

*OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH*  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP**



**Sunday, March 5, 2023**  
**2nd Sunday in Lent:**

*ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Our red hymn book is located in the pew rack in front of you. The songs are in the back half of the book, with the song number at the top of the page.*

*\*An asterisk indicates the congregation should stand as you are able.*

*Congregation's speaking and singing parts are in bold font /*

**Prelude**

*Lord, I Ring My Praise to Thee* by Howard F Starks

Handbells

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

What is it like to begin again?

**It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.**

**It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.**

**It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.**

**It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.**

May we find God in our seeking.

**May we learn as we go.**

May we be brave enough to begin again.

**Let us worship the God of new beginnings.**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,  
**and we bury our heads in the sand.**

You promise all the stars in the sky,  
**and we doubt it can be true.**

You speak of new life in the Spirit,  
**and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.**

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

**Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes. Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.**

## \*Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, you are made new.

You belong to God. You are held in God's love. You are made new. **Amen.**

## \*Kyrie

Ky-ri-e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer -  
cy up - on us.  
Chri - ste e - lei - son. Christ, have mer -  
cy up - on us.  
A - men, A - men.

## \*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

We come to you today with our biggest questions:

Who are we called to be?

What do you need from us?

Where are you in our midst?

How can we follow you more clearly?

As we read your Word today, we ask that you would weave answers into the text.

Speak to us through these ancient stories that we might find what we are seeking in you. With gratitude and open hearts we pray, amen.

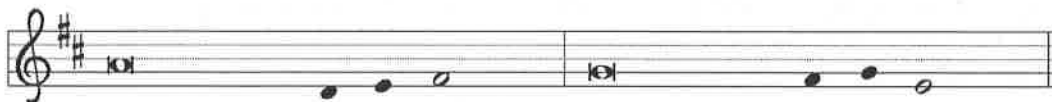
## Anthem

*Into the Woods My Master Went* - Peter Lutkin arranged by Roy T Scoggins, Jr  
Handbells

### First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.

### ELW Psalm 32



- <sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;  
from where is my | help to come?  
<sup>2</sup>**My help comes | from the LORD,**  
**the maker of heav- | en and earth.**  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.  
<sup>4</sup>**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**  
**will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**  
<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches | over you;  
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;  
<sup>6</sup>**the sun will not strike | you by day,**  
**nor the | moon by night.**  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**  
**from this time forth for- | evermore.**

### Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Word of God, word of life.  
Thanks be to God.

### \*Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John  
**Glory to you, O God.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to

you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

<sup>11</sup>"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Sermon**

*Silence for reflection*

**\*Hymn of the Day** - ELW 443 *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*  
(verses 1, 2, 5)

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God who meets us in the shadows,  
who welcomes our questions,  
who invites us to begin again.**

**We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,  
a deeper faith,  
a more compassionate existence.**

**We believe that all of our beginnings should return us to this foundation,  
and that no matter how many times we lose our way,  
God always welcomes us home. Amen.**

## **\*Prayers of Intercession**

*After each petition of the prayers:*

Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified. **Amen.**

## **\*Exchange of Peace**

*Please be seated.*

**Offertory** - *Ah, Holy Jesus* arranged by Susan Ullom Berns

Handbells

**\*Offering Song** - *Create in Me A Clean Heart, O God* (see insert)

**\*Offering Prayer**

**\*The Great Thanksgiving** (see insert)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...  
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy** (see insert)

*Cantor sings each line once, then congregation repeats*

**\*Our Father/Parent,**  
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.

## Invitation to Communion

Come and taste the joy of God!

*This is Christ's table. You are welcome here, without exception. Please follow the ushers' direction, filling in the communion rail starting on the right side. You may stand or kneel. If you prefer a blessing, cross your hands over your heart. Gluten free wafers are available. The wine is red; the grape juice is clear. Please let an usher know if you would like communion brought to your pew.*

## Lamb of God (ELW, page 208)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Communion

## Post-Communion Blessing

## Prayer after Communion

## Sending Announcements

## \*Blessing

**\*Sending Hymn - ELW 545 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing**

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Passacaille* by Georg Philipp Telemann

Trombone

*You are welcome to leave anytime during the postlude or stay to listen. Please use this time in whatever way is most worshipful for you.*

**Welcome to Our Saviour's**

Christ is our peace and breaks down the walls that divide us (Ephesians 2:14). You are welcome at Our Saviour's because of who you are. We are a congregation of longtime churchgoers, newcomers, seekers, seasonal visitors, and returnees with diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and beliefs. We follow a family Lutheran service with piano, organ, and guest musicians. We celebrate cultural, ethnic, and racial diversity of the Tucson region and seek to be a place belonging for all. We welcome those who have felt or been excluded from church spaces because of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity expression, financial status, or any other reason. We like the sound of you people in worship, we value the experience of our elders, and all ages between. Our communion table is Christ's table, and all people are welcome, no exceptions. Your presence here builds up the body of Christ.

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March 5, 2023

Lent 2

**THOSE SERVING TODAY (3/5/23)**

**Pastor/Presider**  
Rev. Amalia Vagts

**Assisting Minister**  
Nilu Dorschner

**Accompanist/Organist**  
Gréta Pásztor

**Cantor**  
Jennifer Strand

**Communion Assistant**  
David Lester

**Acolyte**  
Nilu Dorschner

**Ushers**  
Diane Siefkes  
Patty Sirls

**Prelude/Anthem/Offertory**  
OSLC Handbell Choir

**Trombones**  
Kent Pflibsen  
Asher Havenhill

**Greeter**  
Kathy DeVinney

**Sound & Video**  
Kent Pflibsen  
Tracy Ratliff  
Timothy Bustamante  
Jack Ryan

**THOSE SERVING NEXT SUNDAY  
(3/12/23)**

**Pastor/Presider**  
Rev. Amalia Vagts

**Assisting Minister**  
Bonnie Phelps

**Accompanist/Organist**  
Gréta Pásztor

**Cantor**  
Nilu Dorschner

**Communion Assistant**  
Ginny Phillips

**Acolyte**  
Ginny Phillips

**Ushers**  
Bill DeVinney  
Ted Adams

**Greeter**  
Pat Orr-Bonura

**Sound & Video**  
Kent Pflibsen  
Tracy Ratliff  
Timothy Bustamante  
Jack Ryan

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