THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 3, 2024 9:30 AM

Introduction

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

PRELUDE

+ Gathering +

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name.

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

Built on a Rock (ELW 652)



- 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e ven when stee ples are
- 2 Sure ly, in tem ples made with hands God the Most High is not
- 3 Christ builds a house of liv ing stones: we are his own hab i -
- 4 Yet in this house, an earth ly frame, Je sus the chil dren is
- 5 Through all the pass ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are fall ing; ing the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, dwell high all earth - ly in tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing praise his name, hith - er we come to faith in bless ing; our to hear your Word, who here this ing, may come ring man - y



chim-ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call-ing the tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a - life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak-ing with prom-ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



of those dis-tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last souls ing. bide with love, mak - ing our bod - ies his us in tem ple. midst will show his grace, bless-ings up - on them be - stow - grant-ing his chil-dren the king ing. his cov - e - nant, dom. world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. Α

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

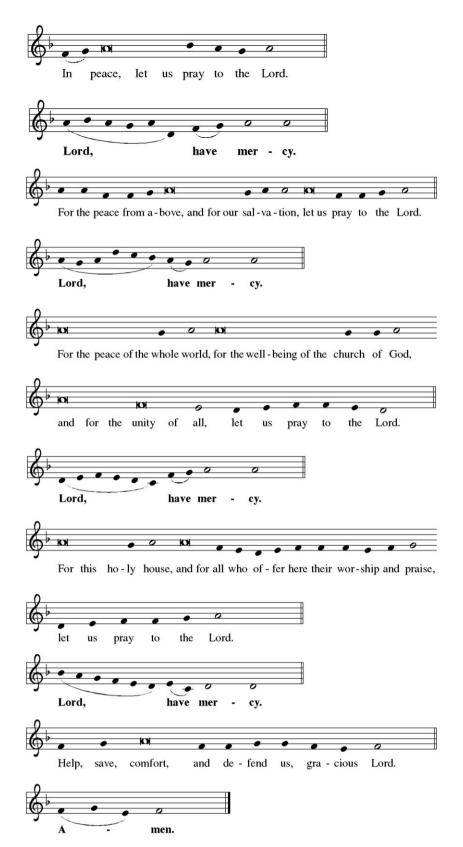
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GREETING

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.**

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together,

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.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING I Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from Exodus.

¹God spoke all these words:

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

⁴You 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. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship 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, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹For 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.

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

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

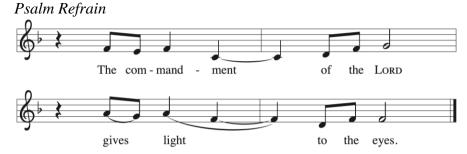
¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

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

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

PSALM 19

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.



Psalm Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

¹The heavens declare the glo- | ry 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.

 6 It 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. Refrain

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

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.

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

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

¹¹By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is | great reward.

12Who 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.

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

READING II 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from First Corinthians.

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

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

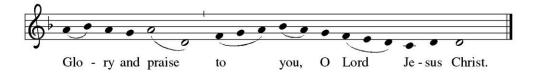
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation may stand.



GOSPEL John 2:13-22

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

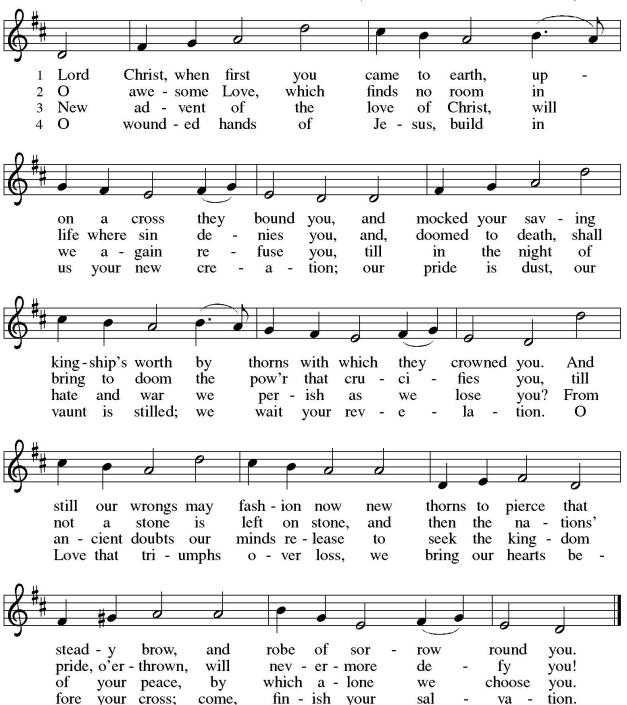
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The congregation may be seated. Vicar Alex Linn

Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth (ELW 727)



Text: W. Russell Bowie, 1882-1969, alt.

Music: MIT FREUDEN ZART, medieval European tune

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 INTERSESSION

Holding onto God's Promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the world God loves. You are invited to pray through standing, kneeling, or sitting. Let us pray,

Pause

As we journey through the 40 days, guide us to seek new missions for the church. Pray for the work of God's people... pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Through the wilderness of this earth, you have called us to discipleship.

Pray for God's creation... pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We live together in our own towns, yet we are a people of your divine dominion. Pray for our communities... pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

O God, we often fail to see your image in one another causing us to fall into sins of racism, sexism, hate, and all that we do to separate us from each other. Pray for transformation... pause Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

For those who heart in mind, body, spirit, we pray for your hand. Pray for the healing of one another... pause

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

People of God, for what else shall we pray this day? Pray for what you wish to share today... *pause*

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Trusting God who raises us out of death, we give thanks for the people who have gone before us into your embrace. Pray for our beloved dead... *pause* Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

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.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Meal +

OFFERTORY

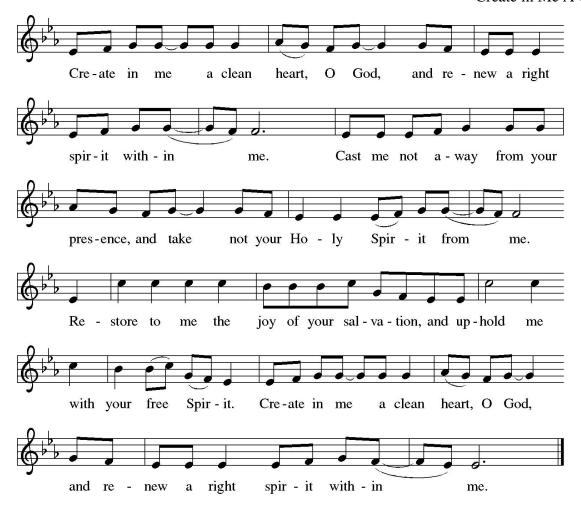
We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online by scanning the QR code. Thank you for your generosity!



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Is there Anybody Here that Loves My Jesus

by Undine Smith Moore



Music: Liturgy of Joy, James M. Capers, b. 1948 Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

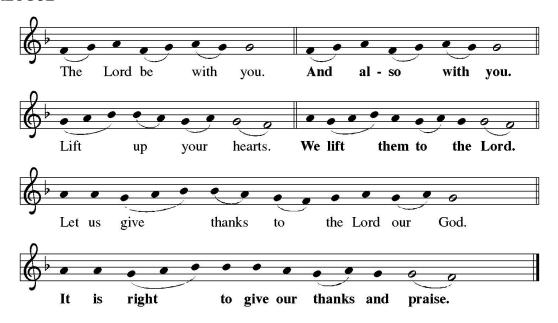
Let us pray together.

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.

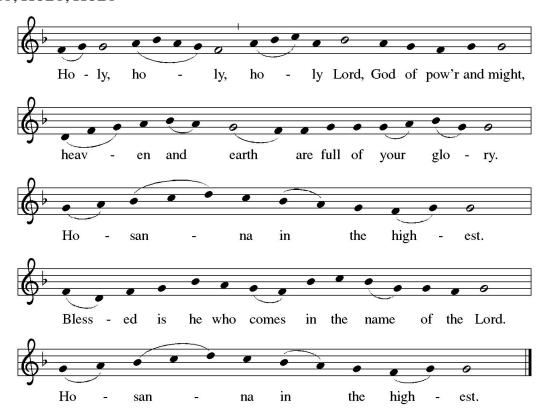
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

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

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give you thanks, heavenly God, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this the end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a mother's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the Blessed Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; stretching out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the world, to establish a new covenant shown forth in the his resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your holy people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both 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.

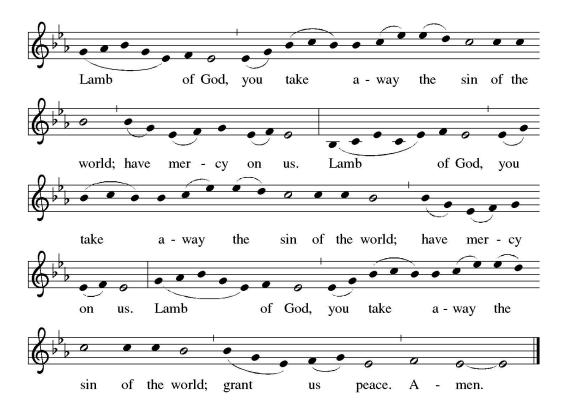
INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Come, for Christ first welcomed us.

COMMUNION

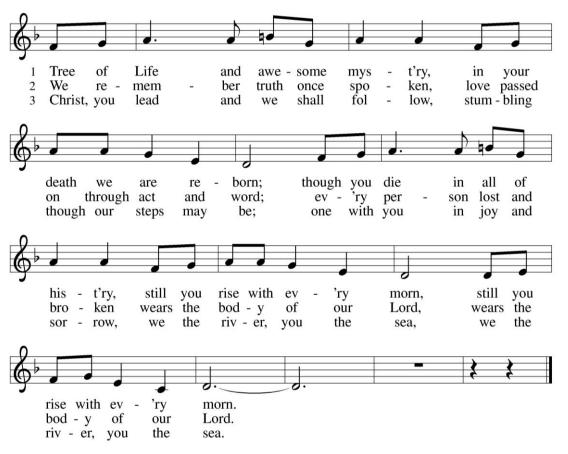
IUNION The congregation may be seated. All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed 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



COMMUNION HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (ELW 334 verses 1, 2, 3 + Lent 3)



One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own; stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true; may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul; springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light. Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death, hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

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, Bread of Life.

Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with good courage, and give + you peace.

Amen



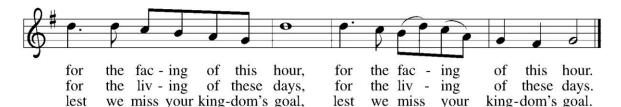
God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)







glo-rious flow'r. bring its bud to Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age faith and praise. free our hearts to Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age, our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,



a - dore,

lest

we miss

serv - ing you

your

whom we

king-dom's goal.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873-1932

serv - ing you whom we

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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

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- Scripture readings from the NRS

SERVING TODAY

Interim: Vicar Alex Linn
Director of Youth & Families Evergreen Edwards

Guest Organist:Sam ReeseCantor:Audrey NeaceAssisting Minister:Chris MaglocciReader:Jan Wendel

Ushers:Brandon LeinbergerLivestream Camera:Michel HauserAltar Guild:Cindi Rachowicz

Coffee Hour Host: Alla Rusz

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Bowling Event on March 3

Children and families of St. John's are invited to go bowling as we strike up some fun Sunday this afternoon, from 3-4 pm at the Wilmette Bowling Center. See Jason Shutters if you have any questions.



Family Promise

Our Family Promise host week ends today as the families move on to another congregation. Thank you to all of the volunteers who provided meals and food, spent time visiting and playing with the families, and spent the night. Together you all helped to make the week a success. The families enjoyed meeting you and they were very appreciative!

Our Lenten Journey Continues

Lenten Suppers and worship, Wednesdays from 6-7 pm

This year for Midweek Lenten worship, we will use parts of the "Unfailing Light" liturgy by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, and our devotional discussion prompts will follow the disciple Peter as a wonderful accompaniment to the Lent lectionary cycle on Sunday. Join us! Join us Wednesday 3/6!

Tuesday Bible Study

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

Take Care Packages for Migrant Families:

We are now a drop-off spot for donations! The Village is now partnering with SaLT to create "Take Care Packages" which are designed to assist migrants arriving via bus from Texas to our area while they await transfer to the Chicago Processing Center. These packages are a tangible expression of our community's care for others. Learn more about what you can donate and about SaLT: Service and Learning Together using the links in your e-news.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Buckley Crist
- † Family & friends of Peter Knobel, who died 1/13/24
- † Dottye Wolf, sister of Margye Smith
- † Rena Leinberger, cancer diagnosis 11/12/23
- † Family and Friends of Hing You Tam Siu, mother-in-law of Jim Dossa, who passed away
- ⁺ Family & friends of Viola Gonder, mother of Craig Gonder, who died 8/7/23
- † 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

- + Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing
- † Karen Brunn, daughter of Dave & Lyn Brunn, recovering from spinal cord injury