

## Third Sunday after the Epiphany



### Forgiveness (Red Letter Challenge)

January 21, 2024

#### AS WE GATHER

As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian of Carthage had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price—but is Christlike in every way!

**+ Welcome and Announcements +**

# HYMN "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
 heav'n's a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

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Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## **OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 66:1–3a, 4–5, 8*

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**People:** **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Pastor: Say to God, “How awesome are Your deeds! . . .

**People:** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name.”**

Pastor: Come and see what God has done:

**People:** **He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**

Pastor: Bless our God, O peoples;

**People:** **let the sound of His praise be heard.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**People:** **O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

Pastor: God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our prayers. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

*(Share the peace of Christ with those around you)*

# HYMN OF PRAISE 8:00am "The Lord My God Be Praised" 794



1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heav - en;  
 2 The Lord, my God, be praised, My trust, my life from heav - en,  
 3 The Lord, my God, be praised, My hope, my life from heav - en,  
 Δ 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ev - er - liv - ing,



My mak - er, who to me Has soul and bod - y giv - en;  
 The Fa - ther's own dear Son, Whose life for me was giv - en,  
 The Spir - it, whom the Son In love to me has giv - en.  
 To whom the heav'n - ly host Their laud and praise are giv - ing.



My Fa - ther, who will shield And keep me day by day  
 Who for my sin a - toned With His most pre - cious blood  
 His grace re - vives my heart And gives my spir - it pow'r,  
 The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,



And make each mo - ment yield New bless - ings on my way.  
 And gives to me by faith The high - est heav'n - ly good.  
 Help, com - fort, and sup - port In sor - row's gloom - y hour.  
 God Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the Ho - ly Ghost.

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1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;  
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.  
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

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## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people. Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our trespasses and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 31:3;31-34* (God gives a new Covenant to Israel, one based on forgiveness rather than performance)

When Israel went to find rest,  
the LORD appeared to him from far away.  
I have loved you with an everlasting love;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *1 John 2:1-3; 4:19-21* (forgiveness and love go together)

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**           **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Matthew 6:14*

Pastor: Alleluia. If you forgive others their trespasses,

**People:**           **your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**    *John 8:1-11* (a crowd learns a lesson in forgiveness)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the eighth chapter.

**People:**            **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Early in the morning [Jesus] came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**            **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **CREED** *Nicene Creed*

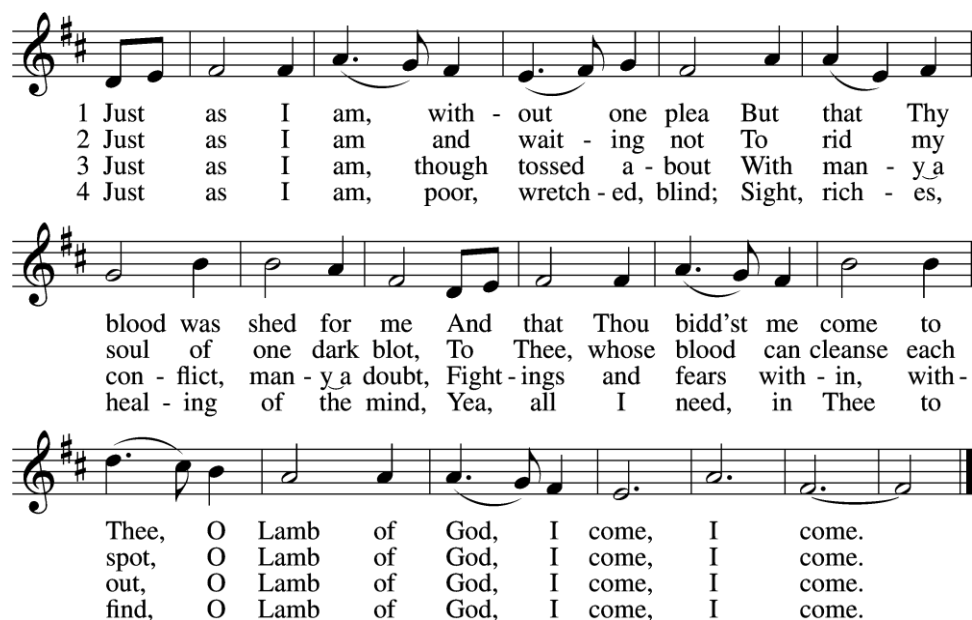
**People:**            **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

# HYMN OF THE DAY "Just As I Am" 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy  
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my  
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a  
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,

blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to  
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each  
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -  
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to

Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.



5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown  
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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**SERMON** “Forgiving” John 8:1-11

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Grant that humility and mutual service be the hallmarks of our lives together. Lord in Your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

Pastor: We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel may have free course in every land. We bless You for the dedicated service of missionaries and deployed church workers in so many places around the globe. Grant that their service may meet with success and be filled with joy. Lord in Your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

Pastor: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we be always ready to listen to others and to grant our forgiveness when it is needed. As we live in community together, grant that we never take others for granted but rather that we encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God. Lord in Your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer**

Pastor: We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and not known to us, [*especially* . . .]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places, even when that service requires devotion and sacrifice on our part. Lord in Your mercy

**People:**        **Hear our prayer**

Pastor: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. We thank You for the times when forgiveness, offered by others, has blessed and sustained us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant's way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

**People:**        **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**+ SACRAMENT +**

**PREFACE**    *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:**        **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:**        **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:**        **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We bless You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness and to assure us of Your fatherly care. Through lives of faith and forgiveness that are directed by Your Holy Spirit, grant that we give evidence of our thankfulness as with joy we anticipate eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne expressing their gratitude in endless praise.

**People:** **Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;  
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

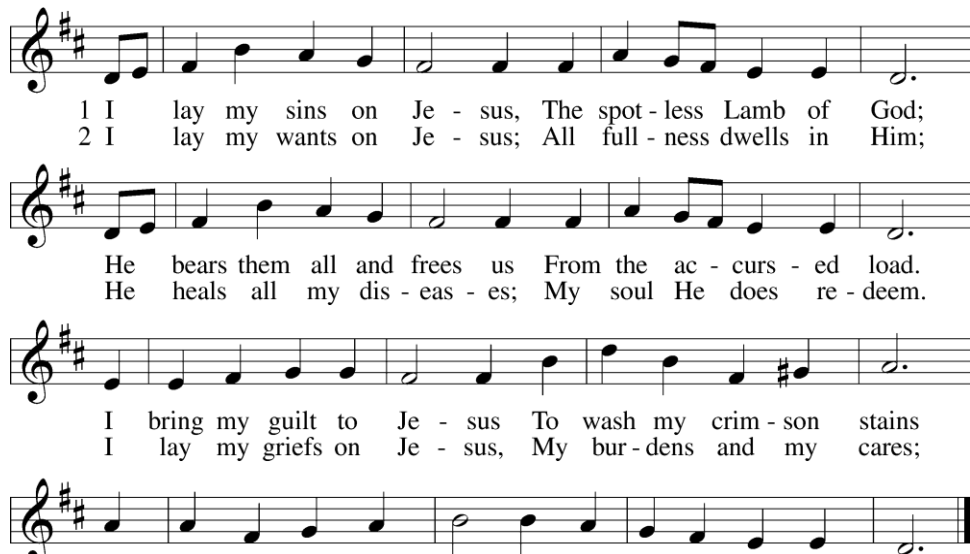
**People:** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

## AGNUS DEI "I Lay My Sins on Jesus" 606 vs 1,2




1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.

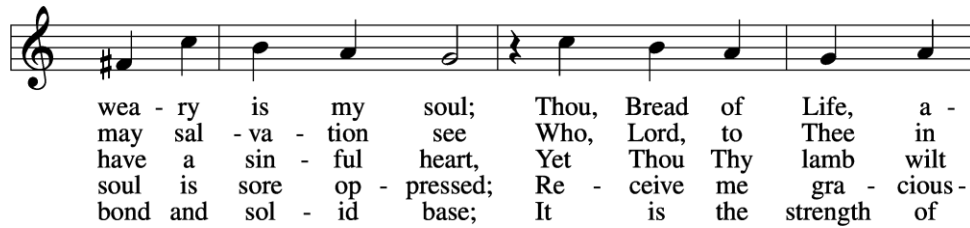
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## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 8:00am only

### "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table" 618

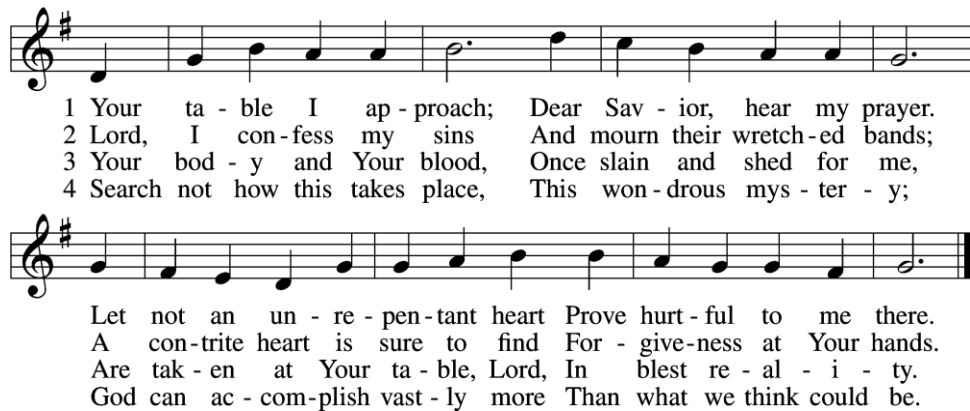


1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



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## "Your Table I Approach" 628



5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light. Text and tune: Public domain

"Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior" 619



1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy



strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.



Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament that we have now received strengthen us in faith, faith demonstrated in loving service to one another and marked by forgiveness and care. As we have shared in the hospitality of Your Table, enable us to live each day as Your people who are given to hospitality, charity, and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

## BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**People:**       **Amen.**

## HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” 790



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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