

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

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OUR SAVIOR'S

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