

## Midweek Lenten Worship

*Wilderness Wanderings*

April 2, 2020

### Call to Worship

One: So many years ago, the people saw Jesus and asked,

**All: Who is this?**

One: So in worship, we respond. In worship, we declare:

**All: Jesus is the alpha and omega.**

One: Jesus is our teacher and preacher.

**All: Jesus is a miracle worker and healer.**

One: Jesus is our source of love.

**All: Jesus is our path in the wilderness.**

One: So may we lay down our hearts like they laid down their coats.

**All: Let us worship Holy God!**

### Gathering Hymn:

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

ELW 359 (vs. 1-3)

*Hymn can be found at the end of the bulletin*

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God,

**In the city of Jerusalem they cheered for you. They laid down coats and palms for you. They shouted “Hosanna!” and called you king. But on Friday they abandoned you. On Friday they yelled “Crucify him!” On Friday, you were in the wilderness alone. God, we want to be Palm Sunday Christians, but we know all too well that we also are the Good Friday crowd. So today we ask for forgiveness. Forgive us for the moments when we deny you and your message of love. Forgive us for preventing the spread of the gospel. Forgive us our sins. Amen.**

### The Reading – Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord GOD has given me

the tongue of a teacher,

that I may know how to sustain

the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—

wakens my ear

to listen as those who are taught.

<sup>5</sup>The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

<sup>6</sup>I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
<sup>8</sup>he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.

<sup>9a</sup>It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Message**

### **Prayer for all people**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy 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.**

## **The Benediction**

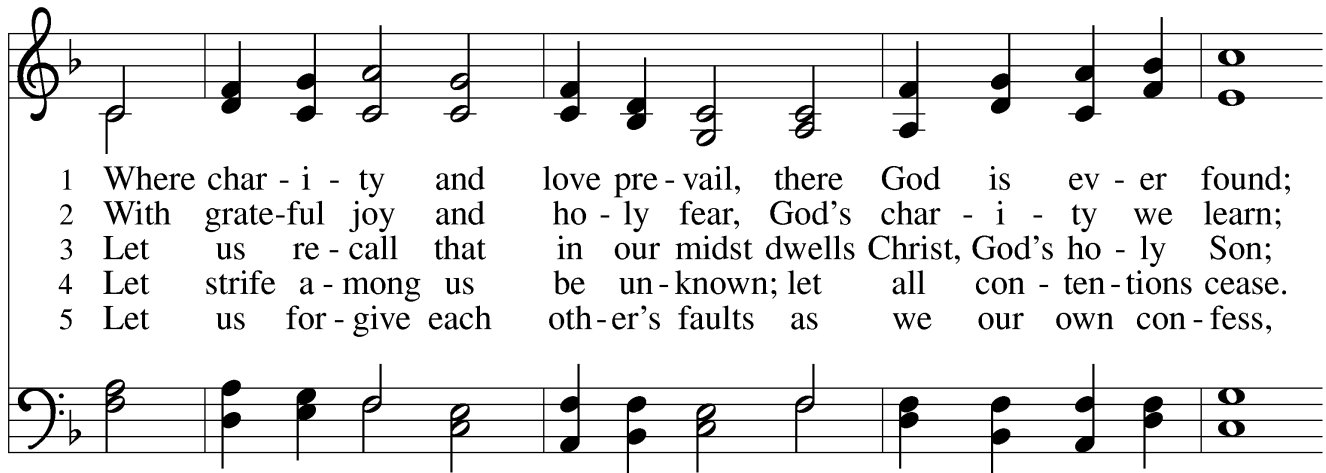
### **The Hymn**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

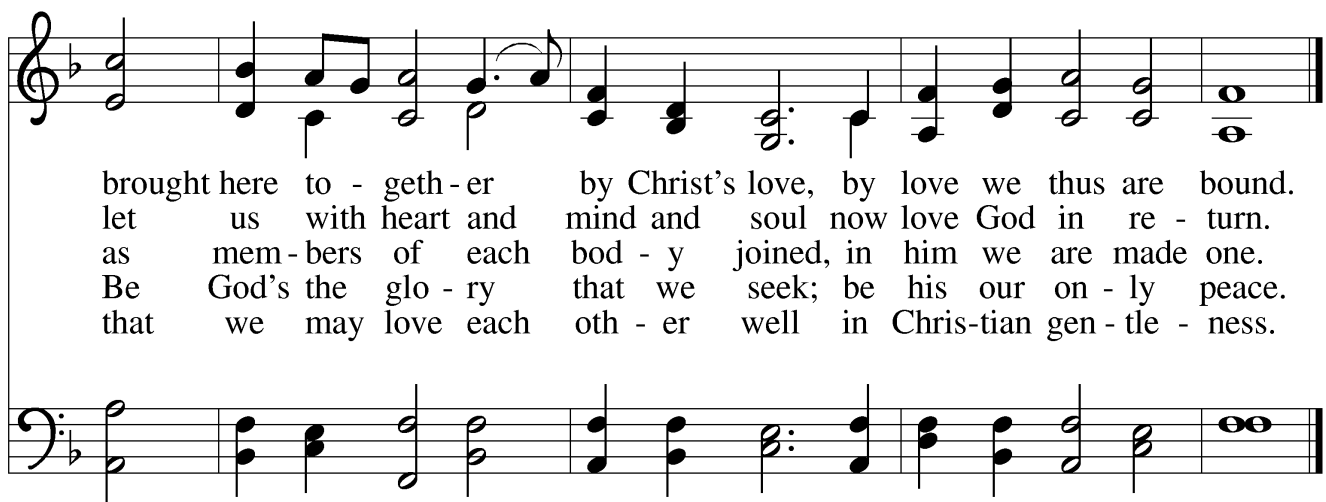
ELW 359 (vs. 4-5)

Follow the cross, share God's love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
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