

St. John's Lutheran Church  
March 10, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.  
Lent

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**Welcome & Announcements**

*(An usher rings the church bells 5 minutes before church service starts)*

**Temple Talk** – Jean Jirovec, Stewardship

**Prelude** – Linda Ranney

*(Acolyte -When music starts light candles)*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ELW#335 v.1, 3, 4**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me; help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever, till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

**Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

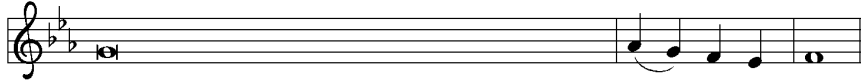
# Kyrie ELW pg. 98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



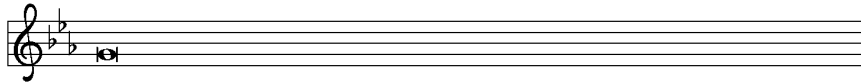
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



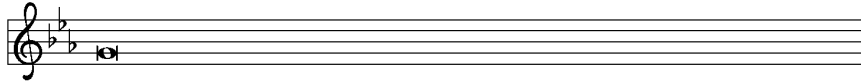
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray. O God, **rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Reading: Numbers 21:4-9** (*Please Sit*)

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Time - "He's Got the Whole World"

1 He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the  
 2 He's got the wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the  
 3 He's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands, he's got the  
 4 He's got you and me, broth-er, in his hands, he's got

whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world  
 wind and the rain in his hands, he's got the wind and the rain  
 ti - ny lit - tle ba - by in his hands, he's got the ti - ny lit - tle ba - by  
 you and me, broth-er, in his hands, he's got you and me, broth-er,

in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.  
 in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.  
 in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.  
 in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

Gospel Acclamation "Lord to Whom Shall We Go" by Michael Joncas (*Please stand*)

Lord, to whom shall we go? Lord,  
 to whom shall we go? You a -  
 lone, you a-lone have the words of ev-er-last-ing life.

**Gospel:** John 3:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13-15</sup> “No one has ever gone up into the presence of God except the One who came down from that Presence, the Son of Man. In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it is necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up—and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

<sup>16-18</sup> “This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn’t go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person’s failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him.

<sup>19-21</sup> “This is the crisis we’re in: God-light streamed into the world, but men and women everywhere ran for the darkness. They went for the darkness because they were not really interested in pleasing God. Everyone who makes a practice of doing evil, addicted to denial and illusion, hates God-light and won’t come near it, fearing a painful exposure. But anyone working and living in truth and reality welcomes God-light so the work can be seen for the God-work it is.”

**Sermon** “*He’s Got the Whole World*” Pastor Christine Emerson (*Please Sit*)

**Hymn of the Day** “*Lift High the Cross*” ELW#660 v.1, 3, 4

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

1     Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, our king victorious,  
Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

3     O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, as thou hast promised, draw us  
all to thee. *Refrain*

4     So shall our song of triumph ever be: praise to the Crucified for victory!  
*Refrain*

## **Apostle's Creed**

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

## **Prayers of the People**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

**Petition:** Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)*

**Offering** - "God So Loved the World" by Thomas Keesecker; The St. John's Choir

*(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers to place on the altar during Offertory)*

*(Observe a time of silence and reflection)*

**Offertory "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word" ELW#517 v.1, 3**

*(Please stand)*

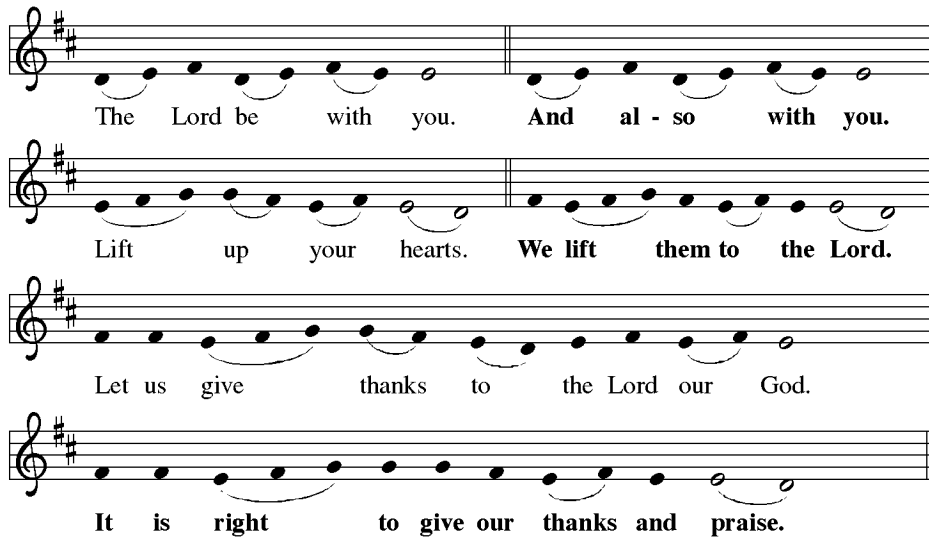
- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.
  
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

## Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen**

## Great Thanksgiving ELW pg. 107



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

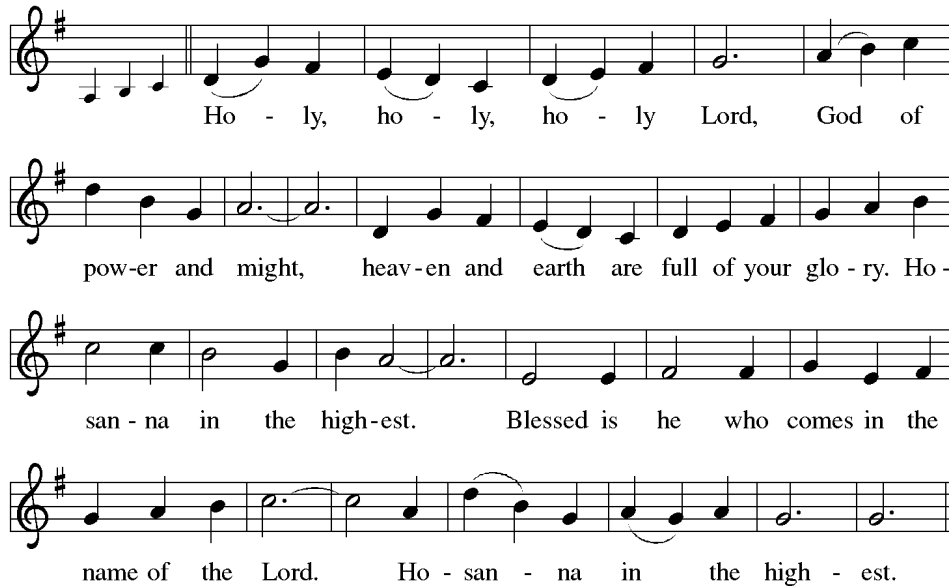
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg. 108



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. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

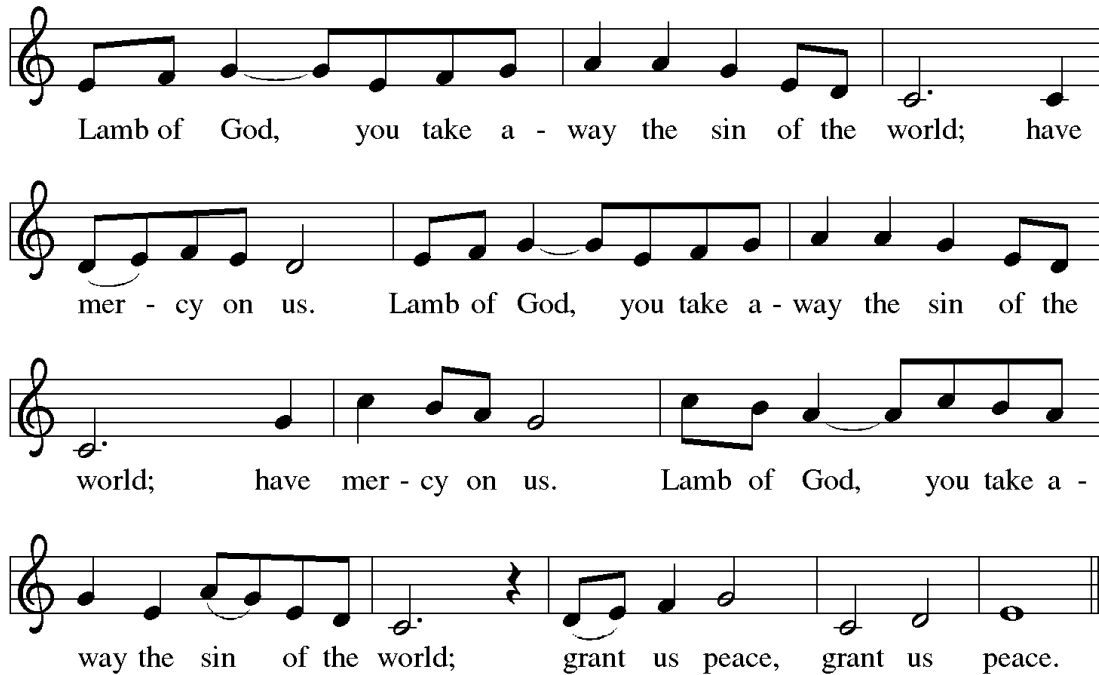
### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Invitation to Table *(Please Sit)*

*(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)*

## Lamb of God ELW pg. 112



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 "There is a Longing in our Hearts" ACS#1078 v.1-4

*Refrain* — All

There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.  
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.

- 1 For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer. In sorrow, in grief:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*
- 2 For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer. In weakness, in  
fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*
- 3 For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer. In sickness, in  
death: be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*
- 4 Lord, save us, take pity, light in our deepest night. We call you; we wait:  
be near; hear our prayer, O God. *Refrain*

## Post Communion Blessing (*Please stand*)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep  
you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Generous God, **at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen**

### **Blessing**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"* ELW#779 v.1, 3, 5  
(Acolyte – Extinguish candles)

- 1     Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
      I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
  
- 3     Through many dangers, toils, and snares. I have already come;  
      'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me  
      home.
  
- 5     When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the  
      sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first  
      begun.

### **Sending**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** – Linda Ranney

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**Altar Flowers:** In honor of Jean Jirovec’s 70<sup>th</sup> birthday by Family and Friends.

#### **Serving at worship today:**

Pastor – Christine Emerson

Worship Assistant – Kathy Freitag

Lector – Cora Klawiter

Acolytes – Jack Schank & Liam Schank

Ushers – Brian Wagner, Jean Jirovec

Greeters – Dramus Peuse, Arlene McAdam

Communion Servers – Cheryl Mattison, Margaret Kinderman, Lizzy Paulson,  
Ruth Lundblad

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point- Brett Isaacson

Musicians- Linda Ranney, organ/piano; Mark Lundin, Director of Music; St.  
John’s Choir