

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”



*First Sunday in Lent
February 26, 2023*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise this God of new life together!

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.
- We will commune from our respective seats, where the presiding minister will invite you to open your respective cups with the Communion elements. We believe this meal is for everyone who wishes to partake, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof. This tangible gift of God's love is meant for the world to enjoy!

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Organist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Bradley Ross
Aaron Carter-Enyi, CAGO
Ted Lockmiller
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

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First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-days fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This spiritual-preparation focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Prelude

Welcome & Greetings

*Confession and Forgiveness

As we take time to recognize our shortcomings before God, we forever cling to the grace and mercy that will always triumph in blessing us with hope and new life.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen!

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our dependence on God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**Holy God,
we confess to you our faults.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your loving word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of new life.
Amen.**

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
† forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the power of the Holy Spirit!
Amen!

*Gathering Hymn *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

ELW # 504

*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

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil surrounds us. So, keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

First Lesson

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for

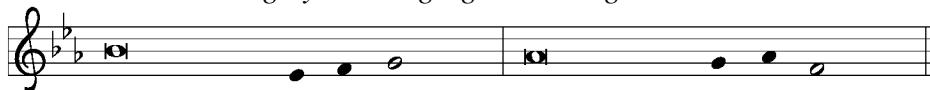
Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 32

The bold verses are sung by the congregation using the tone below:



Antiphon: Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer.** Antiphon

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸**“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye. Antiphon**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. Antiphon

Second Lesson

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous

Word of God, word of life!

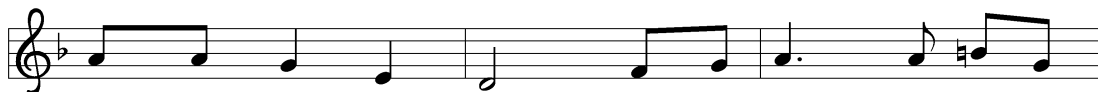
Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*

ELW# 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your



death we are re - born; though you die in all of



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you

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

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your whole church in times of any wilderness along the journey of faith. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, you create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, you know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

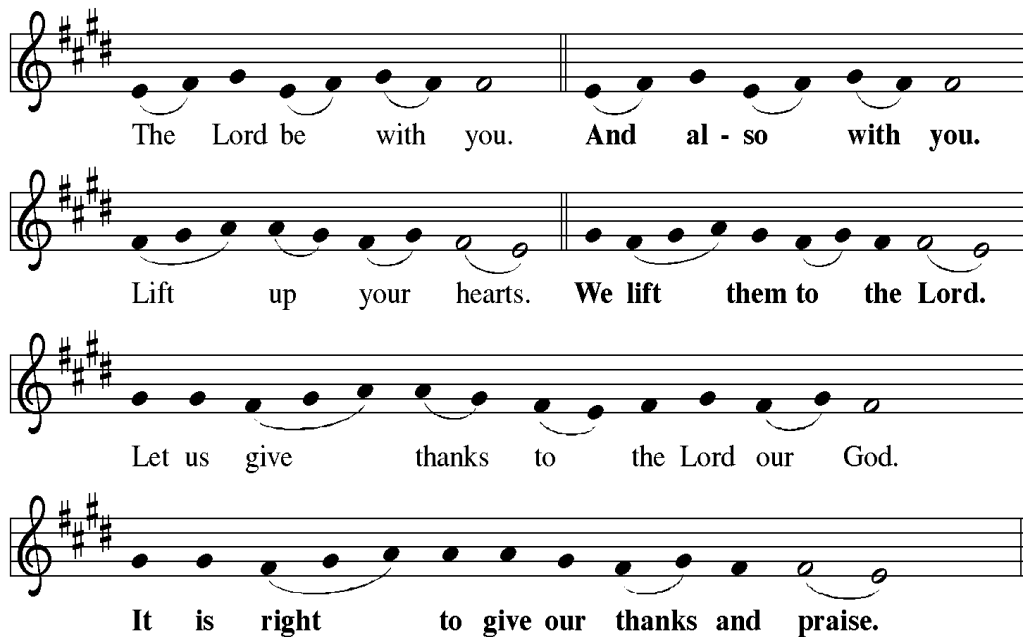
We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen!**

*Sharing of the Peace

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

Music Interlude

*Great Thanksgiving



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

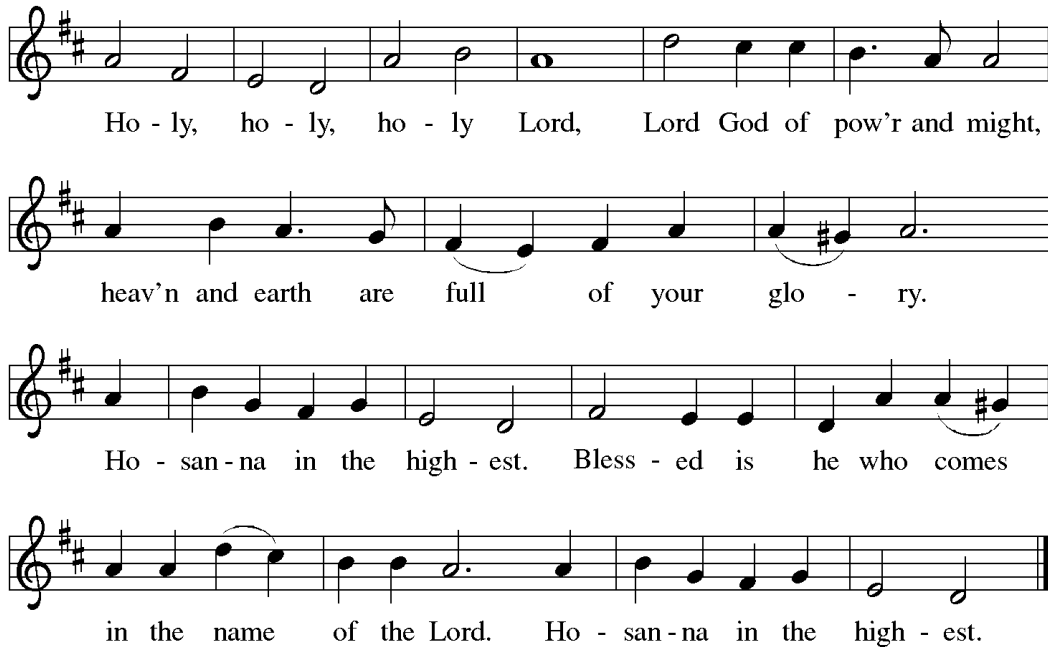
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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 to you, loving and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to renew their hearts
and prepare with joy for the victory of the tomb,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
 together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
 we bless and magnify you!

You led your people Israel through the desert,
 and provided them water from the rock.
 We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
 who joined us in our desert,
 pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
 his life, death, and resurrection,
 we await your fulfilled salvation for all this thirsty world.

Holy Spirit, pour out your strength on this holy food,
and on all gathered for this feast throughout the world:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever.

Amen!

**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 Communion

Receive the gift of Christ for us all: life in abundance!
Thanks be to God!

Communion

Music Interlude

Prayer after Communion

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and respond in the world with your boundless love.
Amen!

*Blessing

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey and forevermore!

Amen!

*Sending Hymn *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW #618

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Sheena Cameron, Joan Clarke, Christina Copeland, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Debbie Morris, Phyllis Nemeth, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Welker, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

General Fund receipts for week ending 2/19/2023: \$1437.75



For all Wednesdays in March, at 6pm, we hope you can join us for soup suppers concluding with a short service, both downstairs in our fellowship hall.