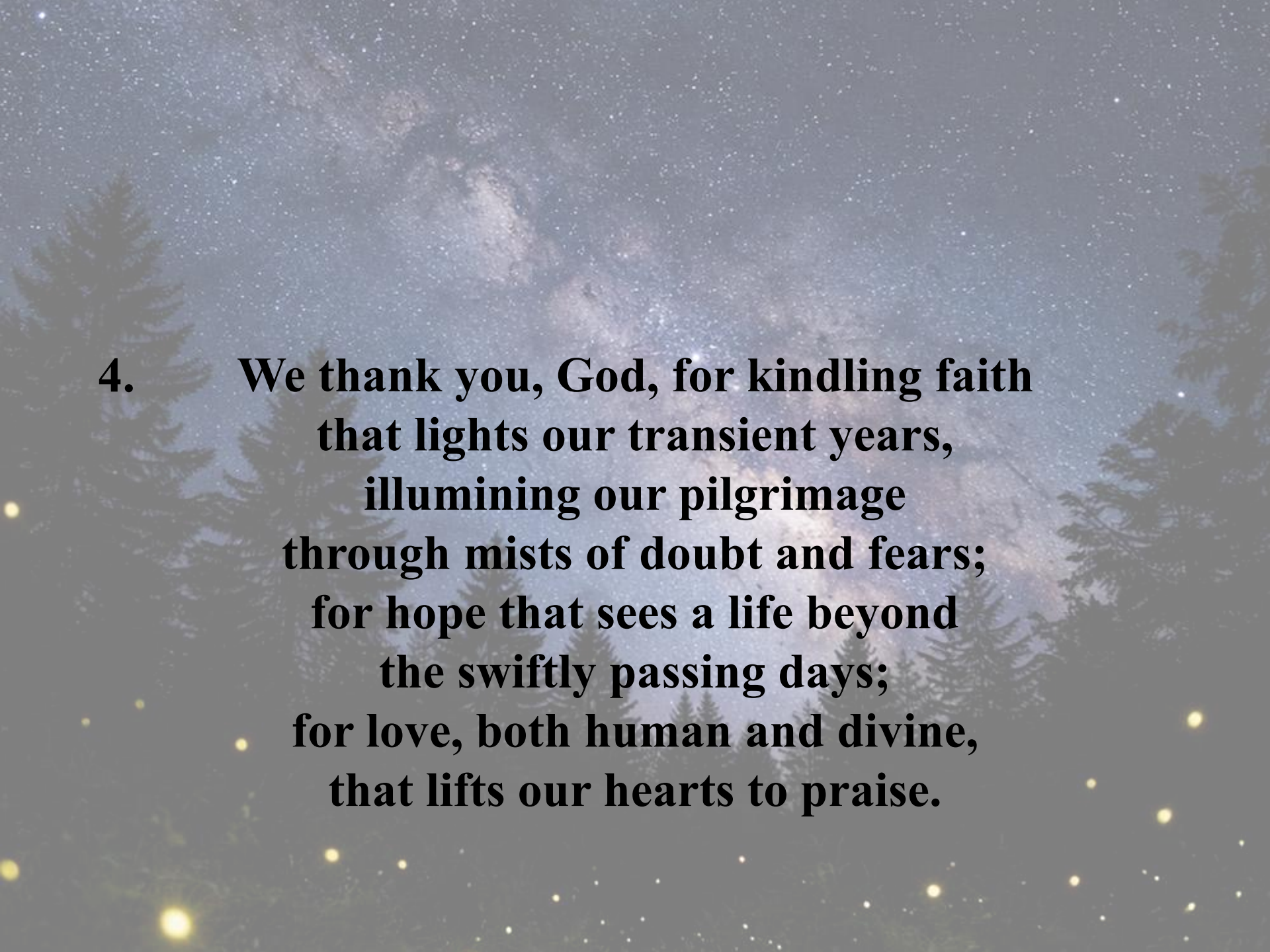
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- 1. How small our span of life, O God,
our years from birth till death:
a single beat within the heart,
the catching of a breath,
a drop within the ocean's deep,
a grain upon the shore,
a flash of light before we sleep
to see the sun no more.**

**2. And yet our speck of life is spanned
by your infinity;
our tick of time on earth is caught
in your eternity.**

**While suns and stars spin endlessly
through depths of cosmic space,
while aeons roll and ages pass,
you hold us in your grace.**

**3. O Christ, you left eternity
to plunge in time's swift stream,
to share the shortness of our span,
our mortal lives redeem.
You filled your cross-closed years with love;
you loved us to the end
and touch us with your risen life
that ours may time transcend.**

A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible in the background. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of evergreen trees. The sky is filled with stars, and there are some bright, out-of-focus light spots scattered across the scene.

**4. We thank you, God, for kindling faith
that lights our transient years,
illuminating our pilgrimage
through mists of doubt and fears;
for hope that sees a life beyond
the swiftly passing days;
for love, both human and divine,
that lifts our hearts to praise.**

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.

Offering
with
Choir Anthem
“At the Cross”

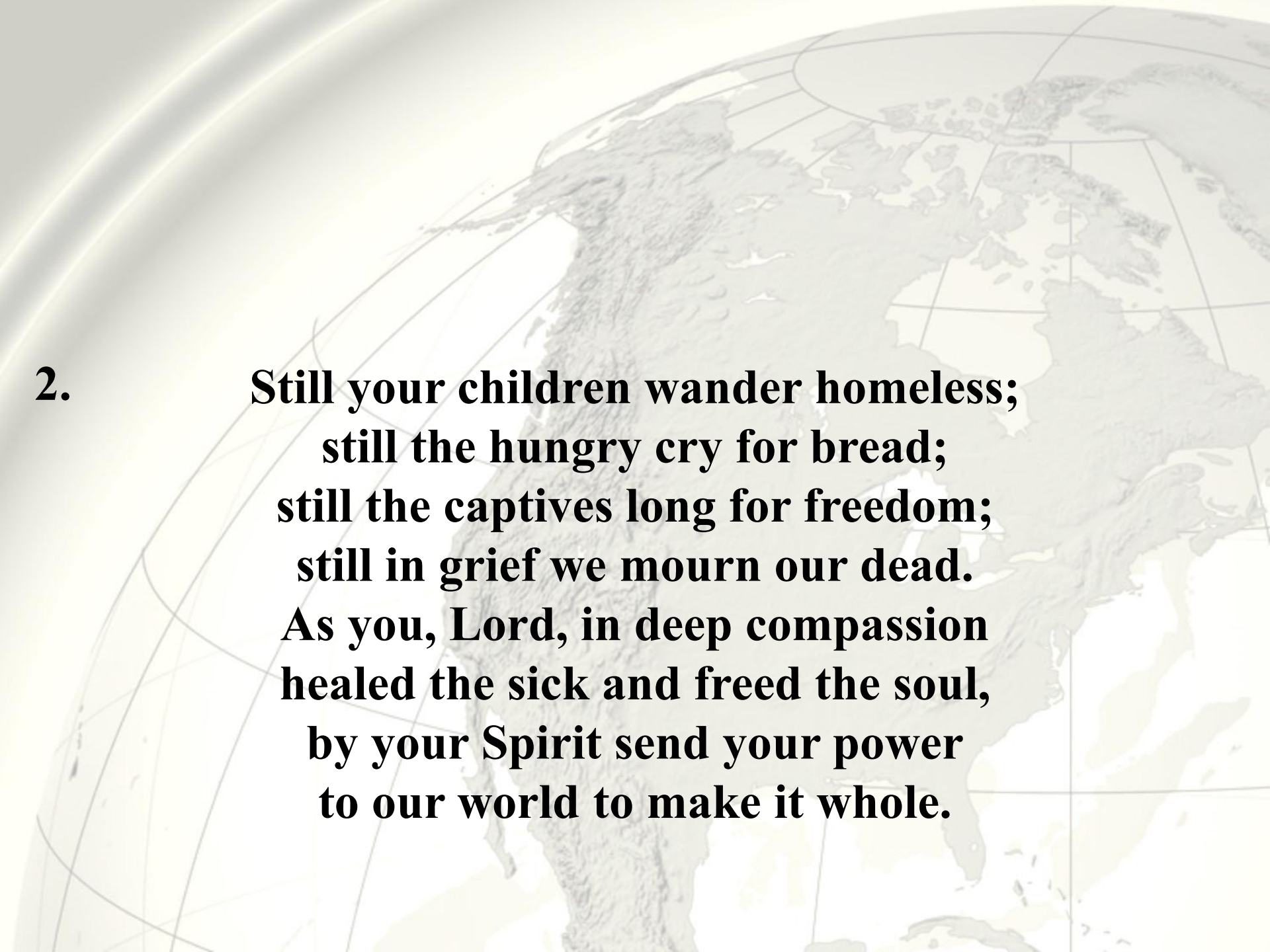


Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service

ELW #712

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- 1. Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.**



**2. Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.**



3.

**As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.**



4.

**Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good-will and comfort,
counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.**

Offering Prayer

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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

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: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains
creation, ✝ bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

We Are Called

ELW #720

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- 1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**


- 3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love.**

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!



*Thank you
for worshipping
with us!*

God bless you!