

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



The 4th Sunday in Lent
March 30, 2025

Welcome to worship this morning! Prince of Peace is a congregation of people who are called to Live, Learn and Grow in the Word of God. We strive to be faithful disciples in the world through our care for each other, our hospitality to those who come here to share in the fellowship of Christ, and our service to those who are in need in our community and throughout the world.

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign the guest register on the Usher's stand in the narthex and introduce yourself to the pastor.

We are now in the Season of Lent in preparation for our Easter celebration. During Lent we have an opportunity to engage in a time of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Often people will engage in a special spiritual discipline or practice such as regular prayer, some type of fasting or special acts of charity or care for others. We pray that this season will draw you closer to God and God's people.

Pastor Bill Schaefer

Some Practical Things:

- **Restrooms** are located in the Sunday School section of the building. Walk out of the sanctuary and continue across the narthex, through the double doors and the restrooms will be on your right after you pass the two class rooms. There is a bottle filler and cups across from the restrooms for your comfort and convenience.
- **Children:** All children, even those who chat, cry, laugh or are having a rough morning, are always welcome here. If your child needs to move about, please feel free to walk around the back of the church or in the Narthex with your child during the service.
- **Holy Communion:** We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion every Sunday at Prince of Peace. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament are welcome at this, the Lord's Table, to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. You will find more information in this worship folder. Our ushers will help guide you.
- **Prayer Requests:** If there is someone you wish us to pray for over the next few days or weeks, please take a moment to fill out one of the white prayer cards that are in the pew racks and either give it to the pastor or one of the ushers or place it in the offering plate.
- **If you are interested in membership** here at Prince of Peace, please take a moment to speak with the pastor before you leave for more information about the congregation and membership.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

D We gather in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

D Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

D Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and one another

Please kneel or sit as you are able

D Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

D God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead to sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

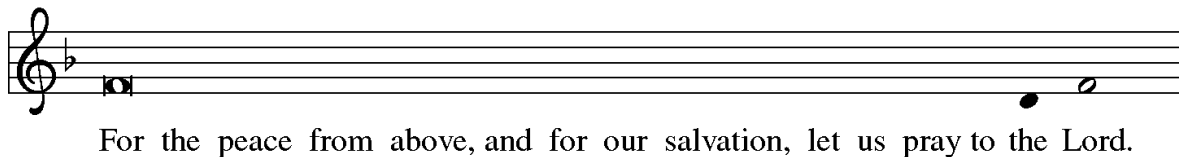
D The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

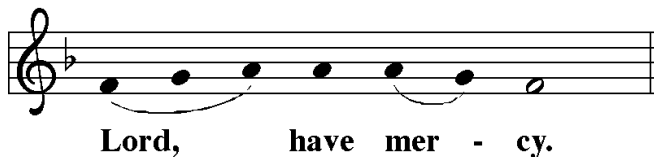
KYRIE



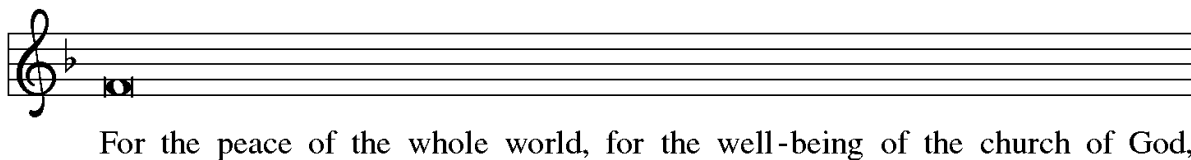
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



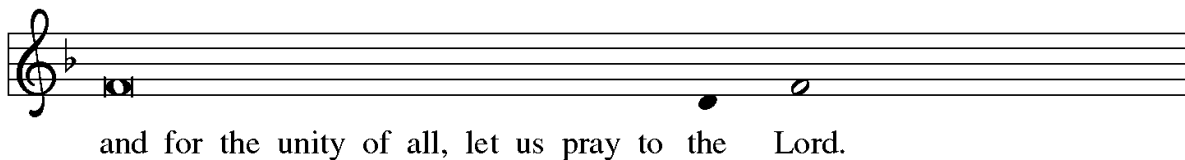
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



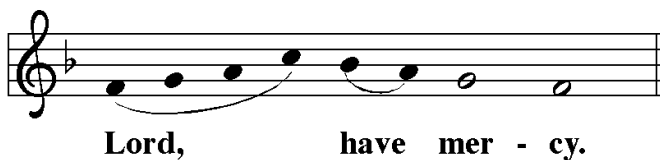
Lord, have mer - cy.



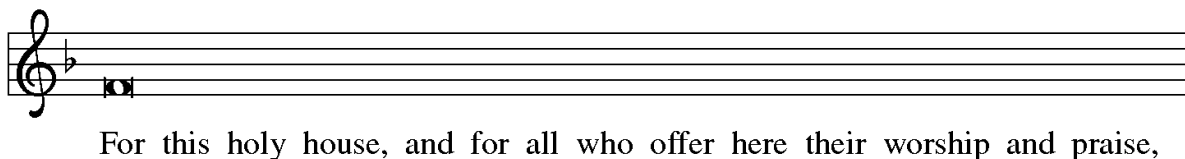
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



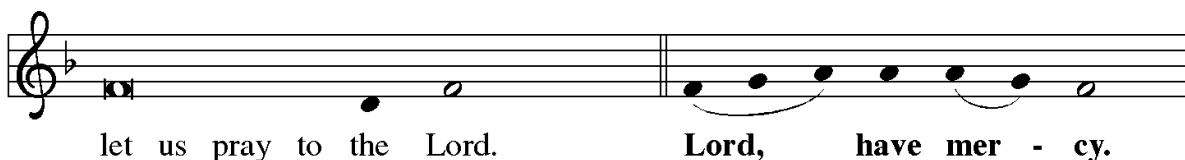
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



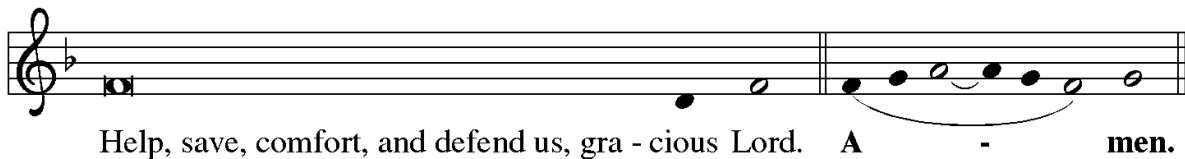
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent

PRAYER OF THE DAY

D The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

D Let us pray. God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

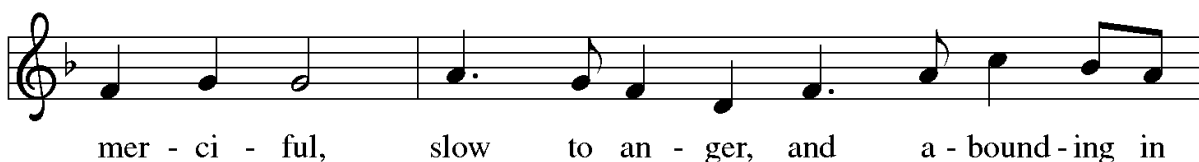
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able



Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

D The holy gospel according to St. Luke in the 15th chapter

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

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

D The gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated

SERMON

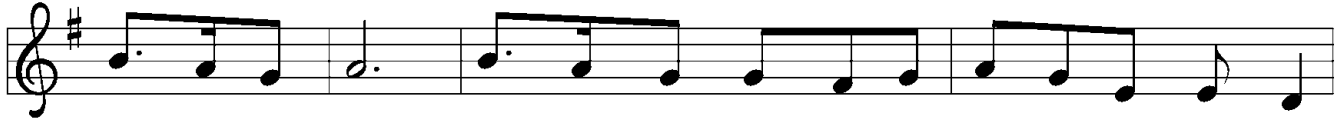
Deacon Denise Hegemann

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

APOSTLES' CREED

D Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C **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

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

Please kneel or sit as you are able

D Lord in your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

When the prayers have concluded

D Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your love through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

D The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

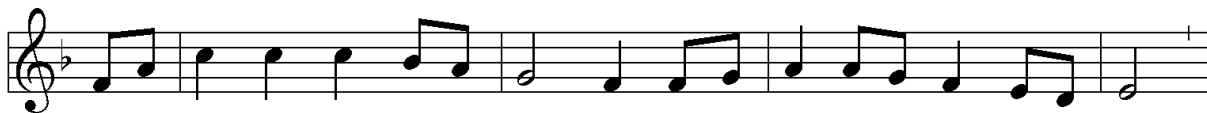
Please stand as you are able and share the Peace of Christ with those around you as they are comfortable.



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

D Let us pray. Blessed are you,
C **O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

D When we last gathered in worship last Sunday, we heard again of God's mighty acts and the love shown us in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. We shared in the holy meal of the Lord's Supper. Now we use this same bread and cup of blessing, so that we may again share in these same gifts and be strengthened in communion with all the people of God.

Gathered at the Lord's table, we remembered with thanksgiving that "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."

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup from our last gathering are here given for you now.

C **Amen**

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

C 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.

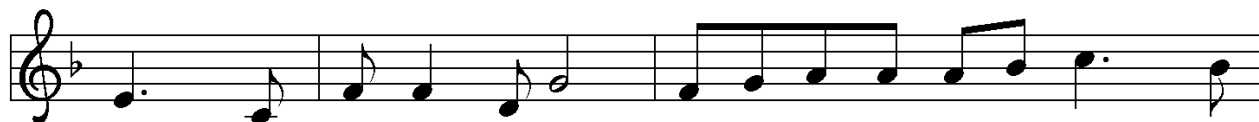
D These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come for the banquet is now ready.



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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

*Please be seated. As we gather around the table of our Lord, all Baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion this morning. Children visiting with us today, who receive the Sacrament in their home congregation, should follow the practices from that congregation. If you do not wish to receive the Sacrament this morning, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this to the Deacon as you come forward. The Sacrament will be distributed in both bread and wine today. Today, the usher will invite you forward and you are asked to carefully pick up a pre-filled glass of wine or grape juice and then receive the bread from the Deacon. **Gluten-free wafers are available – ask the Deacon for them when you come forward.** Proceed toward the side aisle and then consume both your wine and your wafer. There will be a basket on the end of the pew for you to dispose of your used cup. Then return to your seat via the side aisles. After all have communed, please stand as you are able.*

D The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen**

D Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that you welcome us to your table and satisfy our deepest hunger and thirst. By your gifts of your Word and this holy meal, strengthen us to take up your cross as we go out as your disciples in the world, following after Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

D May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (Printed on Next Page)

DISMISSAL

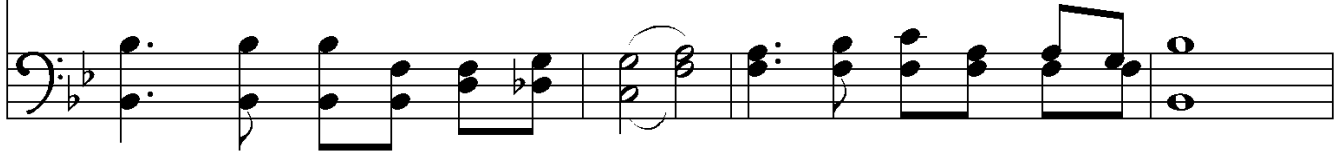
D Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

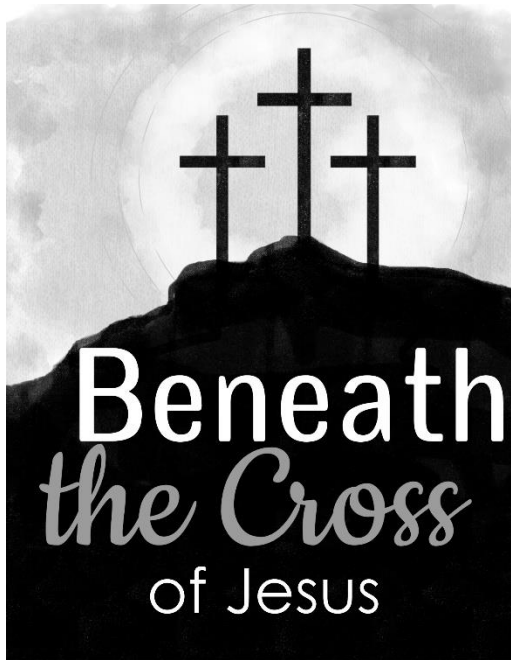


Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it, Je - sus, is my plea;
1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



dai - ly walk - ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Ref.*
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Ref.*
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore. *Ref.*





Wednesday Mid-Week Services

Simple Supper @ 6:00

Worship @ 7:00

April 2 – From My Contrite Heart, with Tears

April 9 – I Take, O Cross, Your Shadow

All Holy Week Services at Prince of Peace

Holy Wednesday – April 16 – 7:00 PM

Service of Healing and Wholeness

Maundy Thursday – April 17 – 7:00 PM

Holy Communion and Stropping of the Altar

Good Friday Tenebrae – April 18 – 7:30 PM

Easter Sunrise Service – April 20 – 7:00 AM

Holy Communion

Festival Easter Service

9:00 AM at Trinity, Derry

Festival Easter Service

10:30 AM at Prince of Peace

