



**April 30, 2023**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Fourth Sunday in Easter**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Sound Technicians..... Zachary Hereza & Raymond Herek  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

## **Introduction to the day**

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in today's gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

## PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”

arr. George Shearing

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, by whose hand we are given new birth, by whose speaking we are given new life. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead. In baptismal waters our old life is washed away, and in them we are born anew.

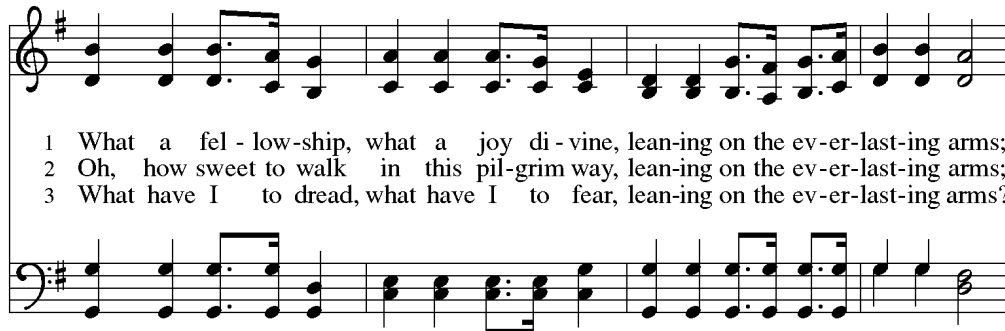
Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for waters that wash us clean, quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures. Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism, the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you. Empower our witness to your resurrection. Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

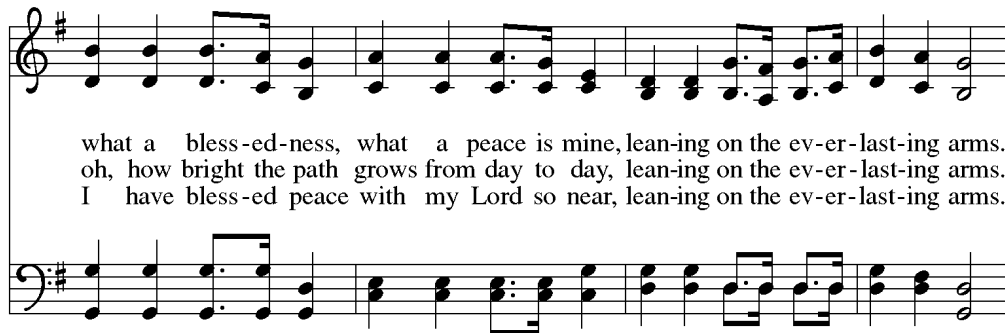
Satisfy the world’s need through this living water. Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment. Where despair prevails, grant hope. Where chaos reigns, bring peace. We ask this through Christ, who with you and the Spirit reigns forever. **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

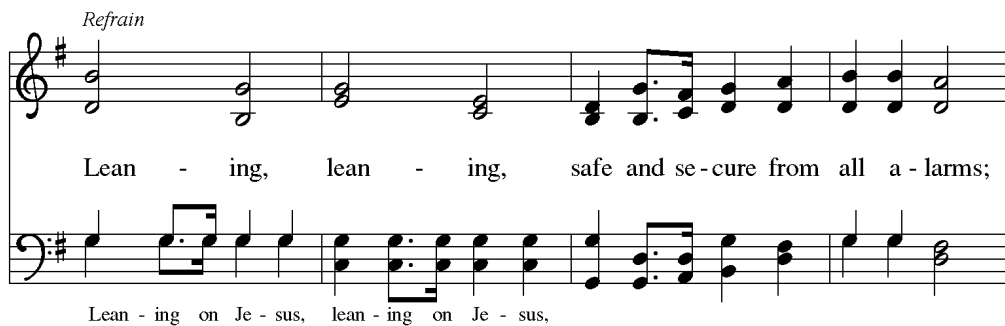


1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?

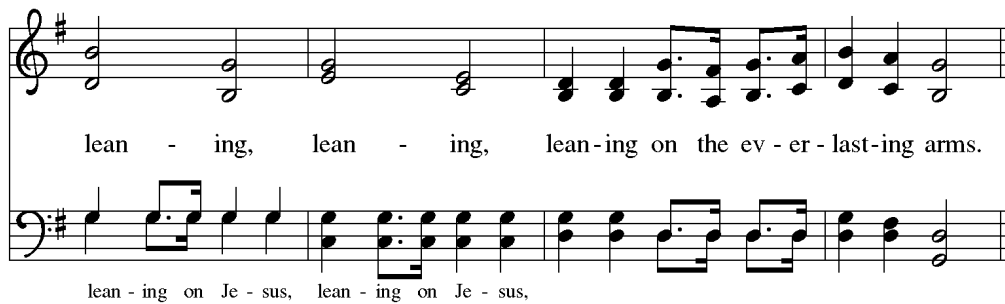


what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;  
Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.  
lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919  
Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

# GREETING

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

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

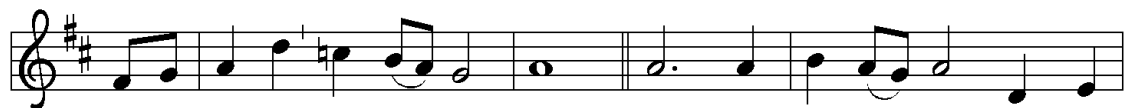


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Acts 2:42-47

*Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>42</sup>[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

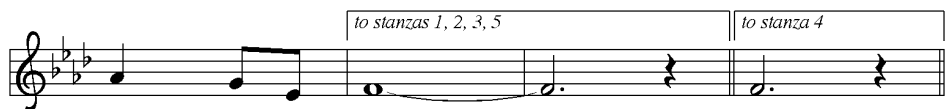
# Shepherd Me, O God

*Refrain*

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from



death in - to life. life.

Leader or All



1 God is my shep-herd, so noth - ing shall I want, I  
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I



rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my  
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your



walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

*Refrain*



4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of



ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

*Refrain*



5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

*Final refrain*

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

## SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:19-25

*Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.*

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

<sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

<sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



## **GOSPEL: John 10:1-10**

*Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.*

The holy gospel according to John.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”  
<sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



- 1 My Shep - herd, you sup - ply my need; most ho - ly is your name.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres - ence is my stay;
- 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh you make me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.  
one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
oh, may your house be my a - bode and all my work be praise.



You bring my wan - d'ring spir - it back when I for - sake your ways,  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
Here would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and lead me, for your mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
no more a strang - er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23  
Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

## 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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds:* Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

"Lo, How a Rose/The Rose" (arr. Craig Hella Johnson)  
Chancel Choir / John Borton, soloist

*Please stand if you are able.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **DIALOGUE**

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

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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 image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. 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 score ends with a double bar line.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 forever. Amen.**

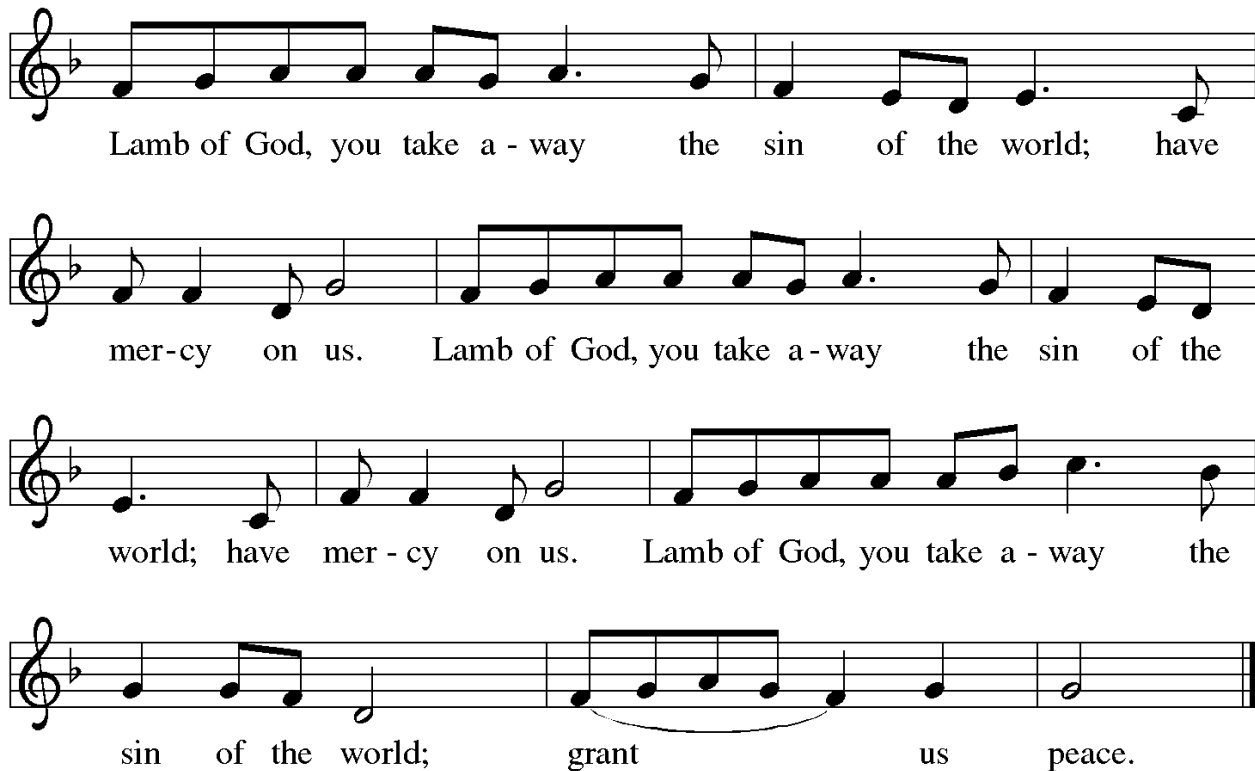
### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and know Christ,  
broken and poured out for you.

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG



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

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

arr. Dale Wood

*Please stand if you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### Lead Me, Guide Me



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;



for if you lead me, I can - not stray.



Lord, let me walk each day with thee.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,



to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”

arr. Paul Manz

Reader: Paul Hereza

Lay Assistant: Rich Weingartner

Ushers: McCracken/Milne

Acolyte: Calvin Kadrofske

Greeters: Chris & Jean Lewis

Altar Care: Jamie Royalty

Nursery:

Coffee Hour: Laurie Hereza

January 1-March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	
Income	\$93,666.00
Expenses	<u>\$86,444.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 7,222.00

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### Weekly Offering Reports

#### 4/16

Loose Cash	\$ 55.00
Loose Checks	\$ 25.00
General Fund	\$ 4,530.00
Green Team T-Shirts	\$ 50.00
Other	\$ 790.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 75.00
Parish House	
Jan. Reimbursement	\$ 201.70
Feb. Reimbursement	\$ 1,172.57
March Reimbursement	\$ 836.51
Member Contribution	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 7,760.78
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 110.90</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,871.68</b>

#### 4/23

Loose Cash	\$ 35.00
General Fund	\$ 1,140.00
Building Rental	\$ 75.00
Other	\$ 80.00
Pantry	\$ 419.78
Parish House	\$ 25.00
PH Reimbursement	<u>\$ 1,537.25</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,312.03
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 3,011.40
Building	\$ 25.00
Youth	<u>\$ 25.25</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,373.68</b>





Thank you Pastor Ellen and Ken Schoepf.