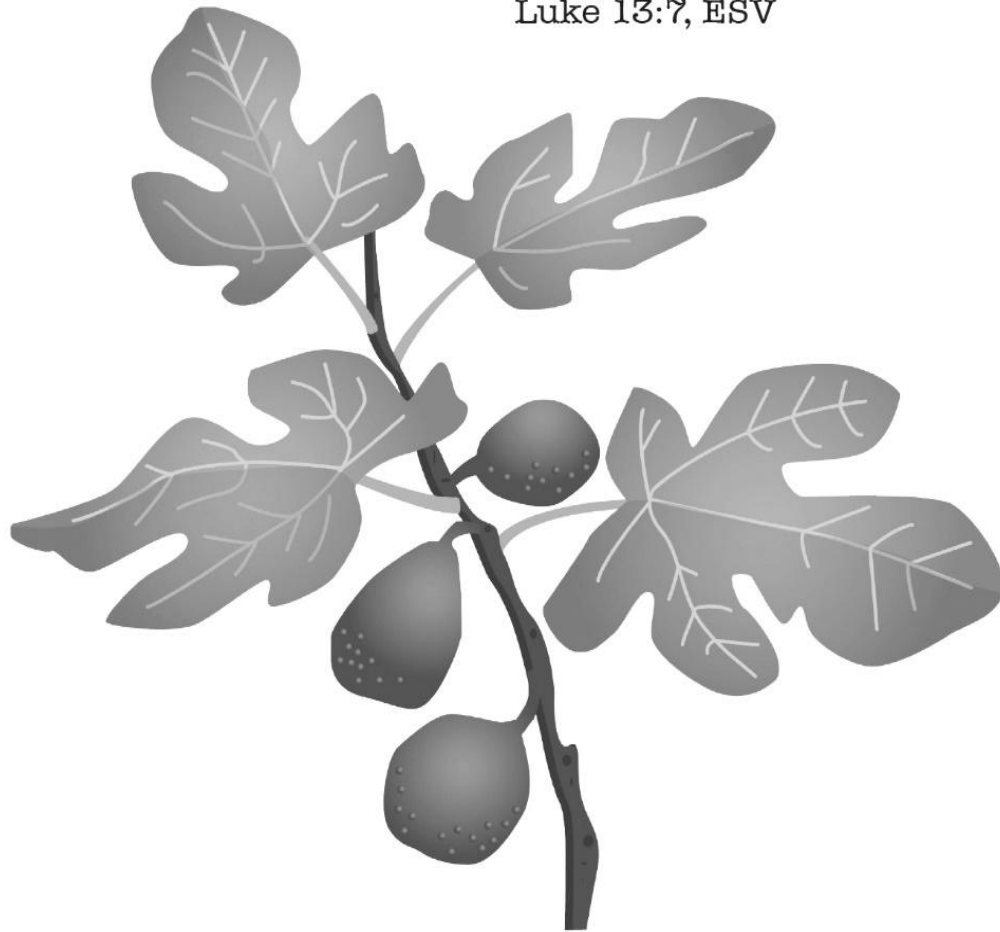


*“ I have come
seeking fruit
on this fig tree ... ”*

Luke 13:7, ESV

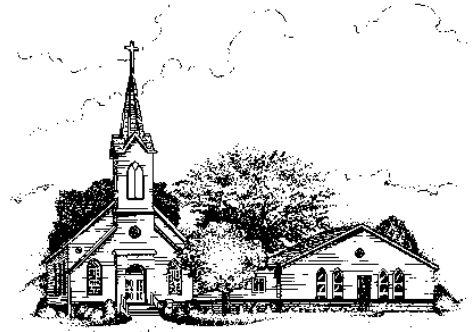


THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 20 / 23, 2025

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D Allenton, Wisconsin 53002
Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
Steven D. Bode, pastor 6438 Hwy. D Allenton, WI
Church Office: 262-629-5914 / website: www.zionallenton.org
Pastor cell phone: 262-483-0407 / e-mail: revsdb@aol.com



Welcome to God's House

Our heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it's only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgment that would otherwise be ours.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

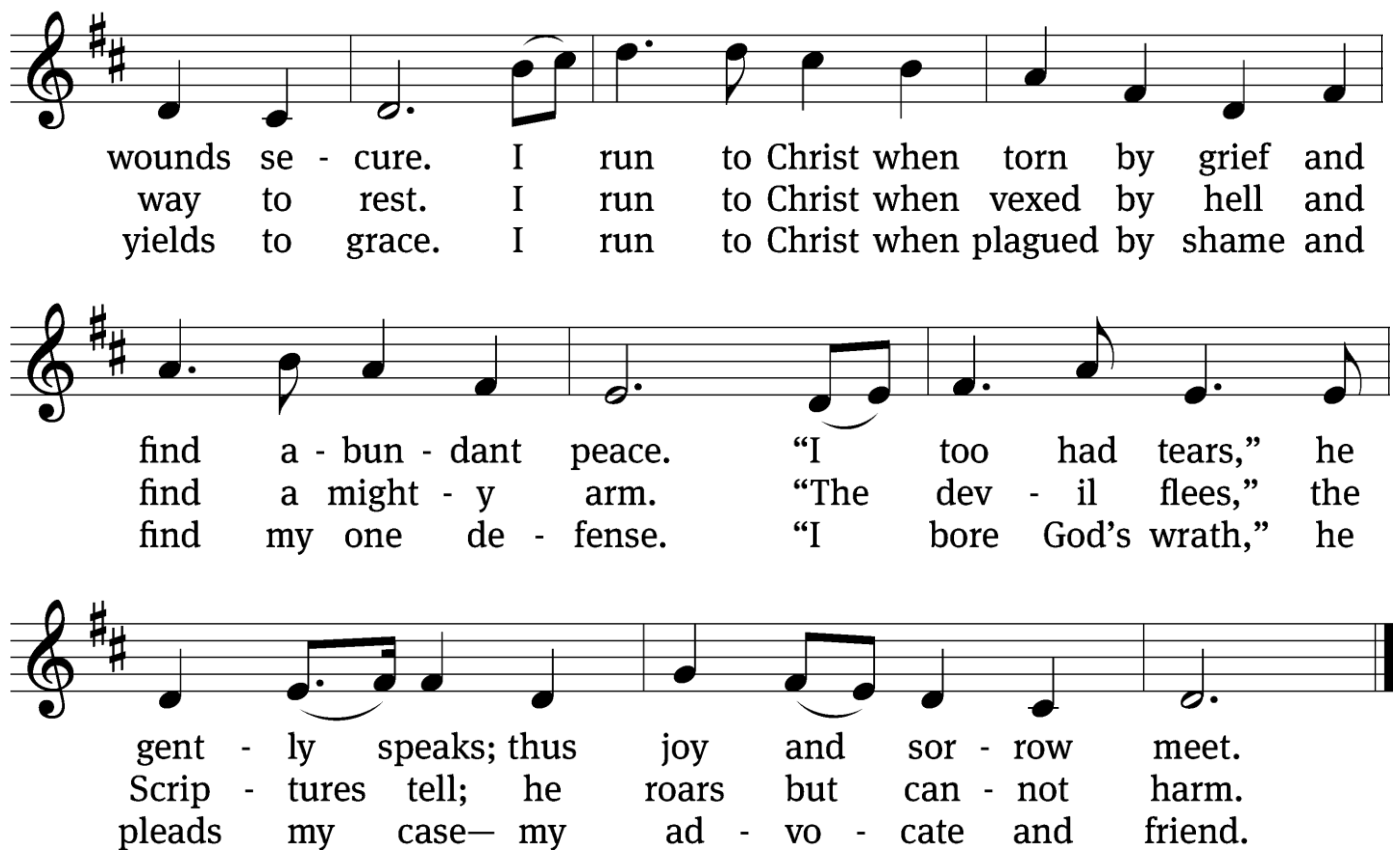
I Run to Christ #833



1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -



sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion



wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and
find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he
gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession of Sins

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹²And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.



You, Lord, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

**You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.**

Show us your unfailing / love, Lord,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

**I will listen to what God the / Lord says;
he promises peace to his / people.**

Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.

**Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.**

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. ¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:9

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish,
but everyone to come to repentance.

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Delay Not! Delay Not #712

1 Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!
 The waters of life are now flowing for you.
No price is demanded, the Savior is here;
 redemption is purchased, God’s promise is true.

2 Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,
 for mercy still lingers and calls you today.
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;
 its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.

3 Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,
long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight
and leave you in darkness to finish your race,
to sink in the gloom of eternity's night.

4 Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse
the love and compassion of Jesus, your God?
A fountain is opened—how can you refuse?
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.

Sermon

Luke 13:1-9

Please stand

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Lord, you truly give your people what is good. In patience you set aside your wrath. In grace you give all people time.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

In your love and faithfulness, restore and revive our souls. Let your mercy move us to daily repentance that we understand the gift of your grace and stand firm in you.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Have mercy on those who do not know you and have not heard your Word. Plant the Word in their hearts, bring them to faith and give them opportunities to grow and bear fruit to your glory.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Look on all the schools of our land and bless those who teach and those who learn, that they may grow in true knowledge, wisdom and skill as they learn about the wonders of your world.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Let your Word of repentance and grace be proclaimed in this and every place. Feed your people with your Word, that your kingdom may be strengthened and expanded among us.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

Hear the cries of your people who pray to you in every trouble, [especially...]. Do not let them be tempted beyond what they can bear but strengthen them to endure all things.

Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

In our silent prayers, we cast all our cares on you.

Silent prayers and special intercessions may follow.

Lord God of time and eternity, when time is over you will welcome us to

your blessed eternity. Help us use the time we have wisely, so that we do not lose our inheritance; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Hymn

In the Hour of Trial #406

- 1 In the hour of trial,
Jesus, plead for me
lest by base denial
I unworthy be.
When you see me waver,
with a look recall,
nor for fear or favor
ever let me fall.
- 2 With forbidden pleasures
should this vain world charm
or its tempting treasures
spread to work me harm,
bring to my remembrance
sad Gethsemane
or, in darker semblance,
cross-crowned Calvary.
- 3 Should your mercy send me
sorrow, toil, and woe,
or should pain attend me

on my path below,
grant that I may never
fail your cross to view;
grant that I may ever
cast my care on you.

4 When my life is ending,
though in grief or pain,
when my body changes
back to dust again,
on your truth relying,
through that mortal strife,
Jesus, take me, dying,
to eternal life.

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah #923

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'rful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

This Week at Zion

Today: 7:30 / 9:45 a.m. Worship
8:30 / 8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible study

Mon: 10:00 a.m. OWLS meeting at The Bend, West Bend
7:00 p.m. Building committee meeting

Tue: 2:30 p.m. KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
6:30 p.m. Elders meeting

Wed: 7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

Thu: 7:00 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

Fri: 2:00 p.m. Hope Rehab Devotion, Lomira
6:30-8:30 p.m. Projects & Pizza at church

Sat: 9:00 p.m. Catechism instructions

Sun: 7:30 / 9:45 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
8:30 / 8:45 a.m. Sunday School / Adult Bible study

In Our Prayers Rhea Schmidt, who moved to Lakehouse Assisted Living in Fond du Lac; Gary Herman, back at home after an extended hospital and rehab stay at St. Agnes in Fond du Lac; the family of Lee Frasier (Milton Griepentrog's brother – in – law) who passed away early Wednesday morning in Madison.

Lenten Worship Join us this Wednesday evening for our fourth midweek Lenten service, focusing on Psalm 51 and using the theme *Realizing Our Need for Repentance*. Pastor Kurt Loescher from David's Star will be our guest preacher.

Easter Flowers If you'd like to beautify our altar on Easter Sunday with an Easter lily in memory of a loved one, there are order forms and information on the cabinets in the entryway. Fill one out and place it in the ladies' aid mailbox (top center).

We thank Jared Peterson and Barb Olsen for serving as our organists this weekend.

Bags / Cornhole Tournament Join us for a fun evening of food, friendly competition, and the chance to win some great prizes. The date is Saturday, April 5th, starting at 5:00 p.m. and the place is our church fellowship hall. Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board.

Projects & Pizza All Sunday School children, adults, and anyone interested are invited to a night out on Friday night, March 28th at church. They'll be making cards to give to our shut-in members, watch a movie and / or play some games and have plenty of food and fun from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Sign up to attend or provide some of the needed items and refreshments by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F45ACAD28A64-55125198-zions>

LWMS Rally The Spring LWMS Rally will take place on April 5th at St. Paul's, Neosho (with Bethany Hustisford co-hosting). 8:30 a.m. is registration but it will officially begin at 9:00 a.m. and run through 12:30 p.m. The speaker is Rev. John Borgwardt who will give an overview of our WELS district mission work and share mission work being done at his home congregation of Living Word in Waukesha, WI.

Lighthouse Be a part of Lighthouse Youth Ministries by donating some of the food items necessary the meal Zion will be sponsoring on April 11th. See the sheet on the bulletin board and sign up! Thank you!

We thank our organists this weekend: Barb Olsen on Thursday, and Jared Peterson on Sunday.

Concert Livestream The Martin Luther College / Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Joint concert to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the WELS will be repeated this Saturday night, March 28th, in New Ulm, MN. This one will be live streamed. Catch it at www.wels.net/streams.

Forward in Christ The April edition of the *Forward* is on the cabinet, along with the new church calendar.

Charger Wear Coordinator Needed KML is looking for a volunteer Charger Wear Coordinator! We are very thankful for Kristie Waldvogel who has done a great job serving in this position for the last couple of years. If you have an eye for design and enjoy working independently, this volunteer position could be right for you! Interested? Have any questions? Contact Mr. Joe Greefkes, Activities Director (262.677.4051 x4003; joe.greefkes@kmlhs.org).

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833 I Run to Christ CW 833

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Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer *Psalm 85A*

Text & Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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