

9:30 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran Community of Christian Believers - ELCA

6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road, Naples, FL 34113-2913

Pastor Jeff Unga (641) 529-2479 Office Phone: (239) 775-0696

Director for Discipleship, Mary Winsor - marywinsorsotg@gmail.com



As long
as I am
in the
WORLD,
I am the
LIGHT
of the
WORLD.

John 9:5

FOURTH SUNDAY IN
LENT

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Lutheran Community of Christian Believers

All Are Welcome!

All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and to one another.

You are encouraged to participate in all that Shepherd of the Glades has to offer and to make Shepherd of the Glades your spiritual home.

If Shepherd of the Glades can be of service to you or if you would like Pastor Jeff to contact you, please so indicate on the pew welcome sheet. The office phone number and Pastor Jeff's cell phone number are on the cover of the bulletin.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026, 9:30 A.M. Worship

+ Indicates Please Stand

Bold Indicates Congregation Joins In

PRELUDE

“Be Not Afraid”, Folk Group

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C **Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN** *"There Is a Balm in Gilead"* **ELW #614**

A 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.**

+ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A Let us pray.

C **Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel,

and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 23 (*read responsively*)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

+ **LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

From *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # _____.

+ **THE HOLY GOSPEL according to John 9:1-41**

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Jeff Unga

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW #779

A Let us proclaim our trust in the presence and power of God in our lives with the words of the 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day especially Adele Fuchs, Anna-Marie Myers, Barbara Carey, Bruce Corson, Cameron Williams, Chris Carlson, Craig, Jim Pisarski, Larry Newman, Lily Braumoeller, Manuela Schultz, Nadine Kelly, Nick & Anita Lehr, Nikki Wykstra, Patricia Lussky, Prudy Waters, Sue Popovich, Susan Schacht and Vickie Livingston; and the families of Ardyne Pickard, Elizabeth Lite, Ellie Hundley and Patty Musielak. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We celebrate this week the birthdays of Suzi Geddes, Lisa Willman, Ron Ripke, Bonny Dery, Pastor Jeff Unga, Linda Zalesnik and Connee Zeman. We pray blessings on these friends.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C **Amen.**

+ SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

A The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

+ OFFERTORY

We give an offering to show thanks for God's blessings, and to support the ministries of God's Church, near and far. Offering collection plates are available upon entry to the sanctuary before worship or as you leave after its conclusion. To give electronically just scan this code with your phone or visit our website home page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>.



OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

C **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

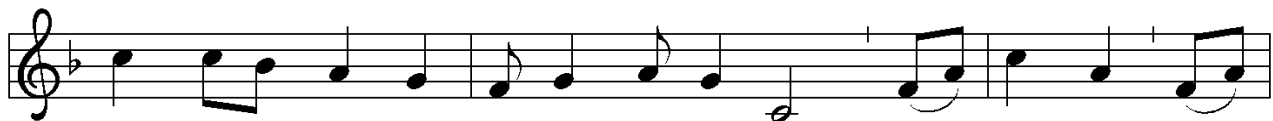
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Sung)*

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are invited and welcome to come forward to partake of the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please notify an usher. For your safety and convenience, you will have a choice of coming to the altar rail or taking communion in your pew in an individually sealed container. If, for any reason, you are not comfortable receiving communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms, indicating you wish to receive a blessing.

The Eucharist is celebrated by intinction. Our Altar Guild at all communion services offers grape juice (lighter color), as well as wine (darker color), for intinction, the dipping of the wafer into the wine or juice. One chalice will hold both wine and grape juice. Note: Gluten free wafers are offered, as well, in the Narthex or as you come forward.

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

+ COMMUNION BLESSING

A God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

+ **THE BLESSING**

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”* **ELW #324**

+ **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Ministries for Today

Communion Assistants: Mary Winsor and Arvin & Kathie Danielson

Lector: Dave Larson

Altar Guild: Cindy Shultz

Ushers: Arvin & Kathie Danielson and Ron & Barb Modjeska

AV Technicians: Kelli Ungs and Abraham Ungs

**The Altar Flowers are given by Heidi Dziubla
in celebration of the birthdays of her brother, Frank and her husband, Mike**

SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES CHURCH

A Lutheran Congregation of Christian Believers

6020 Rattlesnake Hammock Road

Naples, Florida 34113-2913

Telephone: 239.775.0696 Fax: 239.793.2465

Email: sotg6020@gmail.com Web Page: <http://www.sotgweb.org>

Our Mission is “Transforming lives through the Living Word of God.”

Pastor

Rev. Jeffrey T. Ungs

Director for Discipleship

Mary Winsor

Director of Music

Megan Cianflone

Congregational President

Penny Morken

Administrative Assistants to the Pastor

Deanna Colbert & Lynn Dickerman

THIS WEEK AT SHEPHERD OF THE GLADES:

The office is open 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Pastor Jeff is available by appointment in the office or by cell phone.

Monday March 16

9:00 a.m. Bone Builders in Hanson Hall

Tuesday March 17

8:30 a.m. Sew Sews in Hanson Hall

Wednesday March 18

9:00 a.m. Bone Builders in Hanson Hall

10:30 a.m. Bible Study in Hanson Hall

5:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Service in Hanson Hall followed by

6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

Sunday March 22

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary and Online

The service is also live streamed on YouTube or can be accessed on our website. See www.sotgweb.org for details.

BLESSING BAGS - Following worship today join the Blessing Bag packing party. Thank you for all of the donations that enable us to put together our 3rd round of Blessing Bags.

HONOR OR REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL - Beautify our sanctuary in celebration of our Savior's resurrection by ordering one or more Easter lilies to be placed around the altar. Order forms are available in the narthex. Order deadline is Friday, March 27th and cost is \$23 per plant. Lilies may be taken home following the last Easter service.

MISSION TO HELP KIDS - Shepherd of the Glades supports the Grace Place Literacy Program by packing and donating backpacks for students going back to school. Today we are "selling" backpacks for \$20 or you may purchase and donate your own backpack(s). Following worship on March 29th, join the fun of filling the backpacks with back-to-school supplies.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - You can help at SOTGI! On the Friday following the last Sunday of each month, a group of dedicated, faithful folks gather for about an hour to prepare the newsletter for mailing. It's so easy and your help would be so appreciated. If you are interested, please call the church office.

PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP AND A HOT BOWL OF SOUP Join us each Wednesday evening during Lent in Hanson Hall for the Holden Evening Prayer Service at 5:30 p.m. followed by a soup supper and fellowship.

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



- 1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
- 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
- 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

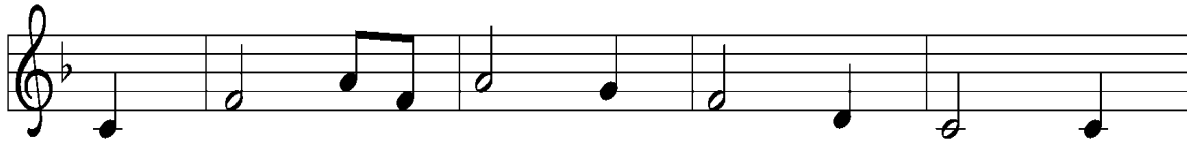


but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



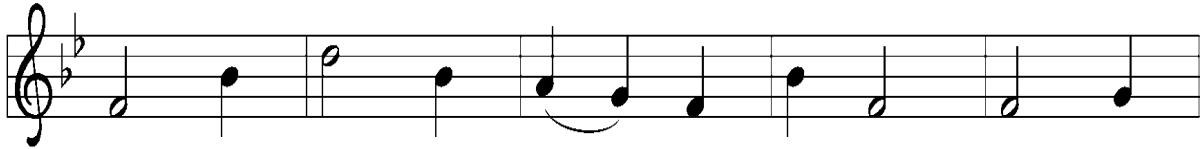
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



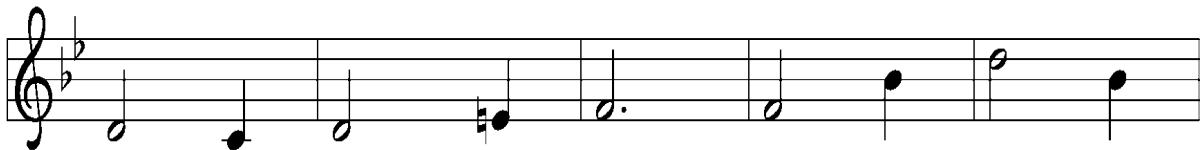
now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867