

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com
abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

ReverendDaveLedford@gmail.com

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Unlikely Companionship: Simon of Cyrene

March 15, 2026 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Today's Lay Reader: David Wade

Welcome

Prelude

Just As I Am

arr. Lani Smith

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: We come, ready for companionship.

Leader: Relationships are vital to our faith. There is no isolation in companionship.

People: No one should ever be alone. Not in good times, or in suffering. Church, let's be there for each other forever!

Hymn

God of Love and God of Power

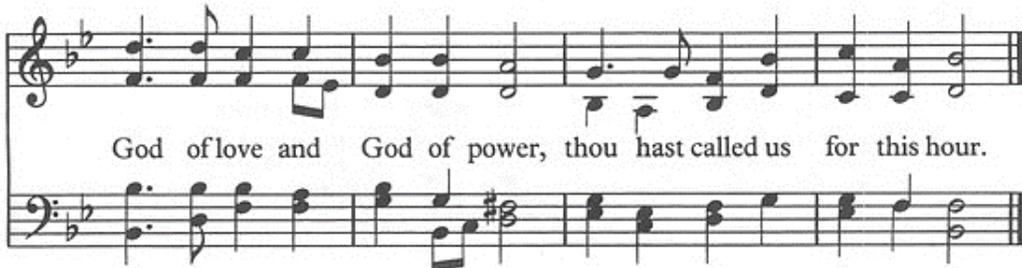
(verses 1, 2, and 4)



1. God of love and God of power, grant us in this burn-ing hour
2. We are not the first to be ban-ished by our fears from thee;
3. All our lives be - long to thee, thou our fi - nal loy - al - ty;
4. God of love and God of power, make us wor-thy of this hour;



grace to ask these gifts of thee, dar - ing hearts and spir - its free.
give us cour-age, let us hear heav-en's trum-pets ring-ing clear.
slaves are we when - e'er we share that de - vo - tion an - y - where.
of-fering lives if it's thy will, keep-ing free our spir - its still.



God of love and God of power, thou hast called us for this hour.

Opening Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being with us, even in our bad moments. Suffering is a universal experience of humanity. Help us to be inspired by the story of Simon of Cyrene. He stepped into Jesus' pain, lightened his burden and came to his side in his time of need. Even Jesus needed companionship. So, we should seek it too. Deepen our faith in Christ today as we see the Christian community as companions throughout all of life's journeys. Amen.

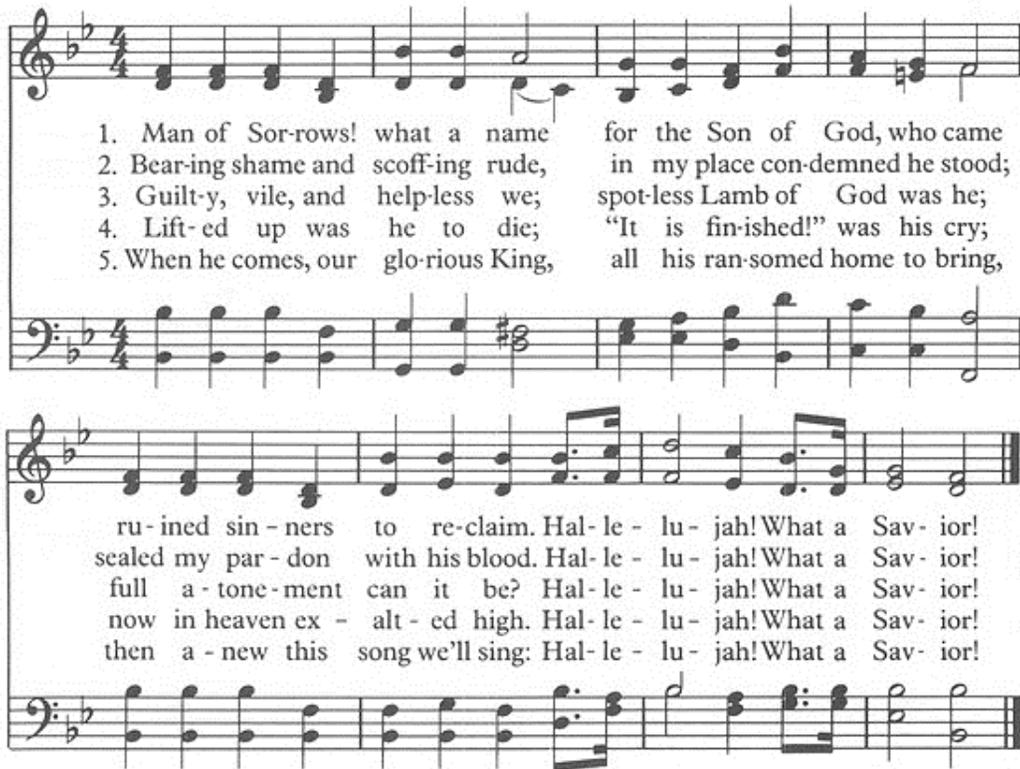
Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

Hallelujah, What a Savior

(all verses)



1. Man of Sor-rows! what a name for the Son of God, who came
 2. Bear-ing shame and scoff-ing rude, in my place con-demned he stood;
 3. Guilt-y, vile, and help-less we; spot-less Lamb of God was he;
 4. Lift-ed up was he to die; "It is fin-ished!" was his cry;
 5. When he comes, our glo-rious King, all his ran-somed home to bring,

ru-ined sin-ners to re-claim. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!
 sealed my par-don with his blood. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!
 full a-tone-ment can it be? Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!
 now in heaven ex-alt-ed high. Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!
 then a-new this song we'll sing: Hal-le-lu-jah! What a Sav-ior!

Senior Choir

You Are the Christ!

Joseph M. Martin

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson

Luke 23:26-31

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

Message

Unlikely Companionship: Simon of Cyrene

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory

Lamb of God

arr. Douglas Wagner

Offertory Hymn

Lift High the Cross

(verse 1)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim'.

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Fine

The second system of musical notation for the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.' The system ends with a double bar line and the word 'Fine'.

Harmony

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri-um-phant sign. The
2. Each new-born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo-rious tree, as
4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise

The 'Harmony' section of the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: '1. Come, Chris-tians, fol - low this tri-um-phant sign. The 2. Each new-born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears 3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo-rious tree, as 4. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: Praise'.

hosts of God in u - ni-ty com - bine.
on the brow the seal of him who died.
thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

D.C.

The final system of musical notation for the hymn 'Lift High the Cross'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: 'hosts of God in u - ni-ty com - bine. on the brow the seal of him who died. thou hast prom - ised, draw the world to thee. to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!' The system ends with a double bar line and the word 'D.C.'.

Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1. Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face.

The ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
 With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, while the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in two columns per system, with the first column corresponding to the first vocal line and the second column to the second vocal line. The score consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 1. Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, 2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave. the tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. The ser - vice is end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, the fruits of our wor - ship in all who be - lieve. em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of each tribe and race. The seed of the teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing, With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;

shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for God's king - dom and an - swer the call.
give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.

Benediction**Postlude**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. Jack C. Schrader