

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 4, 2024

9:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

PRELUDE

Improvisation on *Martyrdom*

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
Whose Spirit blew over the waters of creation
the God who gave us a new birth in the waters of Christ baptism,
our light and our salvation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.
We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**
**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters, God has spoken:
The time of grace is now.
In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord (ELW 617)



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
 Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824
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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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.
**Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of
 your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your
 creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
 Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

+ **Word** +

READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain



Psalm 147:3

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Psalm Tone



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¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!

How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**

³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴**The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names.**

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

Refrain

⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow up- | on the
mountains.**

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

Refrain

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

The holy gospel according to Mark.
Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The congregation may be seated.
Vicar Alex Linn

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may be stand.
Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW 773)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. You may assume a posture of prayer through standing, kneeling, or sitting. Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Your prayers are invited now, either silently or aloud. *(Pause for prayers.)* God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Balm in Gilead

arr. by H.T. Burleigh

Refrain:

There is a Balm in Gilead,
To make the wounded whole
There is a Balm in Gilead,
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit,
Revives my soul again

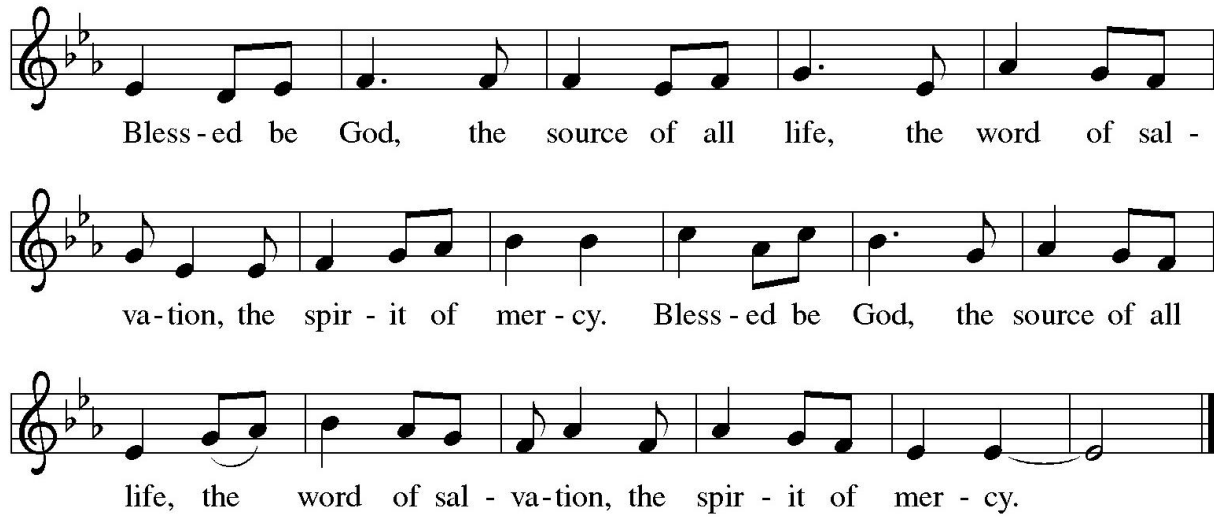
Refrain

If you can preach like Peter,
If you can pray like Paul,
go home and tell your neighbor,
"He Died to save us all"

Refrain

OFFERTORY VERSE

The congregation may stand.
Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life



Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy. Bless-ed be God, the source of all
life, the word of sal - va-tion, the spir - it of mer - cy.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray together.

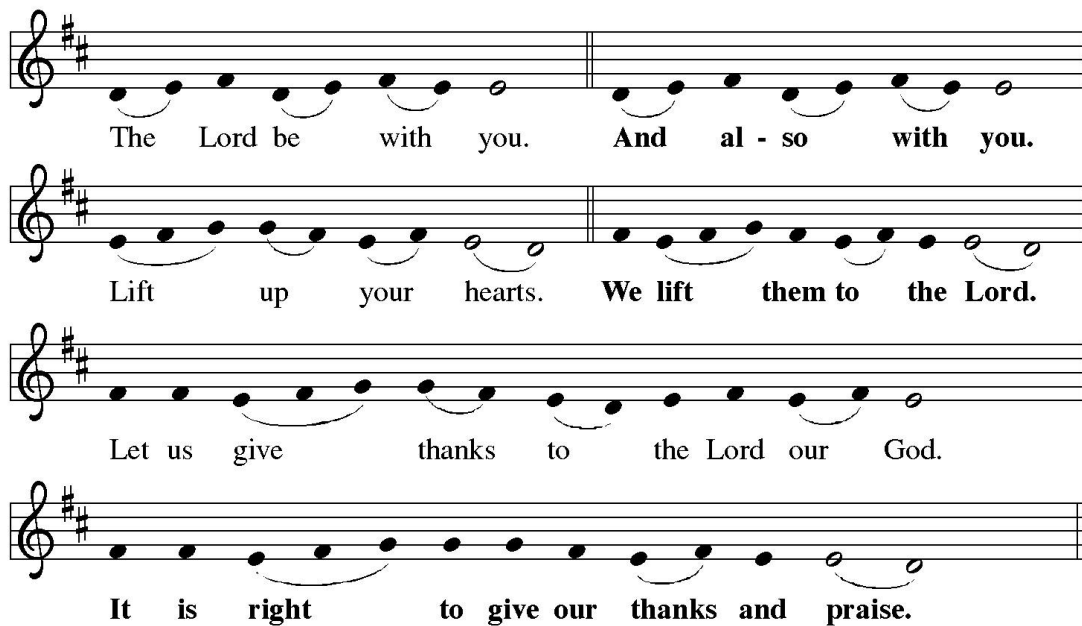
Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

**Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.**

Amen.

DIALOGUE

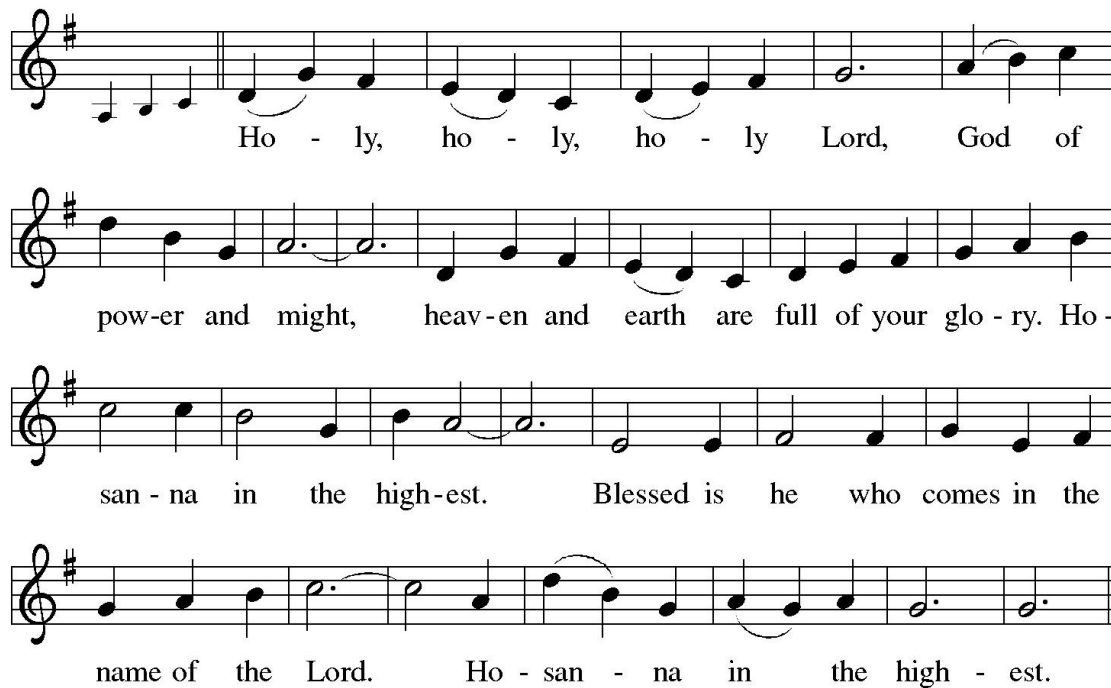


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.
Live among us and bless this meal.
May your Word dwell in us to awaken your people and Fill us with your light.
That we might be a gift of peace on earth.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us in the many and varied languages we hold dear...

**Our God 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

In this meal is the light for all life, Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

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

Thee We Adore, O Savior (ELW 476)

1 Thee we a - dore, O Sav - ior, God most true,
2 O true re - mem - brance of Christ cru - ci - fied,
3 Foun - tain of good - ness, Je - sus, Lord and God,
4 Je - sus, by faith we see thee here be - low;

thy glo - ry clothed in bread and wine a - new;
the bread of life to us for whom he died;
cleanse us, O Christ, with thy most cleans - ing blood;
send us, we pray thee, what we thirst for so:

our hearts to thee in true de - vo - tion bow,
lend us this life then; feed and feast our mind,
in - crease our faith and love, that we may know
some - day to gaze up - on thy face in light,

in hum - ble awe, we hail thy pres - ence now.
be thou the sweet - ness we were meant to find.
the hope and peace which from thy pres - ence flow.
blest ev - er - more with thy full glo - ry's sight. A - men.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.
**Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.
Amen.**

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Variations on Nettleton

by Undine S. Moore

Worship materials adapted this day from multiple ecumenical partners including the Episcopal Church, USA, and The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (2023).

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- Scripture readings from the NRS

SERVING TODAY

Interim:

Assisting Minister:

Director of Music:

Cantor:

Reader:

Usher:

Children's Church:

Altar Guild:

Livestream Camera:

Vicar Alex Linn

Cindi Rachowicz

Luke Duroc-Danner

Audrey Neace

Margye Smith

Tom Morrison

Matt Radde, Jan Wendel

Susan Crist

Josh Flachsbart

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children's Church

Today the children will be dismissed after the announcements to work on a special card project.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class continues their winter session today. Class will meet at Grace Lutheran Church in Evanston, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm. The class is currently studying Luther's Small Catechism.

The Call Committee Needs Your Help!

The Call Committee urgently needs your help in completing the survey we sent out a few weeks ago. As of today, we have received 27 surveys which is less than half of the number of surveys received in the previous call process and well below our goal of 67 surveys. We are deeply concerned that viewpoints will be under-represented or missed entirely if we don't get more responses. The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and will help us understand what characteristics are important in our new pastor. You may complete it online using the link in your e-news or complete a paper copy and drop it at church. Copies will be available on Sunday. We need your completed survey by Monday, February 5. Chad Johnson will be available after worship today to discuss any issues.

Have a Heart' Valentine Benefit Luncheon

The Women of Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invite the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church to join them for a Holy Family Benefit Luncheon on Saturday, **February 10 at 11:30 am** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston. Please make your reservation by Saturday, February 2 by signing up in the gathering area or contacting Cindi Rachowicz 224-307-3513 or e-mail att41623@sbcglobal.net Let's show our support with a table for 8. All proceeds will fund the annual tuition for a child at Holy Family School.

Also, on Feb. 10, Trinity will accept DONATIONS of gently used adult clothing for **LUCILLE Resale** to benefit Holy Family Ministries. (To donate large items/furniture, email clear photos directly to donate@hfm.org.) If you're unable to join us at the luncheon, donations to support the scholarship fund would be gratefully appreciated. Send checks to Holy Family Ministries | 2215 Enterprise Drive, Suite 1510 | Westchester IL 60154 Online at: www.hfm.org/donate

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible study meets on Tuesday mornings, 11am-12:00pm. with Vicar Alex Linn. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Helping Migrant Families

St. John's members can help by dropping off coats, hats, gloves, scarves, pants, and boots in designated boxes inside the **Wilmette Metra Station** at 722 Green Bay Road. The greatest needs are for children's outdoor clothing. Our donations will help migrants stay warm and feel acknowledged as they make their way to the Chicago Welcoming Center.

Family Promise

Executive Director of Family Promise Chicago North Shore, Tracy McKeithen, will be joining us for worship and a special coffee hour **next Sunday, February 11**, and will share lots of information about Family Promise, how the program works, and how our St. John's community can help. She will also be doing a training for interested volunteers at that time. Our Family Promise host week will take place **Sunday, February 25-Saturday, March 2**.

Lent Begins on Wednesday, February 14th

Our Lenten journey to the cross begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 14th. The service will include Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Beginning Wednesday, February 21, everyone is invited to gather each Wednesday in Lent through March 21 for a soup supper at 6:00 pm, followed by a short worship service. Further details will be forthcoming.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24 | † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus |
| † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith | † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing |
| † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23 | † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury |
| † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away | † Mindy Davis, seeking permanent housing, 2/23/22 |
| † Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23 | † Lorraine Beutelspacher, moved to new home in Arizona 2/3/23 |
| † Congratulations to Dano Johnson & Emily Mock, who were married June 17, 2023 | |
| † Family & friends of Richard Rusz, who died 6/6/23 | |
| † Family & friends of Karen Daugherty, aunt of Erin Rasmussen, who died 5/8/23 | |
| † Family & friends of Joan Schinler, who died 5/5/23 | |
| † Sarah Rink, hospitalized after a fall 3/8/23 | |
| † Family & friends of Ruby Winter, who died 1/10/23 | |
| † Steve Morrison, son of Tom & Judy Morrison, recovering from back surgery 1/1/23 | |
| † Family & friends of Marge Bennett, loved one of Kristen Danielsens, who died 11/17/22 | |

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Henry ("Harry") Thacker Burleigh (1866-1949) was an American composer, arranger, and singer, and he was instrumental in developing characteristically American music. Burleigh helped to make African-American music more widely available by arranging spirituals into a more classical form. Born in Pennsylvania, H.T. Burleigh learned to sing from a young age, and he served several local churches as well as a synagogue during his high school years, along with appearing as a soloist in community and civic events. He attended the National Conservatory of Music at age 26 where he met Antonín Dvořák, the director of the conservatory. Burleigh was responsible for introducing Dvořák to African-American music, which influenced Dvořák's works composed in the US and led him to say that Black music would be the basis of American classical music. Burleigh would serve as the soloist for St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in New York for 52 years, performed for King Edward VII in London in 1908, and sang at the Temple Emanu-el in New York for 25 years. Along with his many arrangements, he composed between 200-300 original songs, and he was a founding member of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers)

Undine S. Moore (1904-1989) was an American composer and educator. Born in Virginia, Moore began piano lessons at age 7, and she went on to study piano, organ, and music theory at Fisk University. She moved to New York to attend Columbia University's Teachers College, and she would also study or attend workshops at Manhattan School of Music, Eastman, and Julliard. After earning her masters, she returned to North Carolina and later Virginia to take a variety of teaching positions, and she was particularly known for teaching counterpoint and theory. Compositionally, she wrote primarily for voice or for choir, but did produce as well a number of works for piano or organ. Her music often presents a powerful synthesis of modernist techniques infused with both Bach and black folk music as major influences. Moore founded the Black Music Center at Virginia State College, and her oratorio, *Scenes from the Life of a Martyr*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1981.