In this week's Steeple >>>

- Message from Father Nick
- Georgia Gates Tribute
- Sunday Bulletin

The Steeple



Feb. 24, 2021

The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



New Wine

Today I had the pleasure to join some colleagues from around the diocese in a program called "Fresh Start." Fresh Start is a one to a two-year program for clergy who are in a new position in the Diocese of Oklahoma. It seeks to strengthen the relationships among clergy, congregations, and the Diocese during times of transition. The curriculum covers essential topics such as church and clergy finance, conflict

transformation, change management, family systems and self-care. In addition to the topical presentations by knowledgeable speakers, Fresh Start seeks to draw on the "wisdom in the room" by creating space for clergy to share resources, stories, and to seek advice. This is a new experience for me and for that I am truly grateful.

Most groups that I find myself in these days begin with some form of meditation on the Scriptures. Today as we began our meeting, I couldn't help but smile as we read from the ninth chapter of Matthew where Jesus is speaking about new wine! What strikes me about that passage, however, is not the wine so much as it is about Christ's sense of compassion. I love how Jesus is interested in maintaining the integrity of both the wine and the wineskin. Jesus wants the wine to be enjoyed but he also doesn't want the wine skin to tear either.

This teaching is a wonderful invitation for us to consider all sides of what we may be facing in our lives, whether that be the community we find ourselves in or the relationships that make up that community. The Scripture also prompts us to ask a critical question – How do we engage with new ideas, new ministry, and new vision while also maintaining the integrity of the whole? It's really a life lesson about living life together in love.

How fitting it is that this reading pops up today when we are about to celebrate our ministry with one another. And to top that, that our gospel lesson tonight comes from John where Jesus refers to himself as the vine. Yes, wine again! Well, maybe not. Instead, we receive Christ's invitation to abide in Him and to

abide in love with one another. We are to abide with one another by developing a deep sense of integrity which is born out of compassion for one another. We do this by maintaining the integrity of the whole person. We do this by maintaining the integrity of the whole community, and we do all of it by living into our baptismal covenant.

Tonight's celebration is about all of us my friends. Tonight's celebration is about our baptism, our life together, and how all of it abides in the heart of our Lord. I look forward to seeing you tonight and I look forward to being beside you as we all walk each other home.

Fr. Nick+

COVID PRECAUTION REMINDERS

When in the St. Luke's Building...

- 1) Wear your face mask
- Exercise the 6-foot social distance rule.
- Follow the pew seating guidelines.
- 4) Wash/sanitize your hands frequently.
- 5) Avoid coming if you feel ill or "not quite right."





Georgia Gates, beloved wife of Fr. Bob Gates, especially enjoyed exploring the Black Mesa country around Kenton, Oklahoma, the only community in the state on Mountain Time. The scene above speaks to the serenity and beauty of this remote place, treasured by the Gates and many others who have ventured to this far western tip of the Panhandle.

Georgia, as many know, was also a pillar of the St. Crispin's Camp & Conference Center for some three decades, lovingly remembered by countless attendees as "The Face of St. Crispin's."

She began as a staff counselor and advanced to camp dean and ultimately to director of summer camps – all roles in which she brought unconditional love to thousands of campers and adult staff alike.

As a tribute to Georgia's many years of giving of herself to the St. Crispin's community, a camp scholarship has been established in her memory. Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, 924 North Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73102. Please indicate "Georgia L. Gates Scholarship" on the memo line of your donation check.

Regular Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Please note that even during office hours, the doors are locked per COVID-19 protocol.

If you need to come in, just ring the north entrance bell or call the office at 918-336-1212.

Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 25

10:45 am – 1 pm: Darian Kedy, Becky Olsen, Jeff Birk

Thursday, March 11

10:45 am – 1 pm: Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner, Kathy Zervas, Dolores McCreary



St. Luke's Prayer List

The prayer list can be found in the bulletin, which follows this newsletter in the Prayers of the People section.

Call or email our office with prayer requests at 918-336-1212 or office@episcopalbartlesville.org.

Bereavement Team 1

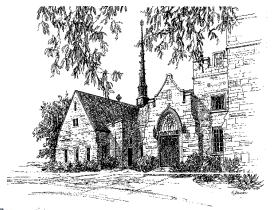
Susie Clark, Nancy Woods, Sally Lindsey, Jeanne Julstrom.

Planning to attend the upcoming 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday service?

If you have a standing reservation, there's no need to call. However, if you've not been attending regularly in-person – Reserve your spot by emailing to office@episcopalbartlesville.org or by calling 918-336-1212.

Alert on solicitations...

Be aware — No one from St. Luke's will request gift cards or other monetary support through email. If you receive such a message in your email, it is spam. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke's go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.



Feb. 17 -28 & Leap Year Birthdays and Anniversaries Birthdays Anniversaries

Sarah Finch, Feb. 17 Xavier Nelson, Feb. 17 Mary Ann Clem, Feb. 18 Doug Rhett, Feb. 18 Tom Droege, Feb. 18 Jim Grillot, Feb. 19 Everett Ellis, Feb. 20 Ada Gurule, Feb. 23 Mary Robinson, Feb. 29



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector 269-788-7063; <u>RevPhares@outlook.com</u>

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist 918-397-4828; dolo37@cableone.net

Roseanne McKee, Office Manager/Assistant to Rector; 918-336-1212; office@episcopalbartlesville.org

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coord.; 918-697-8509; keelidroege@gmail.com

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St. Luke's Vestry Members

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- Chad Ellis w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com
- Nancy Megee <u>sc4me81@yahoo.com</u>

Connecting with St. Luke's

To learn various ways to connect at St. Luke's, visit our website at: http://episcopalbartlesville.org/

The Second Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

210 Southeast Ninth Street Bartlesville, Oklahoma

THE HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn: #10 "New Every Morning is the Love"

See page 11

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant may say

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You're your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark* 12:29-31

The Celebrant then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
We confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
Have mercy on us and forgive us;
That we may delight in your will,
And walk in your ways,
To the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

Lord, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.* Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

O 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, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader The Word of the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:22-30

Deus, Deus meus

- 22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; * stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
- 23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither does he hide his face from them; * but when they cry to him he hears them.
- 24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
 I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

- 25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
 "May your heart live for ever!"
- 26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, * and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.
- 27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; * he rules over the nations.
- 28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; * all who go down to the dust fall before him.
- 29 My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; * they shall be known as the LORD'S for ever.
- 30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn * the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader The Word of the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn: #513 "Like the Murmur of the Doves' Song" See page 12

The Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily: The Reverend Nick Phares

The Nicene Creed

(Please stand as you are able)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

One the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant

Lord we come before you in great humility and love. We look to you in faith. Help us to continually set our minds on the doing of your will.

Intercessor and People

Your world is restless Lord until it rests in you. Help us to care for your creation. Grant the leaders of the nations your blessing. Help us all to usher in your reign of peace. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Your church hungers for your companionship and guidance. Help us to extend your reach to all whom you love. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord we lift up to you those that we love, those who have commended themselves to prayers especially: Milton Enderlin, Mary Gillett, Linda Piper, Terry Piper, Leaona Dobbs, Connie Woods, Tracy Dobbs, Liz Green, Matt French, Shellie Greggs, Suzanne Reed, Emily DeGraffenried, Joseph Louis, Lynetta Jackson, Lorrie Loy, Kyle Frohlic, Matt French, Michelle Sheffield, Catherine Sheffield, Sydney & Ed Beasley, Rob Boyle, Marcia Zervas, Aaron Williams, Luke Karel, Bruce, Clara, Peggy, Joe, Sandra, Lysa, Helen, Kristin, and Scott. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We lift up to you all caregivers. Bless them with wisdom, patience, skill, and courage so that they may minster your love to the suffering. Embrace them with your loving mercy so that they know they are not alone in the unrelenting challenges they are facing. Bless them with times of rest and renewal. Comfort them when they are burdened with sorrow. And always, may your words speak through them and sustain them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In the midst of this life, we know that we are in death. And so, Lord, we lift up to you all those who have died – those known to us and those known to you alone. Rest eternal grant to them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements: Father Nick Phares

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

Offeratory Hymn: #675 "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior said"

See page 13

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People



The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

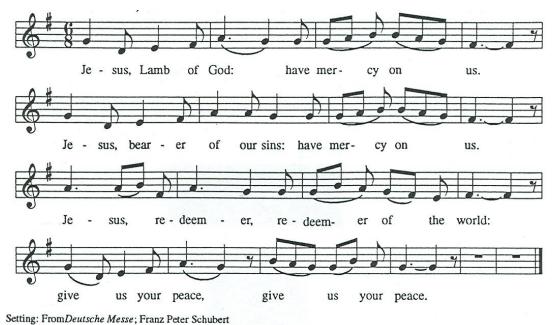
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [______ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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, for ever and ever. *Amen*.



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Invitation to Communion

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for You, and feed on him in your hearts by faith,

With thanksgiving.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the people will receive the bread only.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Blessing

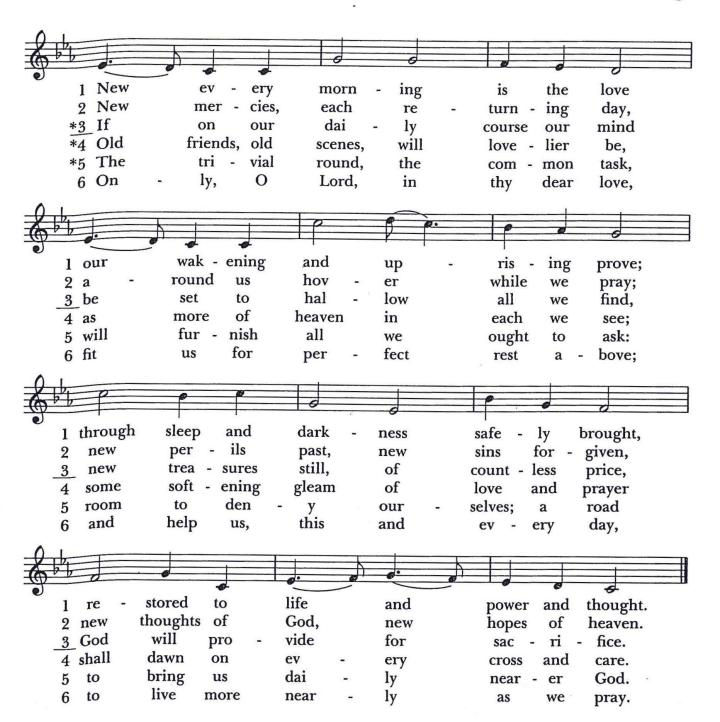
Dismissal Hymn: #401 "The God of Abraham Praise"

See page 14

Dismissal

Celebrant: The Rev. Nick Phares
Organist: Dolores McCreary
Usher: Brian Ferguson
Layreader: Dan Droege
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
210 E. 9th Street
Bartlesville, OK 74003
918-336-1212

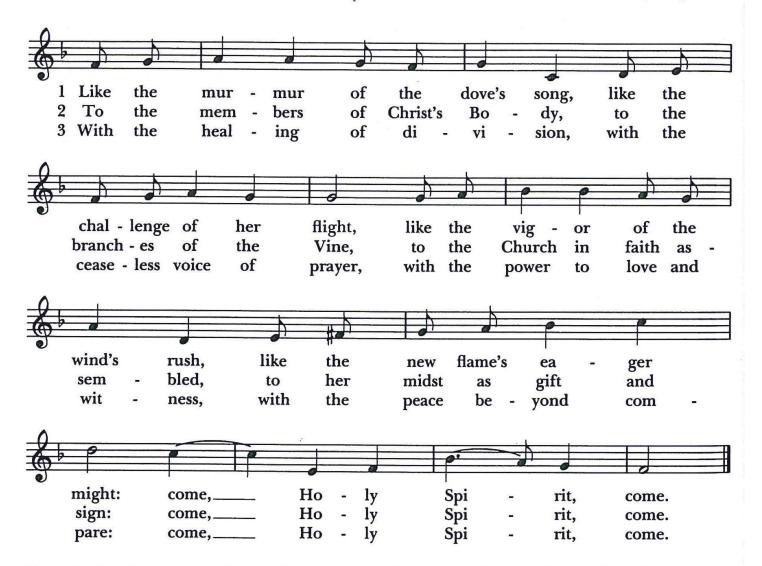
 $\underline{www.episcopalbartlesville.org}$



Words: John Keble (1792-1866)

Music: Kedron, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826)

LM



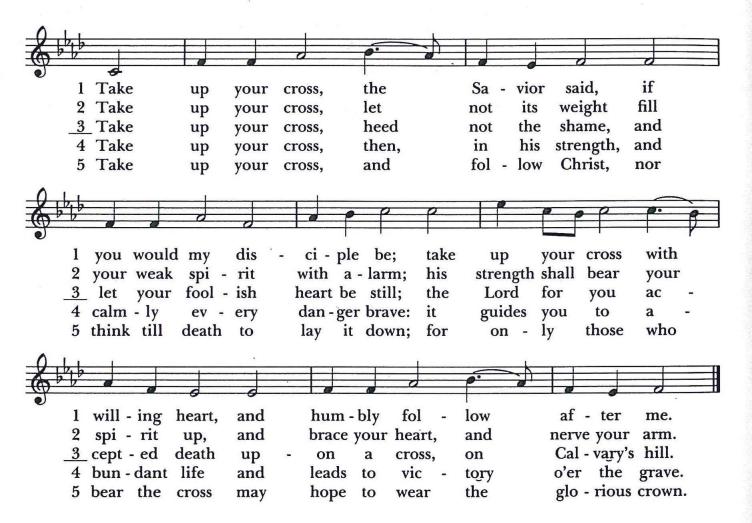
Phrase 1 of each stanza may be sung by one group, with a contrasted group singing phrase 2, and all joining for the final phrase.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Music: Bridegroom, Peter Cutts (b. 1937)

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Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt.

Music: Bourbon, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859)

LM



Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799), alt.

Music: Leoni, Hebrew melody; harm. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1875, alt.

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