



St. John's of Hatboro

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



Third Sunday in Lent March 3, 2024

Bulletin for Online Service

The Good News for Today: God loves us, even to the point of foolishness.

To view this service, please visit [our YouTube channel](#).

Thank you for worshiping with St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ, and giving people a place to belong at any stage of their journey with God.

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us take a moment and confess our sins before God.

(moment of spoken or silent confession)

1 John 1.9 says that, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from everything that is not right." By Christ's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: As the Deer Runs to the River – ELW 331 (Red Book)

- 1 As the deer runs to the river,
parched and weary from the chase,
we have come from hurt and hurry,
thirsting for your healing grace.

Refrain

Jesus, source of living water,
may we drink of you and live!

- 2 When your Israel crossed the desert
where no stream or spring was seen,
Moses struck the rock, and water
flowed for them, refreshing, clean. *Refrain*

- 3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned,
"all who for God's mercy plead!
God's forgiveness, like a fountain,
flows to satisfy your need." *Refrain*

- 4 Christ, we come from desert places,
deepest thirst unsatisfied.
Lead us to the waters flowing
from the cross on which you died. *Refrain*

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

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Arr. Michael Brinkworth

Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray.... Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Scriptures

Exodus 20:1-17

¹ Then God spoke all these words,

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above or that is on the earth beneath or that is in the water under the

earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ “You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸ “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, male or female slave, ox, donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 *(Read Responsively)*

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

**²One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

**⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of
the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to
the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion
over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us
who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of
the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire
wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness
to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of
God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and
God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God.

John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰ The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – “Body on the Gears” – Pastor Bo Bannister

The Apostles’ Creed

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

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 Intercession

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.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation.

Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying,

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: In the Cross of Christ I Glory — ELW 324 (Red Book)

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.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

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*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915
Arr. Michael Brinkworth

Benediction and Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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