

LUTHERAN CHAPEL

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:1-2 and Luke 4:1-13
"The Temptation of our Lord 2025"

**ANTECOMMUNION
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 9, 2025**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
SERVICE OF ANTE COMMUNION**

*BOLD indicates congregational responses - * Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.*

GATHER

PRELUDE

"Blessed Jesus, We Are Here"

Johann G. Walther

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Matthew 28:19b

C: Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

1 John 1:8-9

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us recite the gift of the Ten Commandments and the Great Commandment and use these teachings to examine our lives.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

- 1. You shall have no other gods.**
- 2. You shall not make wrongful use of the Name of the LORD your God.**
- 3. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.**
- 4. Honor your father and mother.**
- 5. You shall not murder.**
- 6. You shall not commit adultery.**
- 7. You shall not steal.**
- 8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**
- 9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**
- 10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or (husband).**

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Mark 12:28-31

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

P: Let us kneel or sit for a time of silent confession and self-examination.

P: 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.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

2 Corinthians 13:13

P: 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.

***THE KYRIE**

ELW pg. 138

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

C: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

MESSAGE FOR ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All who want to come forward for the Message are welcome to do so.

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

EXODUS 14:10-31, 15:1-2

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." ¹³But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers." ¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

**"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.**

**²The LORD is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.**

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson from Genesis to Revelation. The + marks where we are now. Memory verse is in bold.

*Creation : Fall : Promise : **Exodus** : Conquest : Judges: Kings and Prophets : Exile :
Restoration : 2nd Temple : **JESUS** : +Apostles : Last Day : New Creation*

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

² **you will say to the LORD, "My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust." R**

⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

¹⁴ **I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

¹⁶ **With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation. R**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will forever. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 10:8B-13

8b "The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

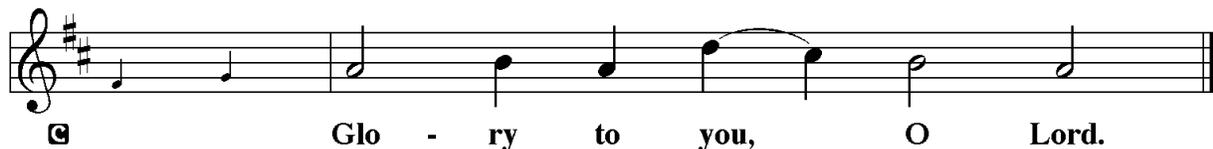
Joel 2:13

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

***GOSPEL**

LUKE 4:1-13

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.



¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

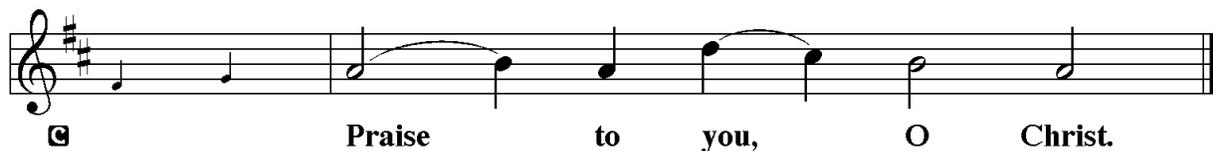
⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Response after the announcement:

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

“The Temptation of our Lord 2025”

On the Victory at the Red Sea

The Tempter and Spiritual Warfare

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: I am powerless against temptations and attacks of the enemy of our soul. We live under attack.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: Jesus endured temptation and defeated the devil for us. We call upon His Name in the midst of all attacks.

So What? Rebuke the evil thought, the evil impulse in the Name of Jesus. When tempted, stop and pray the Lord’s Prayer. When attacked, seek to sing, laugh and seek refuge in the Lord (Psalm 46).

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Bless Now, O God, the Journey”

ELW #326

***THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body

and the life + everlasting. Amen.

***THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Philippians 4:7

P: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Call to Lent”

J. Jerome Williams

***OFFERTORY**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalm 51:10-1

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

***THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

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

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: 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.**

SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

"Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

ELW #337

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Air"

Alessandro Scarlatti



OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in honor of Norman and Pam Overcash for their Wedding Anniversary.

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers.....	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....	Susan Hibsich
Director of Music Ministries.....	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....	Adam DeLuca
Lector.....	Drew Carpenter
Acolyte.....	Cameron Bell
Crucifer.....	Bram Comer
Head Ushers.....	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....	Steve Clark
Council Members of the Month.....	Drew Carpenter and Don Boyette

Upcoming EVENTS



GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the “Easy Tithe” page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.



LOVE OFFERING FOR MARCH: Our love offering for March will be sent to The Cathy Mabry Cloninger Center/A Domestic Violence Shelter. The Home serves as a temporary shelter for clients to work on goals to establish new housing, jobs, daycare, etc. while providing a safe, emergency residence where victims can live in times of crisis. When the families leave, the staff wants them to be strong and hopeful for the future and know that there is always someone only a phone call away if help is needed. Working together, these ministries can help survivors begin their journey towards safety, healing, and hope. Please prayerfully consider donating to this ministry and helping to make a difference.

SW CONFERENCE FUNDRAISER: The SW conference will host a fundraiser on **Saturday, March 15** from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 531 Harden Rd., Dallas, NC. They are raising funds to help rebuild destroyed bridges in Western North Carolina. BBQ Chicken Lunch will be served; eat or go for \$15.00.

GASTONIA LIONS CLUB: There will be a donation box beside the CAM box for used, no longer needed eyeglasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. Thank you!

CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES: Please remember that we will continue to collect food for the Crisis Assistance Ministry throughout the year. You may place food in the blue collection box in the hallway near our fellowship hall and in the CAM basket in the narthex of the sanctuary. The Social Ministry team will deliver to CAM when the box is full – so keep us busy! Thank you so much!

Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, March 9	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:00 am	Confirmation
	11:00 am	Luther Choir Parent Meeting (Youth Room)
	11:30 am	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, March 10	8:30 am	Preschool
Tuesday, March 11	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers (Sanctuary)
Wednesday, March 12	8:30 am	Preschool
	7:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer (Chapel)
Thursday, March 13	8:30 am	Preschool
	9:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
Friday, March 14	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, March 15	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Let's **PRAY**

DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Sunrise, noon, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1, 55:17*). *May God bless you as you turn to Him day by day.*

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 8—March 9 to March 16, 2025

03/09 Morning Reading: Mark 11:19-33—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 8, 9, 10

03/10 Morning Reading: Mark 12:1-27—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 11, 12, 13

03/11 Morning Reading: Mark 12:28-44—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 14, 15, 16

03/12 Morning Reading: Mark 13:1-20—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 17, 18, 19

03/13 Morning Reading: Mark 13:21-37—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 20, 21, 22

03/14 Morning Reading: Mark 14:1-26—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 23, 24, 25

03/15 Morning Reading: Mark 14:27-53—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 26, 27

03/16 Morning Reading: Mark 14:54-72—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 28, 29

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that lists the commemorations and Psalms appointments for the week.



PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, Wes Beam, Ron Behringer, Steve Bell, Pauline Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Buddy Carothers, Miles Carpenter, Kathy Finch, **Judy Gault**, Baker Hampton, Nancy Homovich, Trish Ratchford, Doug Rhyne, Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, **Joe Veale**, and the family of Myra Weaver.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: John Austin, Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Peggy Button, Deborah Carpenter, Jeff Cobb, Zandra Chavis, Doris Coggins, Greg Cranford, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jerry Green, Kirk Jordan, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Rita Pasour, Parks Peak, Bill Riddle, Morgan Rosser, Dorothy Slessman, “Spike” Stevens, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Becky Van Dyke, Jimmy Watlington, Virgil Welch and recovery in the North Carolina mountains.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439)

NEXT WEEK’S LESSONS

Wednesday, March 12 ~ Holden Evening Prayer Service

Psalm 59 “*Attempted Murder*”

Thursday, March 13 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:1-2 “*The Temptation of our Lord 2025*”

Sunday, March 16 ~ Holy Communion

Exodus 20:1-21 and Luke 13:31-35 “*The Safe Place*”

**1ST SUNDAY
OF LENT
YEAR C**

GOSPEL VERSE

*One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
forth from the mouth of God.*

Matthew 4:4B



Prayer † Fasting † Almsgiving



Easter Lily Order



If you wish to place a lily in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday Service, please fill out the form below and return it along with your payment to the church office by **Sunday, March 23**. Make your check payable to Lutheran Chapel and write *Lily Order* on the memo line. Be sure to pick up your flowers after the Easter Sunday Service.

Number to order: _____ @ \$12.00 each = Total \$ _____

(Please print)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Placed by: _____

The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
 Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

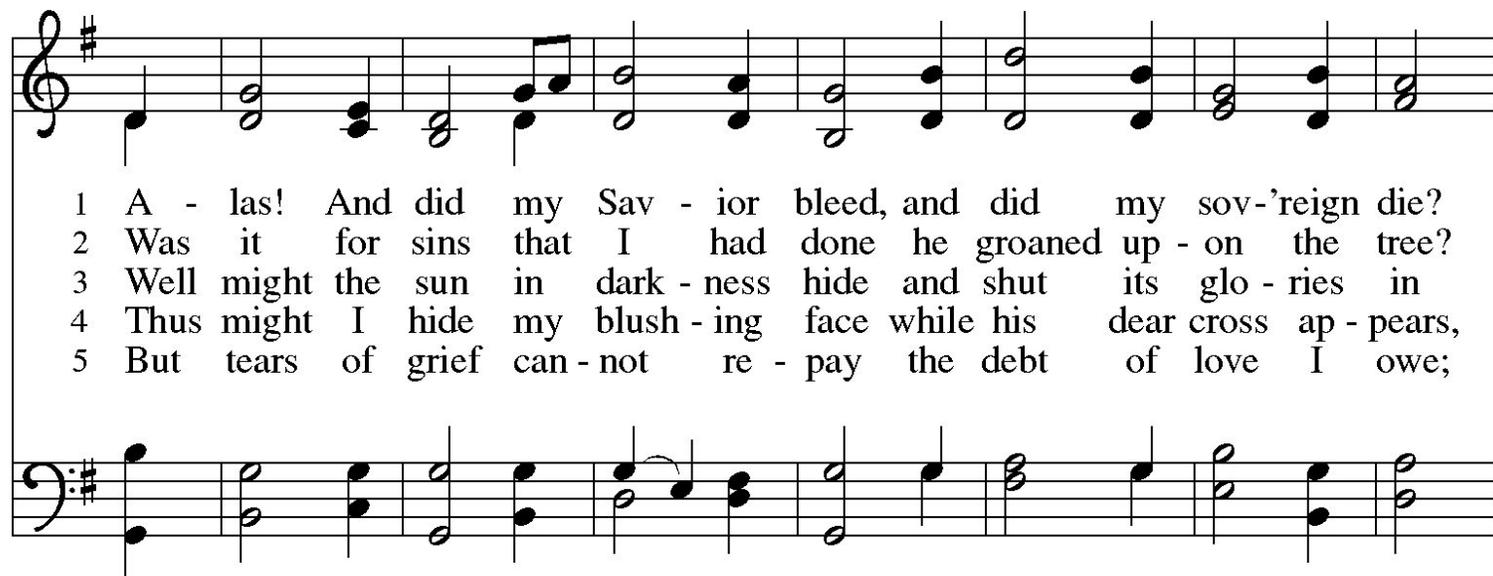
The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

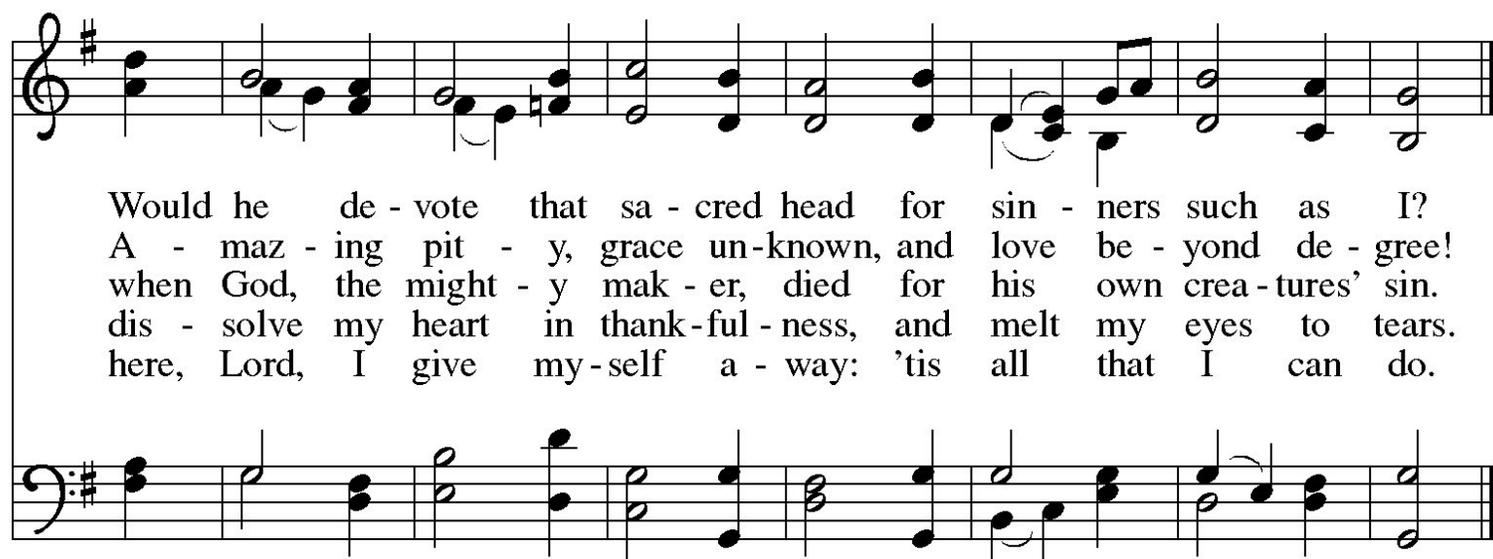
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
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Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,
5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un-known, and love be - yond de - gree!
when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.
dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.
here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824