



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

**Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2017**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**CONFESSION AND
FORGIVENESS**

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence.) Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

~ OPENING HYMN ~

“AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

**As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

P: Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the one anointed by the Spirit.

In the liturgy, we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One, and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

ALL: **Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Church

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

A reading from Isaiah, the 49th chapter.

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb, he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver
he hid me away. And he said to me, “You
are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be
glorified.” But I said, “I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and
vanity; yet surely my cause is with the
LORD, and my reward with my God.”

And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength - he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,

“Kings shall see and stand up, princes,
and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the LORD, who is faithful, the
Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 40:1-11 ~ A Responsive Reading

R: I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

C: **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

R: The LORD put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; many shall
see, and stand in awe, and put their
trust in the LORD.

**C: Happy are they who trust in the LORD!
They do not turn to enemies or to
those who follow lies.**

R: Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

C: Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.

R: And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

C: ‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’ ”

R: I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

C: I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

R: You are the LORD; do not withhold
your compassion from me; may your
steadfast love and your truth
continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from 1st Corinthians, the 1st chapter.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus
by the will of God, and our brother
Sosthenes, to the church of God that is in
Corinth,

to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those
who in every place call on the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and
ours: Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

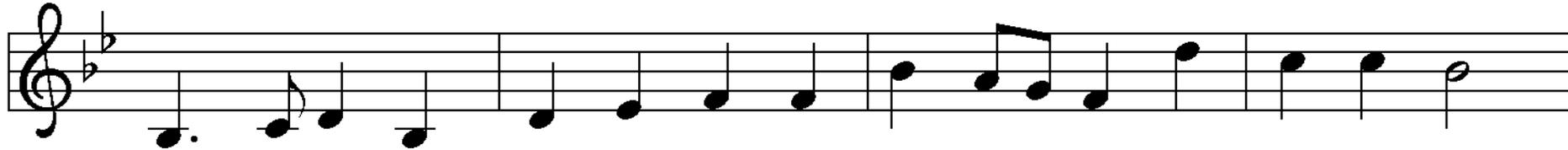
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

C: **Thanks be to God!**

“ALLELUIA”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

R: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”

I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’”

And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi”, which translated means Teacher, “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).

He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

~ SERMON ~

“RETIREMENT?”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“HERE I AM, LORD”

**"I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"**

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

**"I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" Refrain**

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

**"I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" Refrain**

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Called to be a light to the nations, let us pray for God's justice, peace, and healing. (A brief silence.) Gather us in, gracious God. Bring together Methodist and Pentecostal, Baptist and Roman Catholic, Lutheran and AME-Zion.

Form us in worship into your united people. Send us out as one in you, proclaiming your glory and serving all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Fed with bread and wine, Christ's body and blood, make us eager to care for your good creation. Send us to pick up litter from highways and lakeshores and protect animal habitats.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for all the nations of the world (*especially*). Help us to reach out to the places where the scandal of hunger resides.

Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Quell the anxieties of all who wait for test results. Bring hope to all whose life is a struggle and filled with despair. Send us to care for those who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Open us to see how our congregation
abounds with every spiritual gift. Send
us out to share our abundant gifts and
proclaim your steadfast love.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We thank you for the faithfulness of your prophets (*especially Martin Luther King Jr.*). Strengthen our faith in you. Send us out to proclaim and live your justice boldly.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive these prayers in the name of Christ, the light of the world, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“How Great Thou Art!”

by Carrie Underwood

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The sun is low in the sky, creating a warm, golden glow and long, dark shadows cast by the trees onto the path. The trees are tall and thin, with some green foliage visible in the distance. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

How Great Thou Art

Carrie Underwood

A scenic landscape featuring a large, calm lake in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding environment. The lake is bordered by lush green grass and a dense forest of dark evergreen trees. In the background, majestic mountains rise, their peaks and slopes illuminated by a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The sky is filled with soft, purple and pink clouds, adding to the serene and awe-inspiring atmosphere of the scene.

O Lord, my God

When I in awesome wonder

Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made



I see the stars





I hear the rolling thunder

A vibrant, multi-colored galaxy with a bright yellow core, set against a starry space background. The galaxy's arms are filled with a mix of blue, purple, and pinkish-red hues, suggesting different stages of star formation or the presence of interstellar dust. The background is a deep black space filled with numerous small, bright white stars of varying sizes.

*Thy power throughout the
universe displayed*



Then sings my soul

My Savior God, to Thee



How great Thou art

How great Thou art



A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset sky, with their arms raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect. The sky is filled with scattered white clouds. In the background, the ocean stretches to the horizon, with distant mountains visible under the twilight sky. The overall mood is one of spiritual devotion and hope.

Then sings my soul

My Savior God, to Thee



How great Thou art

How great Thou art









JESUS











A vibrant, multi-colored explosion of light and particles in a dark space, with a crowd of people in the foreground celebrating with their arms raised.

*When Christ shall come with shouts of
acclamation*

*And take me
home*

*What joy shall fill my
heart*



Then I shall bow in humble adoration





*And then proclaim, "My God,
how great Thou art!"*

Then sings my soul

My Savior God, to Thee



A scenic landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there is a lush green vineyard with rows of grapevines. A wooden fence runs across the middle ground, separating the vineyard from a grassy hillside. Several large, mature trees are scattered across the landscape, including a prominent one on the left. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a hazy, golden sky.

How great Thou art



How great Thou art

*Then sings my
soul*

*My Savior God,
to Thee*

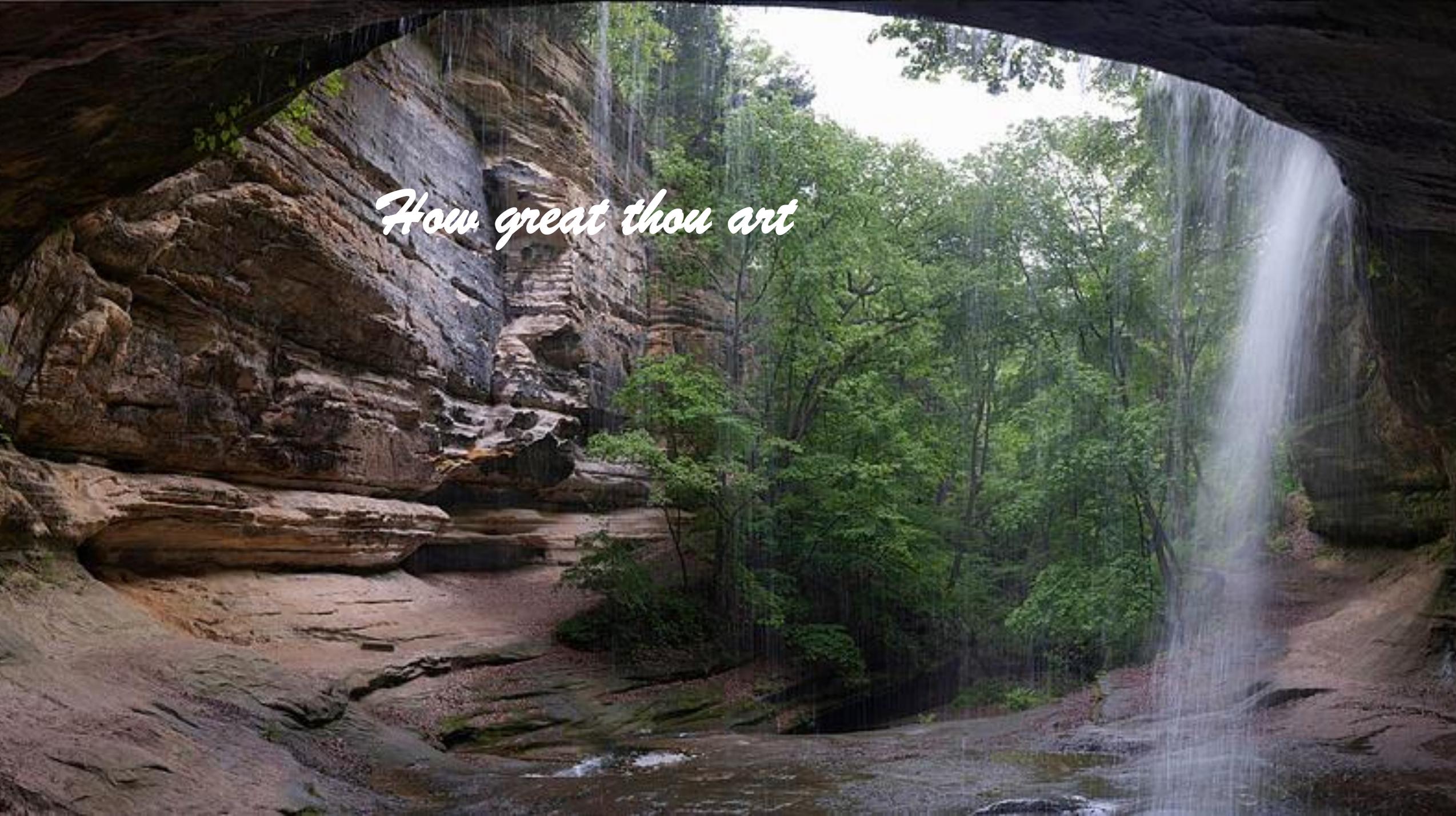




How great Thou art



How great Thou art

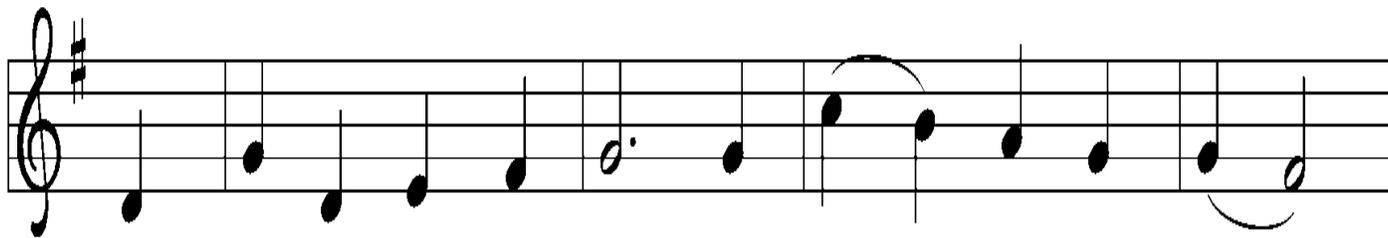
A scenic view from inside a cave looking out at a waterfall and a forested valley. The cave's dark, textured interior frames the scene. On the right, a waterfall cascades down a rocky ledge. The center and left show a lush green forest and a rocky, layered cliff face. The text "How great thou art" is written in a white, cursive font across the middle of the image.

How great thou art

An aerial photograph of a riverbank covered in dense forest. The trees display vibrant autumn colors, including shades of green, yellow, orange, and red. A wooden deck or viewing platform is visible on a slight rise in the upper left. The river flows through the lower left, with white rapids. The foreground shows a rocky outcrop with some moss. The text "How great thou art" is overlaid in the center in a white, cursive font.

How great thou art

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the
Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.



COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest reassurance. Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.

C: Amen

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Choral Benediction”

**May the light of God shine on us today.
May the light of God shine on us today.
May it show us where to travel,
lead us back if we should stray.
May the light of God shine on us today.**

May the love of God live in us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.**

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



