

# MORNING PRAYER

Friday, February 2, 8:30  
Grace Lutheran Church

## How the Light Comes

*I cannot tell you  
how the light comes.*

*What I know  
is that it is more ancient  
than imagining.*

*That it travels  
across an astounding  
expanse  
to reach us.*

*That it loves  
searching out  
what is hidden,  
what is lost,  
what is forgotten  
or in peril  
or in pain.*

*That it has a fondness  
for the body,  
for finding its way  
toward flesh,  
for tracing the edges  
of form,  
for shining forth  
through the eye,  
the hand, the heart.*

*I cannot tell you  
how the light comes,  
but that it does.  
That it will.*

*That it works its way  
into the deepest dark  
that enfolds you,  
though it may seem  
long ages in coming  
or arrive in a shape  
you did not foresee.*

*And so  
may we this day  
turn ourselves toward it.*

*May we lift our faces  
to let it find us.  
May we bend our bodies  
to follow the arc it makes.  
May we open  
and open more  
and open still  
to the blessed light  
that comes.*

—JAN RICHARDSON  
from *Circle of Grace*

## OPENING

**Prelude**

Gather Us In  
Maureen Howell, arr.

*When you wake up in the morning, called by God to be a self again, if you want to know who you are, watch your feet. Because where your feet take you, that is who you are.*

— FREDERICK BUECHNER, *Alphabet of Grace*

**Greeting**

**Call to Center**

Take, O Take Me As I Am

Take, O take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall  
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Take, O Take Me As I Am'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

Text and Tune: John L. Bell, 1995      TAKE ME AS I AM  
7.7.7.4

Help me find my feet, O God

**My grounding**

The Source of my in-spiring.

Help me find my call, O God

**To know and name**

That my first call is to know

**Who and whose I am.**

\*Opening Hymn

Gather Us In



1. Here in this place new light is stream - ing,  
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys - t'ry,  
3. Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter,



Now is the dark - ness van - ished a - way,  
We are the old— who yearn for your face,  
Here we will take the bread of new birth,



See in this space our fears and our dream - ings,  
We have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
Here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,



Brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
Call us a - new to be salt for the earth.



Gath - er us in— the lost and for - sak - en,  
Gath - er us in— the rich and the haugh - ty,  
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion,



Gath - er us in— the blind and the lame;  
Gath - er us in— the proud and the strong;  
Give us to eat the bread that is you;



Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
Give us a heart so meek and so low - ly,  
Nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion



We shall a - rise at the sound of our name.  
Give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
Lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.

# WORD

Creator God, through your ever-present Spirit,  
pour your word into our hearts this day.

## Psalm 139

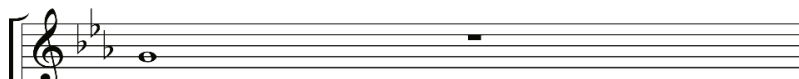
### You Search and Know Me, O My God

Higher voices:




1. You search and know me, O my  
2. You knit me in my moth - er's  
3. How pre - cious are your thoughts, O


Lower voices:



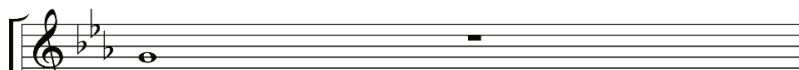
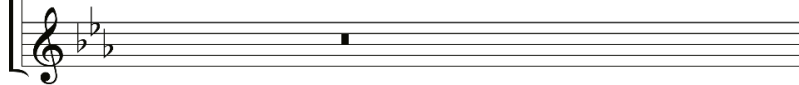
God,  
womb  
God,



where could I hide from you?  
and mold me like the clay.  
what won - ders you have planned!



My go - ing out and com - ing  
You wrote my life be - fore my  
Too broad and loft - y to at -



in;  
birth,  
tain,



my sleep and wak - ing, too.  
or - dain - ing each new day.  
and count - less as the sand.

If I should soar to touch the  
 If I should rise on wings of  
 Were I to praise with ev - 'ry

heights,  
 dawn  
 breath,

or plumb the depths of hell,  
 or sail on o - ceans vast,  
 such praise would scarce - ly start

your ev - er - pres - ent Spir - it  
 you guide me lest I lose my  
 to sing the glo - ries of your

seeks  
 way.  
 grace:

and finds me there, as well.  
 Your right hand holds me fast.  
 search me and know my heart.

Text: Psalm 139, para. Mary Louise Bringle, 2016 ANTIPHONAL II  
 Music: Sally Ann Morris, 2009 8.6.8.6.D

Creator God, through your ever-present Spirit,  
 pour your word into our hearts this day.  
**Call to us in this morning, Lord, and open our ears  
 to hear your voice, that we, your servants, will listen. Amen.**

## Hebrew Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

## Gospel Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God,**  
and the Word was God.  
**He was in the beginning with God.**

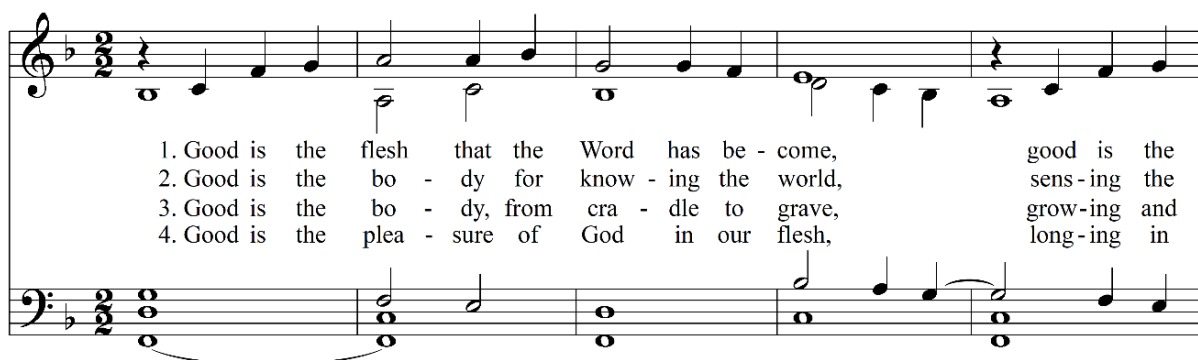
All things came into being through him,  
**and without him not one thing came into being.**  
What has come into being in him was life,  
**and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness,  
**and the darkness did not overcome it.**  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have seen his glory,**  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
**full of grace and truth.**

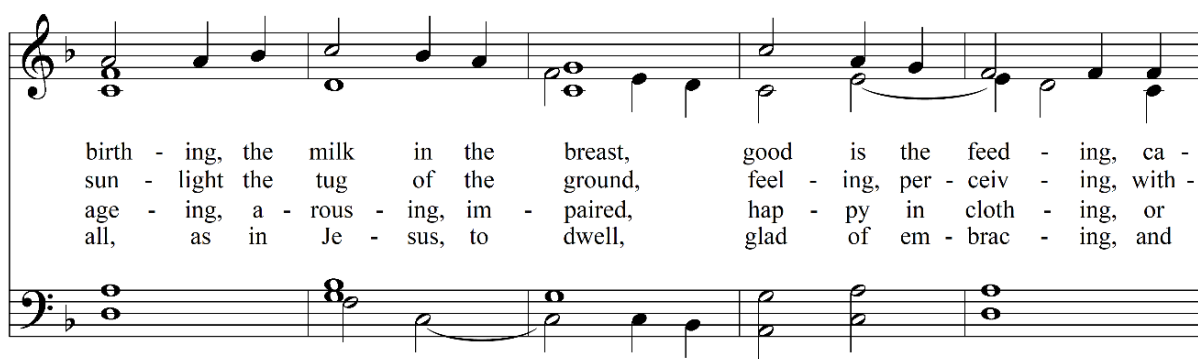
# Body Prayer

## \*Hymn

### Good Is the Flesh That the Word Has Become



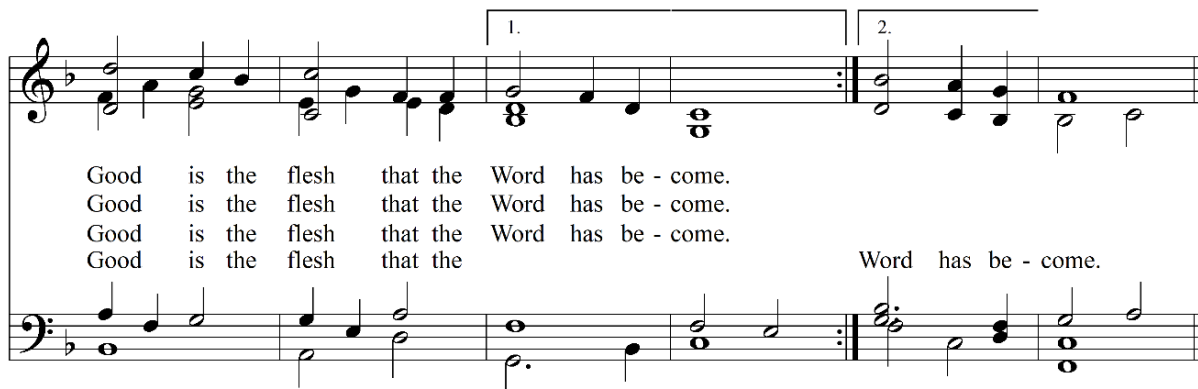
1. Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come, good is the  
2. Good is the bo - dy for know - ing the world, sens - ing the  
3. Good is the bo - dy, from cra - dle to grave, grow - ing and  
4. Good is the plea - sure of God in our flesh, long - ing in



birth - ing, the milk in the breast, good is the feed - ing, ca -  
sun - light the tug of the ground, feel - ing, per - ceiv - ing, with -  
age - ing, a - rous - ing, im - paired, hap - py in cloth - ing, or  
all, as in Je - sus, to dwell, glad of em - brac - ing, and



ress - ing and rest, good is the bo - dy for know - ing the world,  
in and a - round, good is the bo - dy, from cra - dle to grave,  
lov - ing - ly bared, good is the plea - sure of God in our flesh,  
tast - ing, and smell, good is the bo - dy, for good and for God,



Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.  
Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.  
Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.  
Good is the flesh that the Word has be - come.

## PRAYERS

### Silence

*This call we seek also seeks us, and is, in fact, not lost but already inside of us.  
We just need to listen,  
to slow ourselves way down,  
to release our mind's desire to make something happen  
and simply allow the slow revelation to come to us:  
to trust the quiet,  
trust that when we rest we are being deeply nourished  
for whatever is to come.  
Trust that what we love and long for also loves and longs for us.*

— CHRISTINE VALTERS PAINTNER, *Breath Prayer*

### A Litany of Being God's Instrument of Goodness

For the talents and the abundance of gifts that are ours...  
For the faith that stirs and grows in our hearts...  
For the many people who have been your instruments of goodness in our lives...  
For the moments when we have known the song of your presence in a special way...  
For the times when your goodness has made music through us...

Response: **God who sings through us, we thank you.**

When fear rises in us, and we do not believe in our ability to be your instrument...  
When the busy-ness of our lives presses upon us and we question your song within us...  
When we doubt your presence in the difficult aspects of our days...  
When we lose sight of the truth that we are called to be instruments of goodness...  
When emptiness, loneliness, and other struggles keep us from hearing your melody of love...As we go forth from here with the desire to be your instruments of love...

Response: **God of goodness, help us to trust in you.**

As we grow in believing in our goodness...  
As we allow more and more of whom we are to be influenced by your presence...  
As the song of your love grows in us and your call becomes clearer to us...  
As we struggle to know how and when to share our gifts and goodness with others...  
As we go forth from here with the desire to be your instruments of love...

Response: **God of love, sing your song through us.**

— JOYCE RUPP, *May I Have This Dance?*



## CLOSING

### \*Blessing

May God who makes us,  
Christ who calls us,  
and Spirit who empowers us  
send us into this day, renewed and rejoicing.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### \*Response

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness". It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system. The first system begins with a "1" indicating the start of the first line of the hymn. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving bass lines.

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see;

all I have need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed.

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923      FAITHFULNESS  
 Music: William Marion Runyan, 1923      11.10.11.10 with refrain

## WORSHIP LEADERS

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Additional Resources:

"How the Light Comes", from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*, © 2015 Jan Richardson, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orlando, FL; "When you wake up in the morning ...", from *Alphabet of Grace*, Frederick Buechner © 1970, HarperCollins, San Francisco, CA; "This call we seek also seeks us, ..." from *Breath Prayer*, Christine Valters Paintner © 2021 Broadleaf Books, Minneapolis, MN; "A Litany of Being God's Instrument of Goodness," from *May I Have This Dance?*, Joyce Rupp © 1992 Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, IN; *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923, Tune: William Marion Runyan, 1923 (Public Domain)