

LUTHERAN CHAPEL

3rd Sunday
IN LENT



EXODUS 20:1-21 and JOHN 4

"The Living Water"

**ANTE COMMUNION
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 8, 2026**

**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

"Elevazione per Organo"

Bernardo Sabadini

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. I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of slavery; 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**

Mark 10:47, ELW pg. 138

AM: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

AM: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

C: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 20:1-21

¹ Then God spoke all these words,

² **"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.**

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you,

your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

¹⁸ When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” ²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.” ²¹ Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

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 95

(Spoken)

¹ O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the LORD is a great God

and a great King above all gods.

⁴ **In his hand are the depths of the earth;**

the heights of the mountains are his also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶ **O come, let us worship and bow down;**

let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

⁷ For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture

and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸ **Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,**

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your ancestors tested me

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, “They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.”

¹¹ Therefore in my anger I swore,
“They shall not enter my rest.”

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

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 5:1-11

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

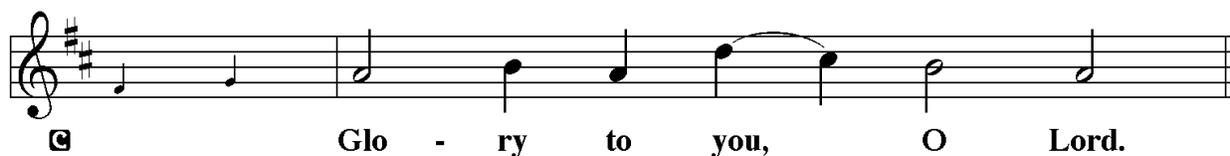
Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

*GOSPEL

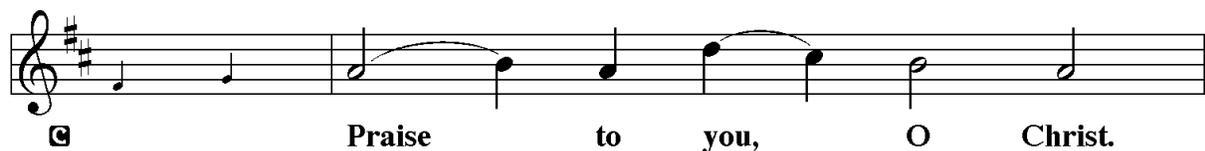
JOHN 4

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

Response after the announcement:



P: The Gospel of the Lord.



The Ten Commandments – Three Uses of the Law
Talking with Samaritans

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: I like putting people in comfortable categories like Christian and non-Christian, heretic and orthodox, bad guys and good guys.

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: Jesus shatters human categories and reaches out that all may receive Him – the Living Water – that sustains and flows unto eternal life.

So What?/Plain Sense: Remember the gift of your baptism – your connection to Jesus, the Living Water! God said to love your neighbor (yes, even that neighbor!) and not judge your neighbor – leave the ultimate judgment to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY"As the Deer Runs to the River"***ELW #331*****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 PEACEPhilippians 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***"O Lord Most Holy"*

Arr. By Hal Hopson

***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**

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

ELW #618

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Musette"

Gordon Young

In Honor &
MEMORY



OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given in memory of Ervin and Helen Hoffman, by Ervin, Nancy, David, Susan, Henry and Debra.

Serving the
CHURCH



Ministers.....People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor.....Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant.....Susan Hibsich
Director of Music Ministries.....Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist.....Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister.....Norman Overcash
Acolyte.....Luke Hoffman
Lector.....Bram Comer
Crucifer.....Will Clark
Head Ushers.....Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR.....Matt Hoffman
Council Members of the Month.....Don Boyette and Zac Lentz

GOD IS
Love
1 JOHN 4:8

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.



BROTHERHOOD: The men of the church brotherhood have planned a spaghetti supper for Tuesday, **March 10, at 6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. All men in the Congregation are encouraged to attend. Our Men’s Fellowship group will be discussing our plans for the year. We look forward to seeing you there!

LENTEN VESPER SERVICES: Services will be held on **Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Donations made at Wednesday services will be given to the Backpack Ministries. All are welcome!

OWLS: We hope you’ll join us for our OWL-standing time of fellowship on Wednesday, **March 18, at 11:00 am** at Bellacino’s, Gastonia.

EASTER EGG HUNT: All welcome for an Easter Egg Hunt. Fun for the Whole Family! **Saturday, March 28th, from 1-3 pm**. Activities, Prizes, Snacks and More. Please consider donating egg fillers, such as candy and small toys or making a donation to be used to purchase fillers. Items are due by Sunday, March 15. Please leave in the box in the Narthex.



CLOTHING CLOSET: The next clothing closet giveaway will take place on Saturday, **March 28, from 9 am-12 pm**.

2026 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday in 2026, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email sudalewi@gmail.com. We still need flowers for October 4 and November 22.

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 establish new housing, jobs, and daycare, etc., while providing a safe, emergency residence where victims can live in times of crisis. Other services provided include counseling, court advocacy, children’s programs, and support group meetings.



Weekly **CALENDAR**



Sunday, March 8

- 8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
- 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am Confirmation**
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 4-6 pm Life in Christ (Fellowship Hall, Chapel)
- 8:00 pm Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 9

- 8:30 am Preschool

Tuesday, March 10

- 8:30 am Preschool
- 10:00 am Clothing Closet Workday
- 6:00 pm Brotherhood Dinner (Fellowship Hall)**
- 6:00 pm Worship & Music Meeting (Conference)**

Wednesday, March 11

- 8:30 am Preschool
- 7:00 pm Vespers Lent Service

Thursday, March 12

- 8:30 am Preschool
- 6:00 pm Pickup basketball (Gym)

Friday, March 13

- Office Closed
- 9:00 am Men's Community Bible Study (Library)

Saturday, March 14

- 9:30 am Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, March 15

- 8:30 am Fellowship with coffee
- 9:00 am Sunday School and Bible Study
- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 am Full Council Meeting (Conference)**
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)
- 8:00 pm Faith Group (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 11—March 8 to March 15, 2026

03/08 Morning Reading: Mark 11:1-18—Evening Reading: Deuteronomy 5, 6, 7
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

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: Shirley Bradley, Miles Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter, George Cashion, Baker Hampton, Henry Hoffman, Jason Lineberger, Gene Weaver, **Sid Woody**

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Gage Brown, Deborah Carpenter, Zandra Chavis, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, Genniser Devega, Tucker Doyne, Ralph Euchner, Kenny Falls, **Jack Fitzgerald**, Jameson Franklin, Carolyn Gantt, Abi Gordon, Jan Green, Jerry Green, John, Kathy Jenkins, Debbie Kersprie, Don Kincaid, Sherry McCart, Betty Parlier, Rita Pasour, Jeff Smith, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner, Kennedy Williams and **For our Nation and Military during Operation Epic Fury.**

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 11 ~ Lenten Vespers

Psalm 101 "*When Shall I Attain the Way That is Blameless?*"

Sunday, March 15 ~ Holy Communion

Exodus 32:1-20 and John 9 - "*Seeing in Christ*"

Seder Meal



One of Jesus' last earthy acts was the celebration of the Passover. Gathering His disciples in a small room in Jerusalem, He led them in a Passover Seder, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22.15) The Worship and Music committee is putting together plans for our Seder Meal which will take place on Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 6PM in the Family Life Center. We need to get an approximate number to plan for by March 29, 2026. Please indicate below if you plan to attend and how many will be in your group. Looking forward to seeing you at this meaningful service.

Name _____ #Attending _____



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 15**. 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 ordering: _____ @ \$13.00 each = Total \$ _____

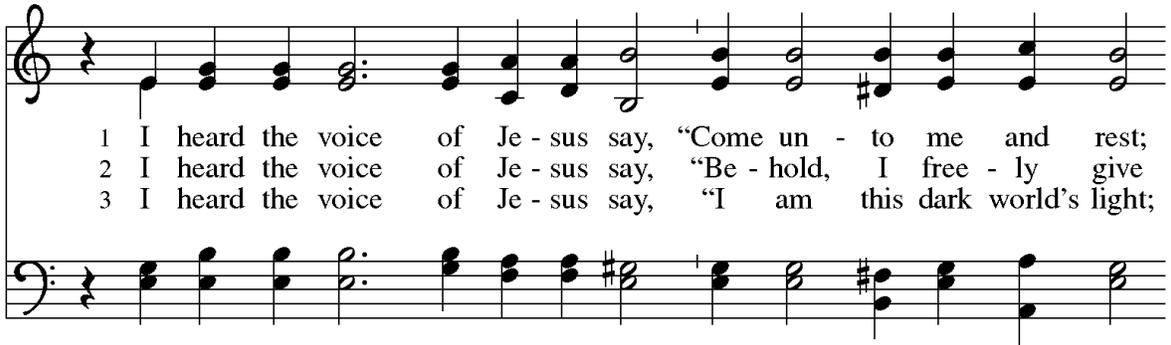
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In Honor of: _____

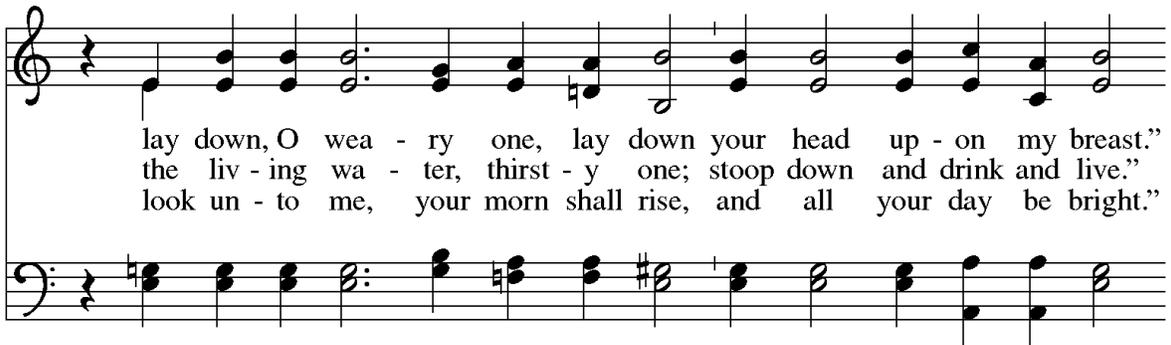
In Memory of: _____

Placed by: _____

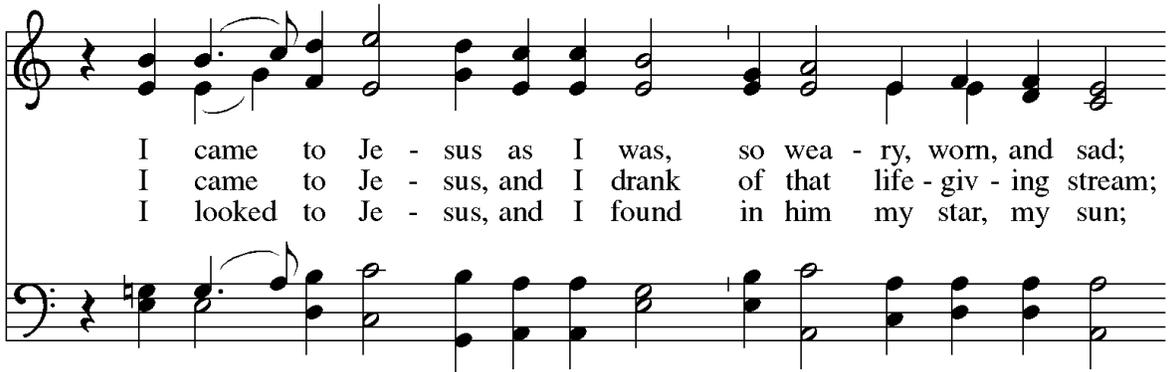
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



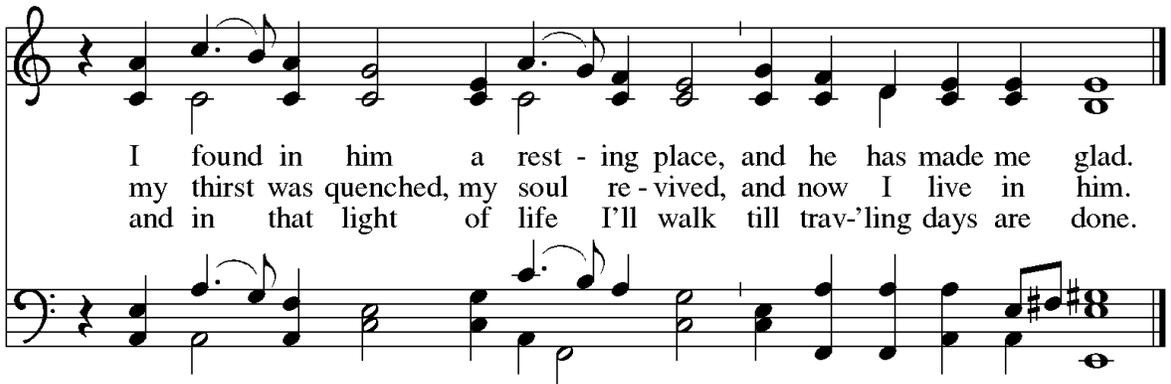
1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889
Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505-1585

As the Deer Runs to the River



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

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Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932