

Festive

Traditional Worship Service



OUR SAVIOR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting Faith to Everyday Life

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

Ask

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

Lent at Our Savior's

GATHERING

Prelude – “Blessed Assurance,” arr. Randall Hartsell

Gathering Words

Invocation

+Gathering Hymn – ELW, No. 798, “Will You Come and Follow Me,” *sts. 1, 2, 3*

1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 “Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 “Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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.**

Song for Lent – ELW, No. 666, “What Wondrous Love Is This,” *sts. 1, 4*



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Prayer of the Day

WORD

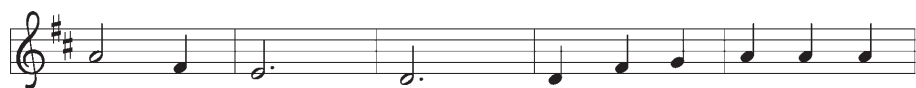
Reading – John 9:1–41

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – ELW, No. 815, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

+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.**

+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 Music – “My Jesus I Love Thee,” arr. Dan Forrest

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.
From the first days of humankind,
when your people fell far from you in sin,
the first sinners wondered if you still loved them.

Your answer was,

Yes.

When your people were enslaved,
they wondered if you cared enough
to bring them to freedom.

Again, you said,

Yes.

Any time your people were exiled and afraid,
the prophets wondered
if your people would live again.

Always,

always,

your answer was,

yes.

Out of your unflinching yes for our salvation,
you sent our savior Jesus.
When everyday people met your Son,
they asked, "He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"
Christ's 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?

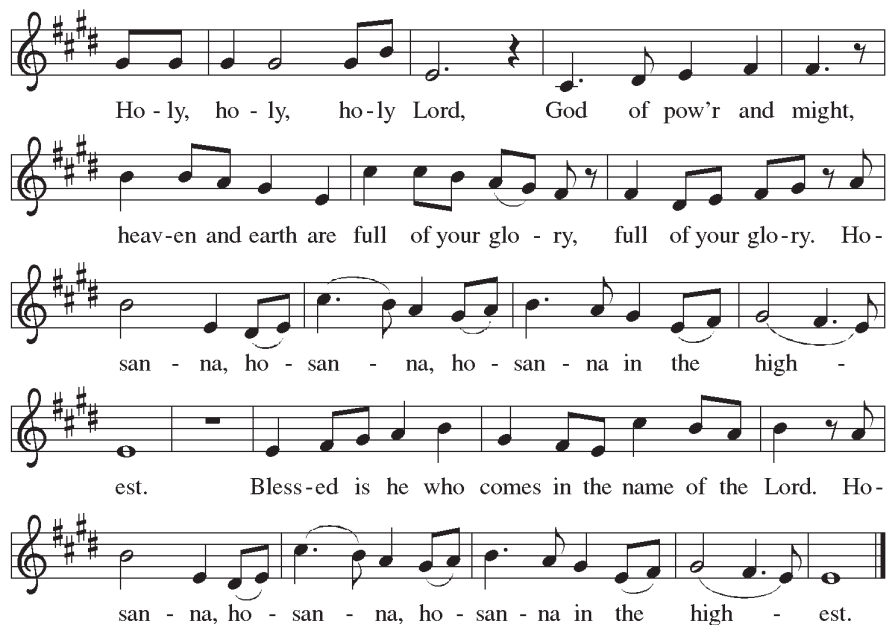
Does our God bring new life to those who have died?

Yes,

yes,

yes.

Sanctus



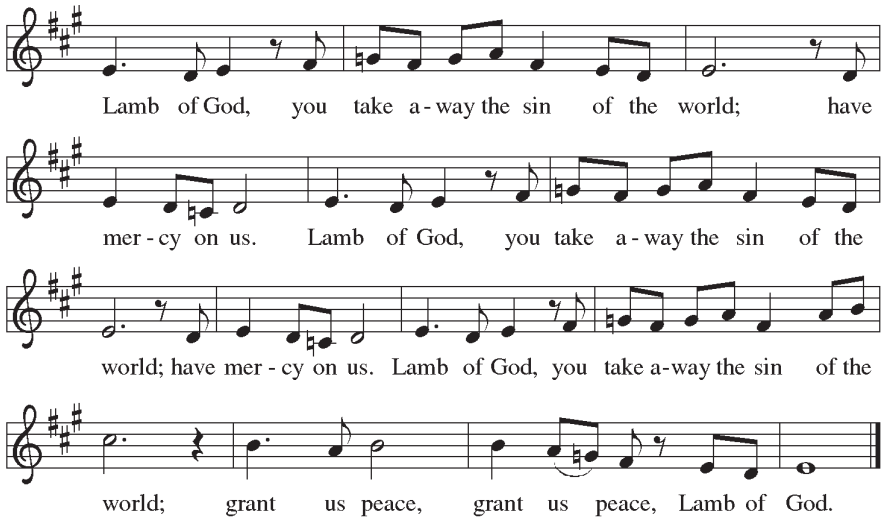
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

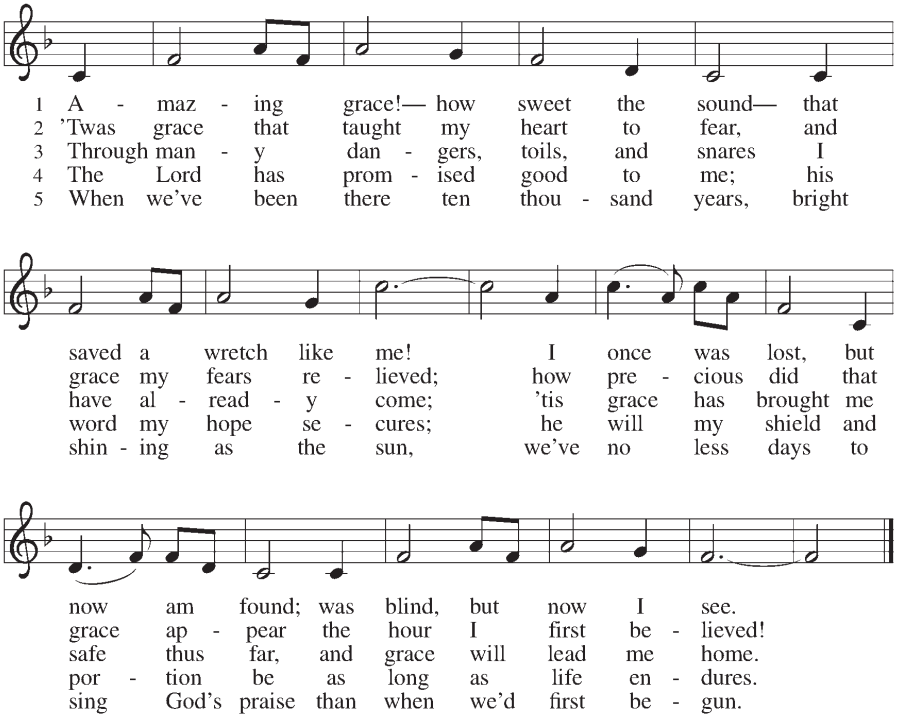
Invitation to the Table

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn – ELW, No. 779, “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

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

Sending Hymn – ELW, No. 793, “Be Thou My Vision,” *sts. 1, 2*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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?

Postlude – “Adagio,” J. S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presiding and Preaching Minister: Pastor Justin Kosec

Piano: Christopher Larson

Cantor: Tony Leggett

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

Media: Dorene Weinstein

Sound: Bob Nelson

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