

March 11, 2018  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**205 West Grove Street (P.O. Box 544)**  
**Clarks Summit, Pa.**

*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.*

*Worship leaders' parts are in regular font.  
Responses of the assembly are in bold font.*

*Notations*

*"Pg." - Page Numbers – front half of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship"  
"No." - Hymn Numbers – rear half of "Evangelical Lutheran Worship"*

**+ Gathering +**

**Prelude Music**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

During the season of Lent we are called to return to the Lord with all our heart.

Let us confess our sin and seek reconciliation with God and neighbor.

*(kneel - Silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Merciful God,

**you sent Jesus Christ to save the lost.**

**We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.**

**We fail in love, neglect justice, and ignore your truth.**

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

**Create in us clean hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

Behold, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

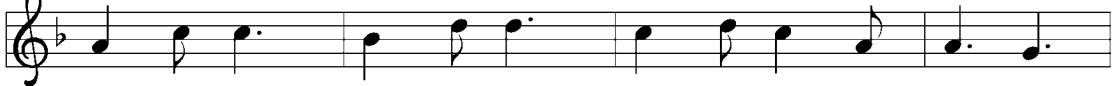


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

**Greeting** (stand)

The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus,  
 the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit  
 be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Kyrie

(stand - sung)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



Lord, have mer - cy.



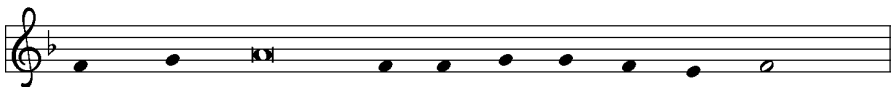
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



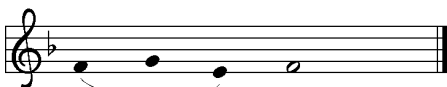
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

# Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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**

(sit)

## + Word +

### First Reading:

### Numbers 21:4–9

*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.*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The 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." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The 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. <sup>8</sup>And 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." <sup>9</sup>So 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.

*After the First Reading the following will be said:*

Word of God, Word of Life!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Psalm** (Congregation: refrain and verses in bold print)

**Psalm 107**

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the <sup>1</sup>LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the <sup>1</sup>LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand <sup>1</sup>of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in <sup>1</sup>from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and <sup>1</sup>from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were fools and took re- <sup>1</sup>bellious paths;  
through their sins they <sup>1</sup>were afflicted.**

<sup>18</sup>They loathed all man-<sup>1</sup>ner of food  
and drew near<sup>1</sup> to death's door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried<sup>1</sup> to the LORD  
and you delivered them from<sup>1</sup> their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your<sup>1</sup> word and healed them  
and rescued them<sup>1</sup> from the grave.

<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your<sup>1</sup> steadfast love  
and your wonderful works<sup>1</sup> for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices<sup>1</sup> of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with<sup>1</sup> shouts of joy.

## Second Reading:

## *Ephesians 2:1–10*

*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.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in 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.<sup>3</sup> All 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.<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved —<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God —<sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast.<sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

*After the Second Reading the following will be said:*

Word of God, Word of Life!  
**Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation for Lent:

*(stand - sung)*

Pg. 160

*Sung by the choir and the congregation:*



*Sung by a soloist:*



God so loved the world that he gave his <sup>1</sup> only Son,\*  
so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but  
have e- <sup>1</sup> ternal life.

*Sung by the choir and the congregation:*



**Gospel:** *(stand)*

*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.*

*The Gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For 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.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those 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. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But 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."

*After the reading:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# Sermon

## Hymn of the Day *(stand)*

No. 592

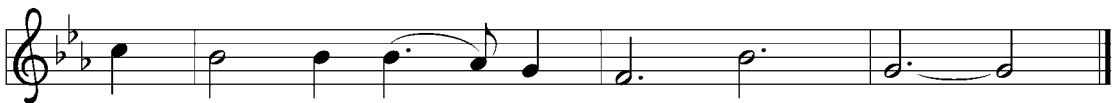
### Just As I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## Nicene Creed *(stand)*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*(stand)*

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We remember those within the Trinity family who are sick, hospitalized, or in special need, especially . . .

We remember those who are serving in the armed forces, especially . .

We remember those outside the Trinity membership who are sick, hospitalized, or in special need, especially . . .

We remember our bishops . . .

*A brief silence*

We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. Strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*



With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## Peace

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

## + Meal +

## Offering

**Offertory:** (stand - sung)

No. 188

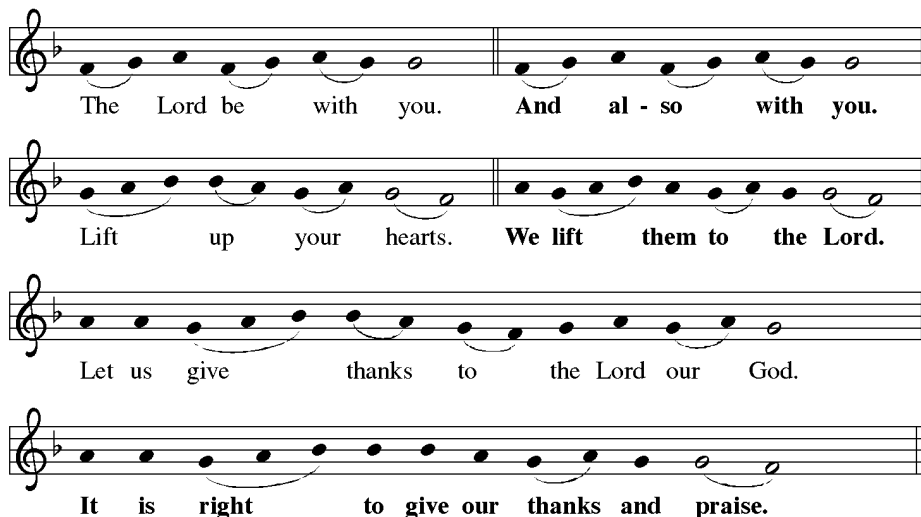
Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

Merciful God,  
receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving  
and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross,  
we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

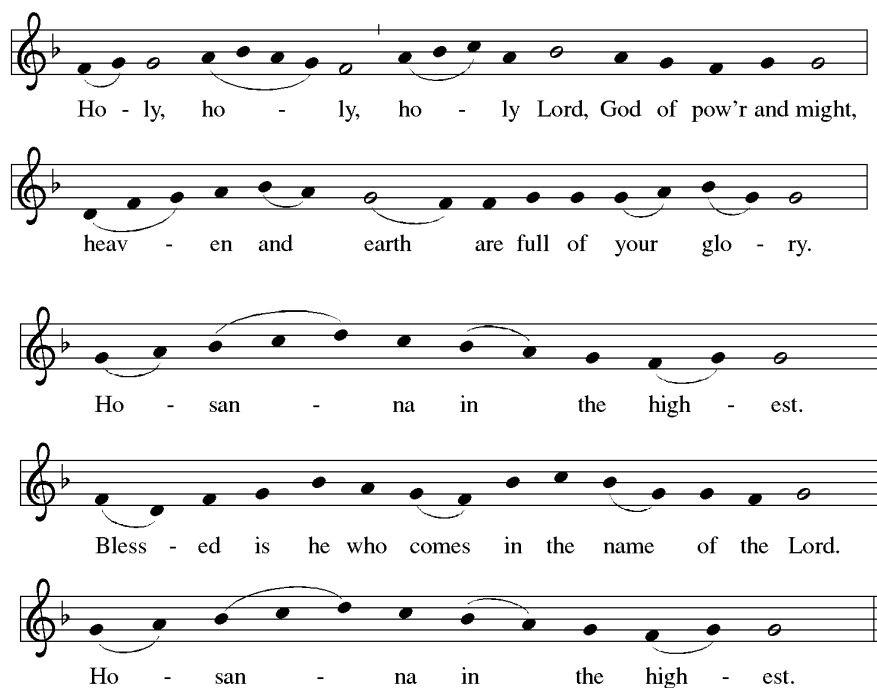


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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 in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Thanksgiving at the Table (*Prayer for Lent*)** *(from With One Voice)*

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and  
springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and Our Water,  
who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the  
love 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** *(stand)*

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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**

## Invitation to Communion *(stand)*

Return to God with all your heart.

Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

## Communion Song *(stand)*

Pg. 164

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. A - men.

## The Distribution of the Sacrament

If you have been baptized, have received your First Communion, and share our belief in the real presence of Christ in the sacrament, you are invited to receive Holy Communion. The Eucharist will be distributed by *intinction* (the wafer dipped into the wine). Please come to the altar at the direction of the ushers.

Children not receiving holy communion are invited to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. They should bow their heads for the blessing as they are approached by the pastor.

## Post-Communion Blessing: *(stand)*

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## Song after Communion

(stand - sung)

No. 201

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has  
been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion  
which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

The musical score is written on seven staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a simple, melodic line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has been ful-filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

## Prayer After Communion

(stand)

Let us pray.

Compassionate God,

you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:

may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace,  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## + Sending +

### Blessing: *(stand)*

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

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

**Amen**

### Sending Song

*(stand)*

No. 660

### Lift High the Cross



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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**Dismissal**      *(stand)*

Marked with the cross of Christ,  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Postlude****Sharing the Light**

Since earliest times, human beings have gathered around fires for warmth, food, storytelling, and community. It is a special feeling to find yourself gathered with a group of people around a campfire or even a heater on a subway platform. Such gatherings prompt us to see those around us in new ways. We notice the faces of people we otherwise would have overlooked. We experience something common in our need for light and warmth.

Each week the Holy Spirit gathers the church together in many spaces around the world. We gather in a different kind of light, a spiritual light that shines from God's only Son who has come into the world. He came into this world "in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17). In the remembrance of our baptisms, in song, in scripture readings, in prayer, in the meal around the table, the one who is the light of the world is present among us. Jesus calls us to step out of the darkness in our lives and into his life-giving, healing, and sustaining light.

Gathered around Jesus Christ, we are called to invite others in. The light of Christ is there for all who experience darkness in their lives, who feel out in the cold, hungry, without a story or purpose, cut off from others in any way. Jesus' light crowds us in together. Then, sent out by Jesus Christ into our lives, we are called to bring that light with us. Wherever we go, we can show interest in others, listen to them, and seek ways to care for them. We lift up the light we experience each week in community with one another for someone else to see.

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