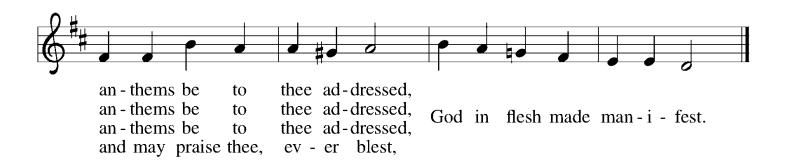


GATHERING
Prelude
Welcome
GATHERING SONG SONGS OF THANKFULNESS AND PRAISE
 1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise; 2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme; 3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint - ing soul; 4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;
man - i - fest - ed by the star and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest in val - iant fight, grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as from a - far, man - i - fest in val - iant fight, and be pure, as pure art thou;
branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem man - i - fest in gra - cious will, that we might be - come like thee in thy birth at Beth - le - hem: chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine; ev - er bring-ing good from ill: at thy great e - piph - a - ny,



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Gathered in the presence of God and each other, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may delight in your will, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

People of God, rejoice in this good news: In 🕂 Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Receive Christ's grace, and go forth, living as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

READING: ISAIAH 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

PSALM: PSALM 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor.

³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. **8**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;
 the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
 ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!
 May the LORD bless his people with peace!

READING: ACTS 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

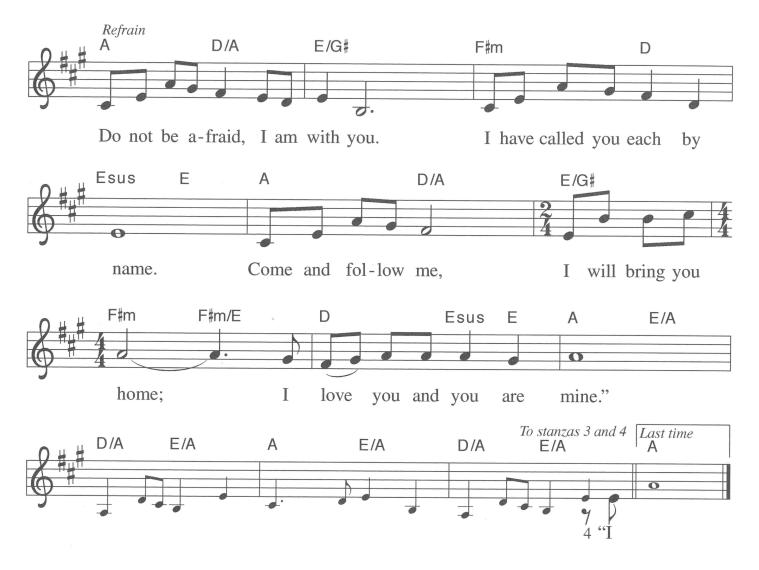
¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

HYMN YOU ARE MINE D/A А E/G# А ۴T will the si - lence, 1 come to you in ۴T 2 hope for all who are hope - less, am ۴T 3 am strength for all the de - spair - ing, Word that leads free - dom, Ι am the all to (4)ESUS ⊢#m D from will lift you all your fear. T (2) In the am eves for all who long to see. Ι for the ones who dwell in shame. heal-ing am the peace the world can - not give. DIA U# **⊢**∦m А my choice. You will hear my voice, claim you Be Ι as the night, will be your light. shad-ows of Ι A11 the blind will see. the lame will all run free, and Stand Ι will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. ыш ESUS ESUS υ 0still and know Ι am here. To stanza 2 Come and rest me. To refrain in all will know To refrain my name. walk live! To refrain up, now and



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response to "Lord in your mercy" is "hear our prayer." If you would like to add a prayer petition, email it to Pastor Aleese at <u>pastor@shepherdofthecross.org</u>

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always! And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

------ Meal ------

Offering

Offering Prayer

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also 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 God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 THE TABLE

SHARING GOD'S MEAL TOGETHER

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS Refrain Spir - it of Spir it, gen-tle-ness, blow through the wil-der-ness 0 call-ing and free; Spir it. Spir - it of rest-less-ness,

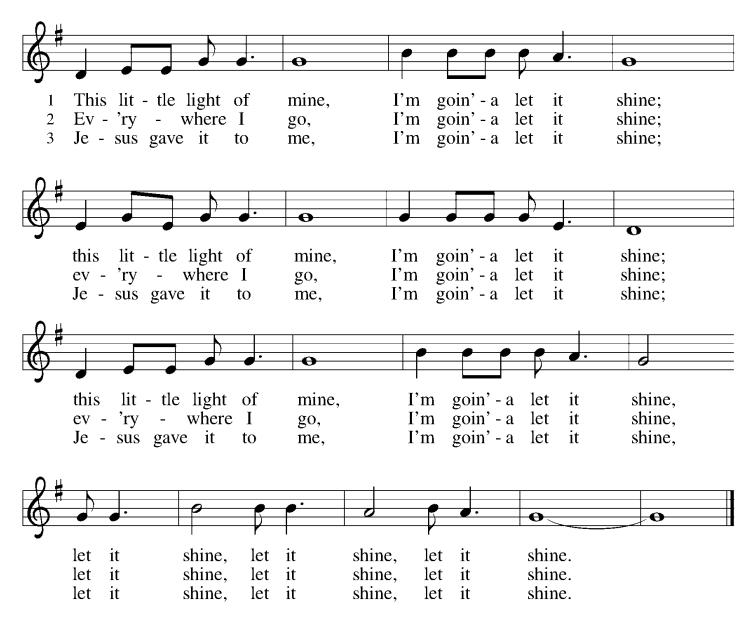


PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BLESSING May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Sending Song

This Little Light of Mine



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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