

# Celebrate



OUR SAVIOR'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Connecting Faith to Everyday Life*

Contemporary Worship Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 ♦ 8:45 A.M.

# Ask

A Lenten series for anyone who's ever had  
a question about their faith.

## Lent at Our Savior's

### GATHERING

**Gathering Song** – “Open the Eyes of My Heart,” Paul Baloche

Part 1: Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see you, I want to see you.

Part 2: To see you high and lift ed up, shining in the light of Your glory;  
Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, “Holy, holy, holy.” (*repeat parts 1 and 2*)

Part 3: High and lift ed up, shining in the light of Your glory;  
Pour out Your pow'r and love as we sing, “Holy, holy, holy.”  
Ending: Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy! Holy, holy, holy!  
I want to see you. (*repeat*)

**Gathering Words**

**Invocation**

**Gathering Song** – “Promise Keeper,” Ethan Hulse, Hope Darst,  
and Jonathan Smith

1. Your vow's a covenant unbroken  
You've made it known through history  
Your love will never be unfaithful

Never walk out on me  
Never walk out on me

2. I have no reason to doubt You  
Who You've been You'll always be  
And though the future's still unfolding  
With everything I've seen  
How could I not believe

Chorus: You are a promise keeper  
Your word will never fail  
My heart can trust You, Jesus  
I won't be overwhelmed  
My eyes are gonna see  
Miracles and victories  
You are a promise keeper  
And Your word will never fail

Bridge: I'll see Your goodness in the land of the living  
I'll see Your goodness right here right now  
You know the ending before the beginning  
I know that You have worked all things out (*repeat, then chorus*)

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

When God made us,  
God knew what we needed to thrive.  
God made the earth creative and abundant.  
And God gave us partners  
for the planting,  
for the harvest,  
for the meal.

But when God gives us an orchard,  
we hunger for more.

Please join me  
as we confess our sins together.

First, consider: Where have you gone wrong this week?

How have you harmed  
your relationship with God,  
with your neighbor,  
and with yourself?

*[Silence for reflection.]*

Now we confess our sins together.

**We know we have harmed each other  
and damaged our relationship with you.  
But we fear  
that admitting our sin  
will only drive us  
deeper into isolation.**

**So we sneak a bite  
from the fruit  
that is not ours to take.  
Then we throw away the evidence  
of our disloyal decisions.**

**We create distractions  
to hide what we have done.**

**We point our fingers at  
the faults of others.**

**We interrogate those  
who have no reason to lie.**

**And we avoid you.**

**God, you are perfect and holy.  
But we are imperfect and lonely.**

**And you know  
we have broken trust,  
abandoned faith,  
invested in lies.**

**You always discover  
the wreckage  
that bears our fingerprints.  
And our shame feels more intimate  
than your love.**

**What have we done?**

**Is it too late  
to receive your forgiveness?**

Friends, even when we sin,  
God does not accuse.  
God only asks  
what we have done  
so we can set down our guilt.

And God only asks where we have gone  
because God wants to bring us back.

✠ Jesus died to reveal the limitless depth  
of God's love.

You can doubt this love.  
But you can never change the truth of it.

God knows all and forgives all.  
The only question that remains  
is whether we can accept  
love so freely given.

**We do.**

**We embrace your mercy,  
and we thank you, God.**

## WORD

**Reading** – John 9:1–41

**Song for Lent** – “Embrace the Question,” Justin Kosec and Gene LeVasseur

Here we can ask the uncomfortable question

Here we can give the unguarded answer

God is with us in the conversation;

God is the Word that draws us together

Embrace the question

### **Sermon**

#### **Apostles' Creed**

For some, the Apostles' Creed is like liturgical muscle memory: You can say it without thinking about it.

Today we ask you to affirm your faith

by answering questions

so you might truly consider

what you believe.

If you feel unable

to affirm

your faith today,

listen to those around you.

Borrow some faith from them

as we share these ancient words.

Do you believe there is a God who made us?

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

Do you believe this God sent a child named Jesus to save this world?

**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.**

Do you believe the Holy Spirit animates our faith and empowers the church today?

**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.**

**Song of the Day** – “This Is Amazing Grace,” Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro,  
and Phil Wickham

1. Who breaks the power of sin and darkness?  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.  
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder?  
Who leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Chorus: This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

2. Who brings our chaos back into order?  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter?  
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.  
Who rules the nations with truth and justice?  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?  
The King of Glory, the King above all kings. (*chorus*)

Bridge: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave  
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Worthy, worthy, worthy (*chorus*)

**Prayers of the People**

You shaped this world with joy.  
And you have placed us here  
to lovingly tend  
your beautiful,  
bountiful,  
and wonderful world.

Yet so many people feel divorced from  
the goodness in your creation,  
the goodness in their neighbor,  
and the goodness in themselves.

The earth, your creation, is broken today.  
**We ask for your healing as we pray.**

Like a parent,  
you wish  
you could  
take  
our pain as your own.

If you cared so much about us,  
where were you  
when we cried to you?  
What took you so long  
to arrive at our side?

Hold us closer  
when we suffer.  
And draw closer to our friends  
whose concerns we share with you today...

Come with us to the graveside  
where we wait  
with our grieving friends  
for the day of new life.

Your people, your beloved, are broken today.

**We ask for your salvation as we pray.**

Thank you for bringing us together  
to share your name  
and your purpose  
and a world to love.

Thank you for healing  
our bodies  
and our spirits  
and our society  
and this place.

Be patient with us,  
because we judge one another,  
even though you are shamelessly gracious.

The Church, your holy people, are ready today.

**We ask for your Spirit as we pray.**

## MEAL

### Offering

Invitation

Before we collect  
our offering today,  
we prepare ourselves  
with a moment of prayer.

**God, prepare us to give today,  
to each other and to you.**

**Give us boldness  
so we might ask  
our neighbors  
what they truly need.**

**Give us humility  
so we might listen to their answers.**

**Give us patience  
to tolerate disappointment  
as we wait for goodness to grow.**

**Give us generosity  
so others can benefit  
from the money and food  
and other things  
the world tells us  
to keep to ourselves.**

**Give us abundance  
so no one ever leaves here hungry.**

**Amen.**

Offering

Offering Song – “Less Like Me,” Hank Bentley, Mia Fieldes, and Zach Williams

1. Oh I have days I lose the fight  
Try my best but just don't get it right  
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk  
And miss the moments right before my eyes

Pre-Chorus: Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped  
Somebody with a hand that I could have held  
When I just can't see past myself  
Lord help me be

Chorus: A little more like mercy  
A little more like grace  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith  
A little more like patience  
A little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus  
A little less like me

2. Yeah there's no denying I have changed  
I've been saved from who I used to be  
But even at my best I must confess  
I still need help to see the way You see (*pre-chorus, chorus*)

Bridge: Oh I want to feed the beggar on the street  
Love to be Your hands and feet  
Freely give what I receive  
Lord help me be  
I want to put You first above all else  
Love my neighbor as myself  
In the moments no one sees  
Lord help me be

Final Chorus: A little more like mercy  
A little more like grace  
A little more like kindness, goodness, love, and faith  
A little more like patience  
A little more like peace  
A little more like Jesus

A little less like me  
A little more of living  
Everything I preach  
A little more like Jesus  
A little less like me

Offering Prayer

**God, what will you do  
with these gifts?  
We may never know.**

**But we carry a faith  
passed to us  
through generations.**

**We set the table  
with food and drink  
harvested by many hands.**

**We break the bread  
of answered prayers.**

**Use the gifts we give today  
to grow tomorrow's mercy.**

**Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

Dialogue

Where is our God?

**God is here in this place.**

Where are your hearts?

**We have given them to God.**

What shall we do in the presence of our God?

**We shall give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Praise and thanks go to you, Great God,  
for at the beginning of time  
you wondered what your Spirit  
hovering over the water could bring forth:  
Sky and sea? Yes.

Sun and moon? Yes.

Land and plants and animals?

People made in your divine image?

Could you make it?

The answer was yes.

And you loved this answer.

Everything you made was good.

Yet humanity

does not always act worthy of your goodness.

And people have wondered:

Could a perfect God

love people who were so deeply flawed?

So you sent Jesus,  
whose abundant forgiveness,  
humiliating death,  
and glorious resurrection  
all answered

*yes*

to the question of your love

Now, humble people,  
we respond with our own affirmation.

Is our God loving?

Does our God work for the good of those who wait for justice?

Does our God bring new life to those who have died?

Together we say:

**Yes,**

**yes,**

**yes.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Invitation to the Table

Communion Song – “At the Cross (Love Ran Red),” Chris Tomlin,  
Ed Cash, Jonas Myrin, Matt Armstrong, and Matt Redman

1. There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies  
There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide  
Where all the love I've ever found  
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

Chorus: At the cross, at the cross I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You, I'm in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You

2. There's a place where sin and shame are powerless  
Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness  
Where all the love I've ever found  
Comes like a flood comes flowing down (*chorus*)

Bridge: Here my hope is found, here on holy ground  
Here I bow down, here I bow down  
Here arms open wide, here You saved my life  
Here I bow down here I bow

Final Chorus: At the cross at the cross I surrender my life  
I'm in awe of You I'm, in awe of You  
Where Your love ran red and my sin washed white  
I owe all to You, I owe all to You, Jesus.

Communion Song – “Come and See,” Bob Bennet and Michael Aguilar

1. Come and see, come and see. Come and see a man from heaven.  
Come and see, hear him speak. He has seen the face of God.
2. Come and see, come and see this Jesus of Nazareth.  
Come and see the one that we have heard of all our lives.

3. A voice crying in the wilderness. A voice from the sky loud and clear.  
A still, small voice deep inside and a voice still ringing  
in my ear, saying
4. Follow me, follow me, and I will show you my father.  
Follow me and you will see the heavens open wide.
5. Come and see, come and see. Come and see this man from heaven.  
Could it be? Oh could it be? We will see the face of God.

#### Proclamation after Holy Communion

Friends, now you have  
tasted God's goodness for yourself.

Is our God loving?  
Does our God work for the good of all?  
Does our God bring new life?

Together, we say it again:

**Yes,**  
**yes,**  
**yes.**

## SENDING

### Announcements

#### Sending

Now go from this place  
to serve Jesus,  
the eye-opening God.

As you follow Jesus,  
you will encounter illness and suffering.  
You will wonder  
why God's blessings  
seems so unevenly spread  
across humanity.

Yet Jesus still reveals God's work  
through us.

Why do we struggle to believe?

What will happen  
when you ask God  
to do the unexpected?

**Sending Song** – "Joy of the Lord," Chris Llewellyn, Ed Cash,  
and Gareth Gilkeson

1. Though the tears may fall my song will rise  
My song will rise to You  
Though my heart may fail my song will rise  
My song will rise to You  
While there's breath in my lungs  
I will praise You, Lord

2. In the dead of night I'll lift my eyes  
I'll lift my eyes to You  
When the waters rise I'll lift my eyes  
I'll lift my eyes to You  
While there's hope in this heart  
I will praise You, Lord

Chorus: The joy of the Lord is my strength  
The joy of the Lord is my strength  
In the darkness I'll dance  
In the shadows I'll sing  
The joy of the Lord is my strength

3. When I cannot see You with my eyes  
Let faith arise to You  
When I cannot feel Your hand in mine  
Let faith arise to You  
God of mercy and love I will praise You Lord

4. Oh You shine with glory, Lord of light  
I feel alive with You  
In Your presence now I come alive  
I am alive with You  
There is strength when I say  
I will praise You, Lord (*chorus*)

Bridge: When sorrow comes my way  
You are the shield around me  
Always You remain  
Like courage in the fight  
I hear You call my name, Jesus I am coming  
Walking on the waves reaching for Your light (*chorus 2x*)

## WORSHIP LEADERS

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Tim Lemme

**Preaching Minister:** Pastor Justin Kosec

**Celebrate Band:** Denny Gale, Dave Hofstad Steve Kuper, Jake Lemme,  
Janell Mills, and Gretchen Starnes

**Scripture Readers This Weekend:** Renee Aaker, Beth Boyens, Carolyn Dick,  
Paul Konz, Justin Kosec, Chad Mickelson, Kiri Selzler, and Kym Selzler

**Drama Participants:** Brad Green, Paul Konz, Chad Mickelson,  
Charlie Nesdahl, Kiri Selzler, and Kym Selzler

**Media:** Odell Davis

**Sound:** Matt Steinhouse

*"Ask" graphic © 2023 by Barn Geese Worship.*

*"Ask: Sunday Liturgy" by Justin Kosec and Kathryn Pocalyko,  
copyright © 2023 Barn Geese Worship.*

*Used by permission of Barn Geese Worship.*



# OUR SAVIOR'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Connecting Faith to Everyday Life.*

[www.oslchurch.com](http://www.oslchurch.com)

**Credits:** The following music is used by permission CCLI #250141: "Open the Eyes of My Heart," Paul Baloche, © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (admin. by Integrity Music); "Promise Keeper," Ethan Hulse, Hope Darst, and Jonathan Smith, © Be Essential Songs (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), Cashagamble Jet Music (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), EGH Music Publishing (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC), Fair Trade Global Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]), Hope For The Best Songs (Fair Trade Music Publishing [c/o Essential Music Publishing LLC]); "This Is Amazing Grace," Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, and Phil Wickham, © 2012 Phil Wickham Music (admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Seems Like Music (admin. by Music Services, Inc.), Sing My Songs (admin. by Music Services, Inc.), WB Music Corp. (admin. by Word Music Group, Inc.), and Bethel Music Publishing; "Less Like Me," Hank Bentley, Mia Fieldes, and Zach Williams, © 2019 Capitol CMG Amplifier (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Every Square Inch (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Anthems of Hope (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Be Essential Songs (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Upside Down Under (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) Wisteria Drive (admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC); "At the Cross (Love Ran Red)," Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jonas Myrin, Matt Armstrong, and Matt Redman, © Countless Wonder Publishing (admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Fots Music (admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); McKittrick Music (admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Songs (admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Tunes (admin. by Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.); Atlas Mountain Songs (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); S. D. G. Publishing (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Said And Done Music (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); sixsteps Music (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); sixsteps Songs (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Thankyou Music (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Worship Together Music (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); worshiptogether.com songs (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); "Come and See," Bob Bennet and Michael Aguilar, © By Gaither Copyright Auth. #891584; "Joy of the Lord," Chris Llewellyn, Ed Cash, and Gareth Gilkeson, © 2015 Capitol CMG Paragon (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing), Thankyou Music (admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)