

# *Festive*

*Traditional Worship Service*



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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

# Ask

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

## *Lent at Our Savior's*

### GATHERING

**Prelude** – “What Wondrous Love Is This,” Gerhard Krapf,” Franz Schubert

**Gathering Words**

**Announcements**

**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

**+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.**

## WORD

**Anthem** – “God So Loved the World,” John Stainer

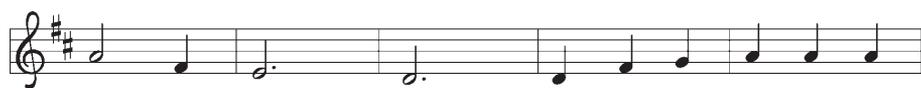
**Reading** – John 9:1–41

**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

## 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 – “Be Thou My Vision,” *Irish traditional*

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

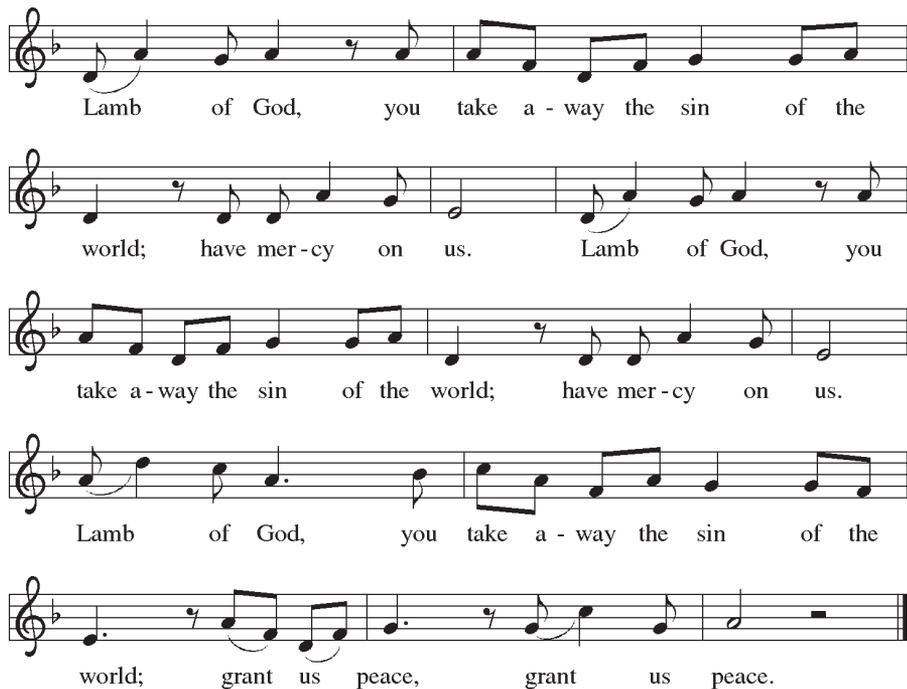
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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.

## 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

## 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** – “Recessional in a Gregorian Mode,” Henry Kihlken

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Randy Gehring

**Preaching Minister:** Pastor Justin Kosec

**Organ:** Christopher Larson

**Saxophone:** Eli Wagley

**Choir:** Our Savior's Choir, directed by Gene LeVasseur, accompanied by Christopher Larson

**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:** Dorene Weinstein

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