



## In Preparation for Worship

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.”

- J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

## Gathering Prayer

### Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
*arr. Larry Shackley*

Kelly Sloan, piano

## Welcome and Announcements

*At this time, please take a moment to let us know you are worshiping online with us by sharing your name in the “comments” on our video feed.*

## The Light of the Hour

*Worshippers are invited to light a candle with us, a reminder that we are connected by the Holy Spirit. #SaintLukesConnected*

### Hymn #369\*

Blessing and Honor

*\*Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.*

## Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you. Let us pray...

**God forgive us in our disbelief. We know the promises you make to us but do not live as though those promises are true. You promise life-giving abundance, but we respond with anxious hoarding. You promise hope, but we respond with fear. You promise a resurrection-world filled with miracles, but we respond with doubt-filled cynicism. As we enter a time of silence help us name our struggles and seek ways of restoration, in order to hear the words of the angel’s command, “Do not be afraid.” (Silence is kept for personal reflection.)**

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

People: Hear our prayer. Amen.

## Assurance of Forgiveness

### Song of Praise

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

*We encourage you to pass the peace with your fellow worshippers in the “comments” of the video feed and to take time today to reach out and share Christ’s peace with your friends, neighbors and family.*

## Prayer for Illumination and Scripture

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

## Sermon

Listen, I Will Tell You a Mystery

Phil Brown

## Musical Reflection

Prelude in C major *J. S. Bach*

Reed Harvey, piano

## Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

## Prayers of the People and 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Offering

*Giving is a tangible sign of worship. During this interesting time in our world, we encourage you to continue to share your time, talent and treasure. You may also "Text to Give" to **73256**. The body of the text needs to start with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

## Hymn #384\*

Soon and Very Soon

*\*Hymn sheets are located at the end of the bulletin.*

## Benediction

## Postlude

Allegro assai vivace *Felix Mendelssohn*

## 369 Blessing and Honor

1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and power,  
 2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name;  
 3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy,  
 4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb;

wis - dom and rich - es and strength ev - er - more,  
 let all the earth sing his glo - ry and fame.  
 ev - er de - scend - ing the love from on high;  
 take we the robe and the harp and the palm;

be to the Lamb who our bat - tle has won,  
 O - cean and moun - tain, stream, for - est, and flower  
 bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and praise:  
 sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,

whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne.  
 ech - o these prais - es and tell of God's power.  
 this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
 dy - ing in weak - ness but ris - ing to reign.

Fittingly titled "The Song of the Lamb" by its author, this hymn is a paraphrase and expansion of Revelation 5:12. It is set here to a resonant French tune of a kind that flourished in the transition from the older chant style to the harmonies and rhythms of modern hymns.

# 384      Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
2 No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
3 No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
4 Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.  
No more cry - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
No more dy - ing there:      we are going to see the King.  
Soon and ver - y soon      we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.