

**Silas Kulkarni**

*August 10, 1980 – April 4, 2026*

# Gathering

## ↑ Welcome

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. *Romans 6: 3-5*

**Gathering Hymn 642: Ubi Caritas** *sung several times, as a prayer*  
*This was the opening song at Silas's and Julie's wedding.*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Ubi Caritas'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The first system contains the lyrics: 'U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, / Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,'. The second system contains the lyrics: 'u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. / God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands, with some triplets in the right hand of the second system.

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

*Let us pray.*

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you today our brother, Silas. We thank you for giving him to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith, to see that death has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may live in confidence and hope until, by your call we are gathered to our heavenly home in the company of all your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

↓ **Sharing Remembrances** - *Sri K*

## **We Hear the Word of God**

### **Reading**

**1 John 3: 1-2, 16-18**

<sup>1</sup> See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he<sup>[a]</sup> is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

### **Reading**

**Matthew 18:1-5**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> He called a child, whom he put among them, <sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup> Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

*Leader:* The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**All: Glory to You, O Lord.**

↑ **Gospel**

**Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Leader:* The gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓ **Homily**

*Brief silence for reflection follows the homily.*

## ↑ Hymn of the Day 773: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Family and friends sang this hymn at Silas's bedside shortly before he died.



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me  
2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger  
3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
near, When my life is al - most gone,  
near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the  
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I  
At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.  
hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

## **Apostles' Creed**

*We confess the faith of the church with the words of the Apostles' Creed*

**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.**

## **↓The Prayers**

*You are invited to sit or kneel for the prayers.*

*After each petition: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## **Musical Offering**

### **Christ Invites Us to Share in the Meal of Life**

#### **↑ Offertory Prayer**

**We offer to you, O God, all that we have received from the life of your servant, Silas, our memories of him, our bonds with him, our experiences with him, our grief in parting with him. Use them to enrich our lives with one another and with all whom we serve, in the Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

## The 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 our thanks and praise.**

## Proper Preface

### You Are Holy



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

## Eucharistic Prayer

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

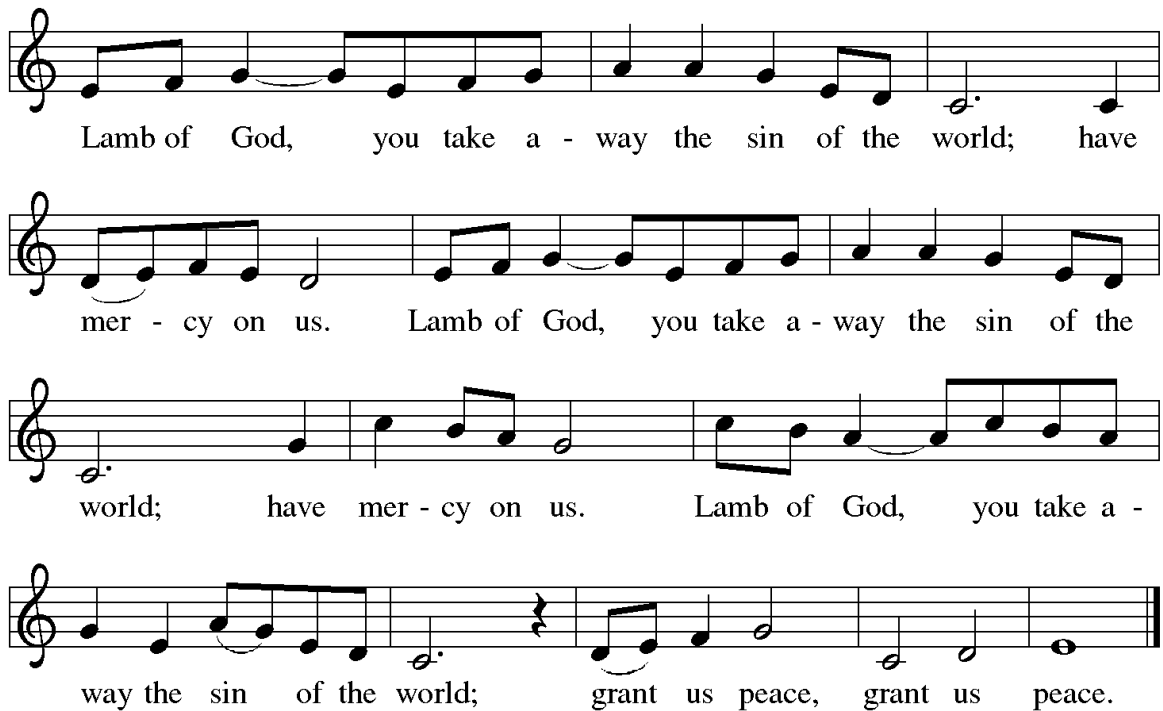
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

### ↓ Fraction Hymn: Lamb of God



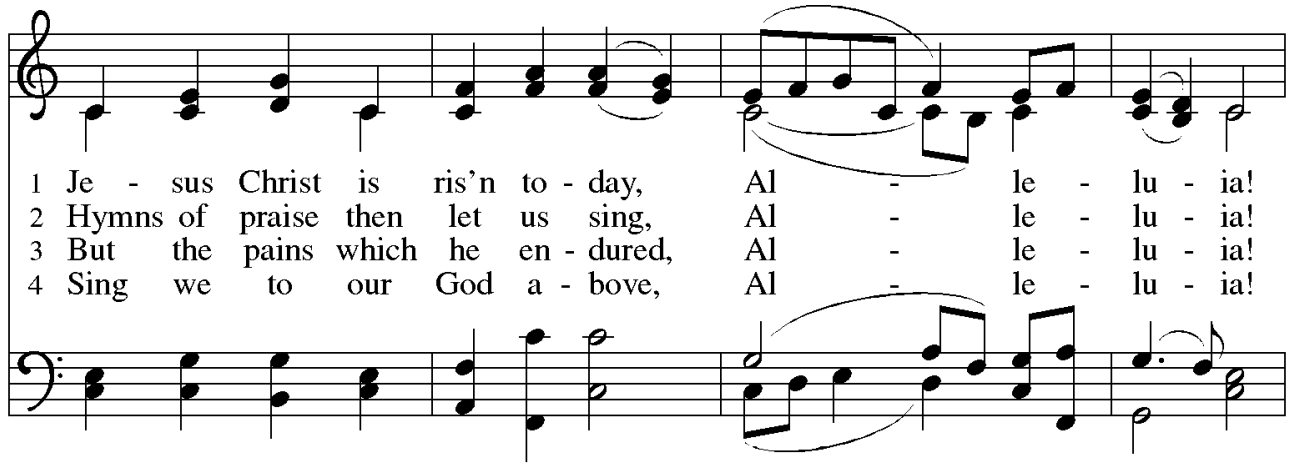
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Distribution

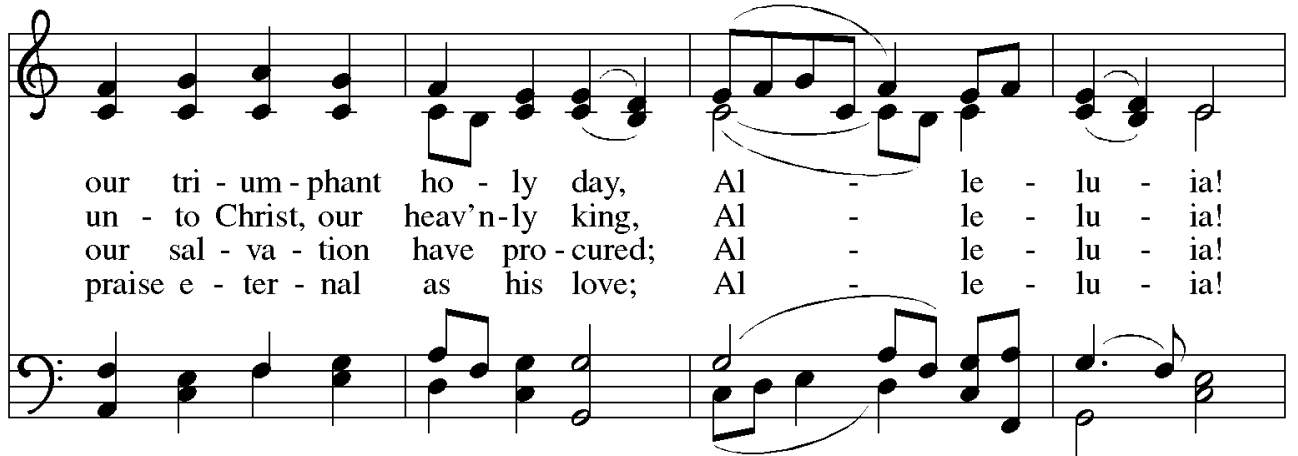
### Communion Practices

*Everyone is welcome to participate in Communion. Today's communion includes gluten-free bread, grape juice and wine for dipping/intinction. Intinction means dipping the bread into the cup of wine or the cup of grape juice. You may choose to receive bread only and/or either of the cup options. Any version of communion carries the full power of communion. If you prefer not to receive elements, you may cross your arms over your chest for a spoken blessing. You will be invited forward by an usher, receive the bread, move to the side to dip the bread, and return to your seat. Please let an usher know if you would like to receive communion in your seat.*

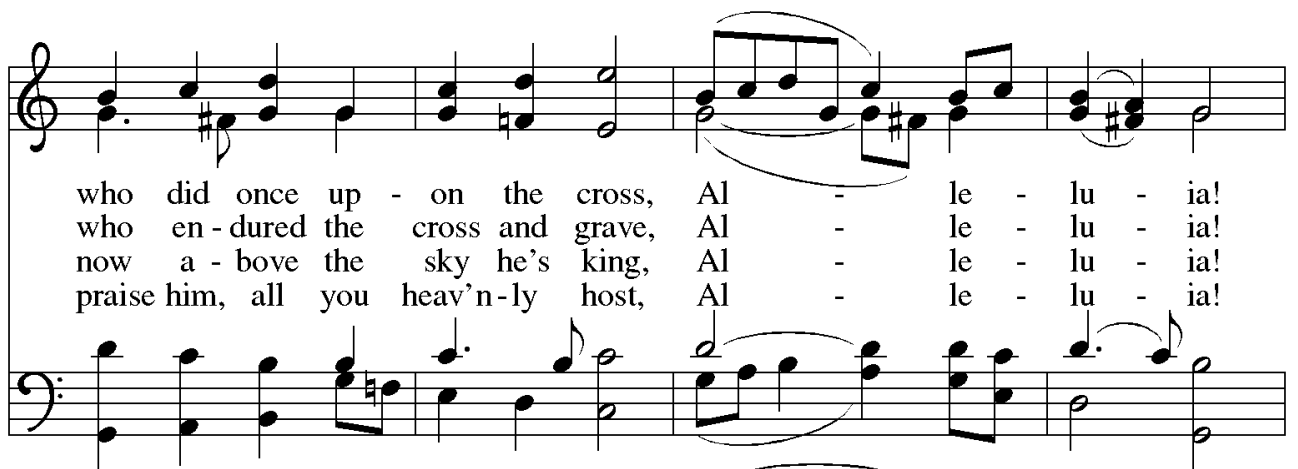
# Communion Hymn 365: Jesus Christ is Risen Today




1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!

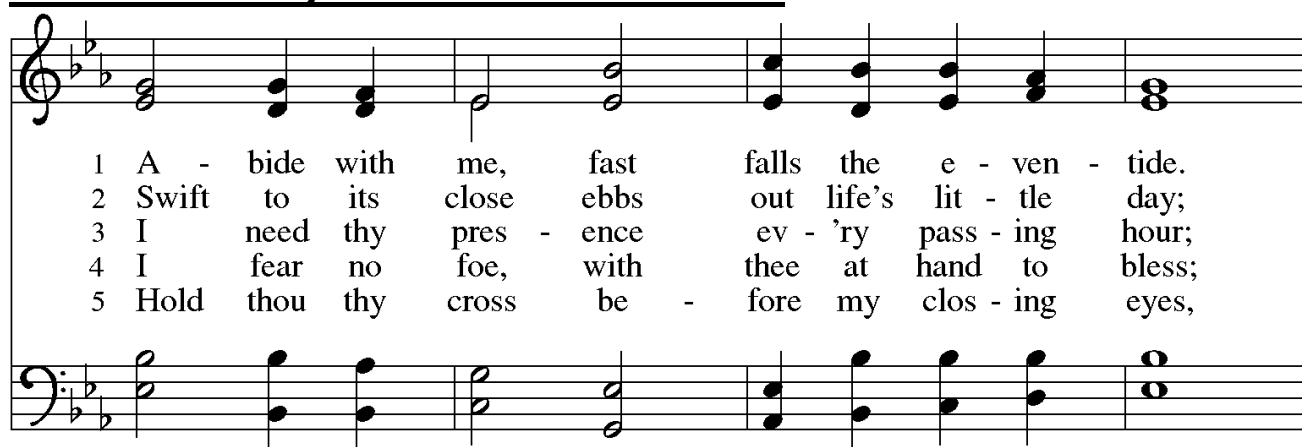


who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!

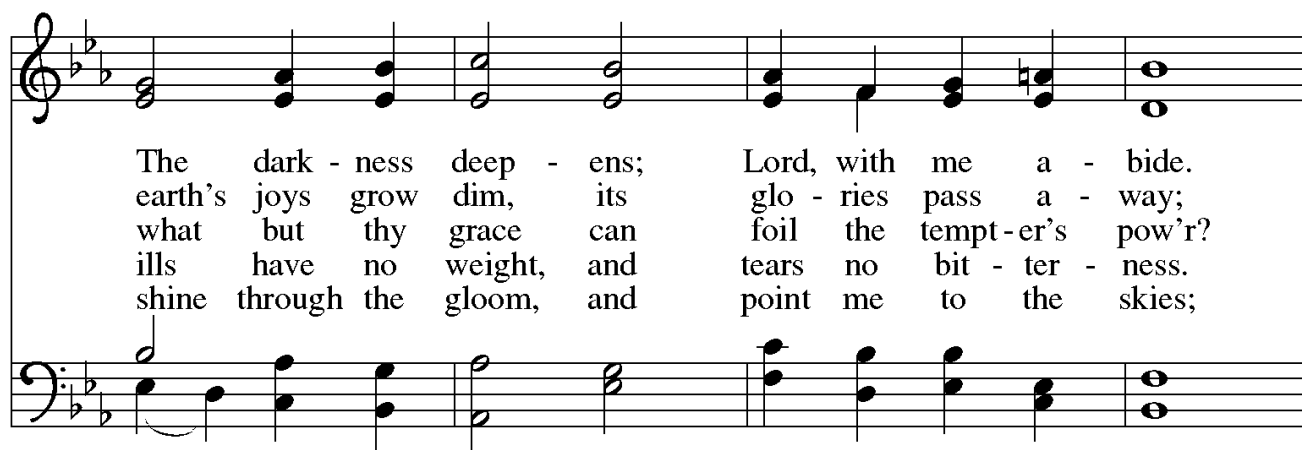


suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

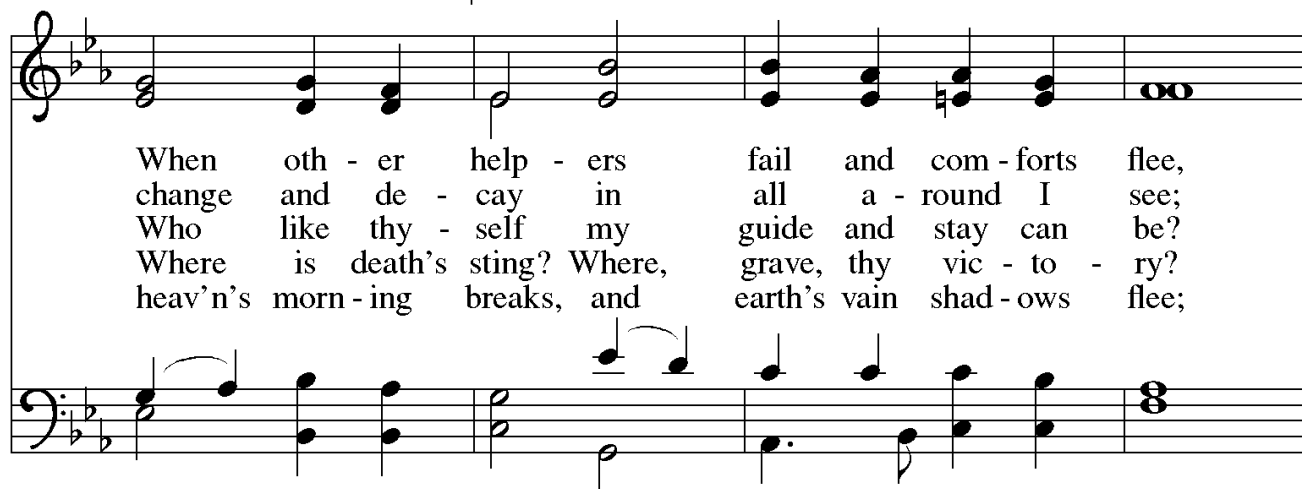
## Communion Hymn 629: Abide with Me



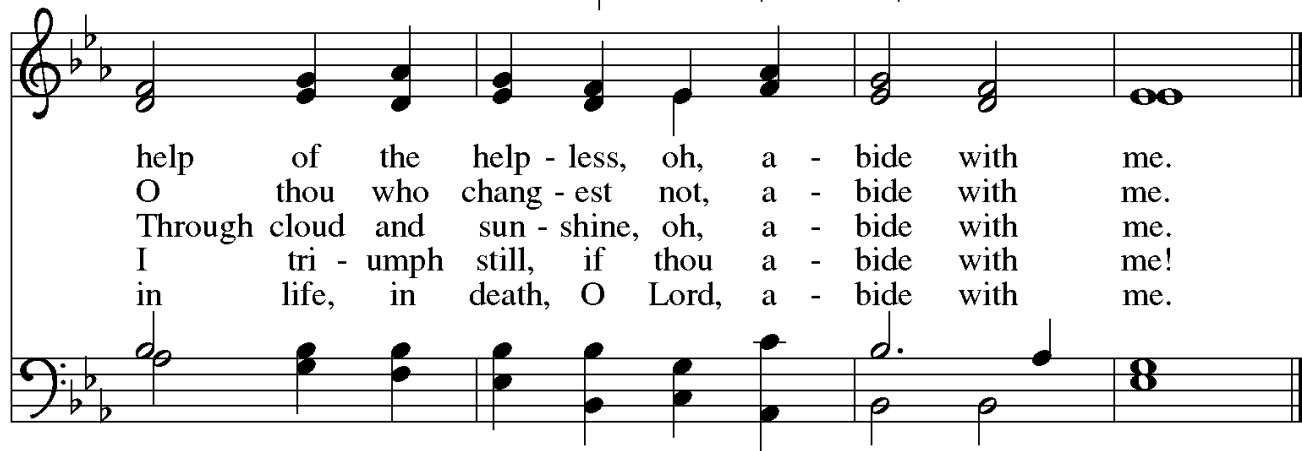
1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## ↑ Blessing

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction and a pledge of our inheritance of life eternal where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Sending

## Commendation

Let us commend Silas to the mercy of God, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is kept.*

**Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant, Silas Kulkarni. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.**

## Sending Hymn 622: Neither Death Nor Life

*Refrain – All*

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor  
trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor  
depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us  
from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the melody and lyrics with a double bar line.

Leader or All

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your

2 All who are led by the Spir-it shall live as

3 All of the suf - f'ring we now must en - dure is

4 All of cre - a - tion a - waits the new birth, the

5 Who can sep - a - rate us from the love of Christ? Will

bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the

chil - dren of God, and heirs with Christ Je - sus, God's a -

noth-ing to the glo - ry so soon to be re - vealed when cre -

full - ness of re - demp - tion, through la - bor pains of love, and

hard-ship or dis - tress, per-se - cu - tion or fam - ine, or

*Refrain*

Spir - it who brings you to life.

*Refrain*

dopt - ed and cho - sen and loved.

*Refrain*

a - tion it - self is set free.

*Refrain*

so we wait in pa - tience and hope.

*Refrain*

na - ked - ness or per - il or sword?

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

*Everyone is invited upstairs to share more stories  
and memories at a reception.*

Thank you to all who helped with today's worship service and reception. Special appreciation to Pastors Renata E and Ray R for leading worship, Chewon P for providing the music, St. Luke's for coordinating space, Hope members for coordinating the reception, and other members of the wider community for their extensive support.

## **Silas – An Exuberant Gift of Life**

Gudur Silas Mason Preston Mirajkar Kulkarni (August 10, 1980 - April 4, 2026) brought passion, insight, and warmth to everyone who knew him.

Born to Venkatesh and Margaret, Silas was the second of four siblings, with Sri, Margo, and Kris. He grew up in Houston, surrounded by uncles, aunts, cousins, and his grandmother. Silas showed a fierce intellectualism and love for big ideas early on and enjoyed chess, languages, and debate. The year his father died of cancer Silas earned an International Baccalaureate diploma, a perfect SAT score, and admission to Yale. More importantly, Silas devoted himself to caring for his younger brother and sister, despite being a teenager himself. His answer to “Am I my brother’s keeper?” was always unequivocally “Yes.”

That deep care for others expanded to care for our society and the world. Silas was determined to understand America’s complex legacies and to seek truth his entire life. He studied at Yale, The University of Texas, and in Russia. He co-founded the Yale Political Union’s Party of the Left, an early signal of his skill at building and organizing. After college, a transformative prayer led him away from politics and into teaching middle school math. He was drawn to tackle the K-12 achievement gap suffered by lower-income students of color and took pride in his students achieving the highest math scores in the city.

In 2016, based on his insights as a teacher and his knowledge of how community building and education intersect, he founded Teaching Lab, focused on shaping teacher development. Later, Silas worked with Braver Angels to reduce polarization and heal the country. Most recently, Silas advocated for civil rights domestically and human rights globally as the Director of Strategy and Advocacy through the ELCA (Lutheran Church).



Silas found lasting love and a partner in life with his wife, Julie. They married in 2015 and together crafted a life centered on family, faith, and building community. One of the greatest joys in Silas's life was being a father to their children, Katesh (b. 2019) and Nimi (b. 2022). He enjoyed and encouraged their curiosity, fierce spirits, and loving hearts. Silas's profound faith as a Christian guided his life and he delighted in seeing his children grow in faith.

While his mind was remarkable at making connections and generating insights, perhaps Silas's biggest impact came from his devotion to becoming a great listener, his empathy, and his joy in connecting people. He created space for honesty, self-examination, and openness to others. A dear friend said of Silas the day after his death: "I'm more honest, more caring, more open, more secure, more confident, more loving, because of him. What a significant life! I feel I have lost the brother I got to choose." So many of us feel that way.

Silas died following an unexpected cardiac arrest. He is survived by his wife Julie Bringman, their children Venkatesh and Nirmala Bringman-Kulkarni; his mother Margaret Kulkarni; his siblings Sri, Margo and Krishna Kulkarni; his Gudur and Preston family; and countless friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center in College Park, Maryland, the family church where Silas's children will continue to grow in faith; or Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem, an institution and cause close to Silas's heart.