THE LITURGY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

Second Sunday in Lent SUNDAY, March 16, 2025 10:00AM

REGULAR PRINT = PRESIDING MINISTER OR ASSISTING MINISTER BOLD PRINT = CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES

 \pm = AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE SERVICE, THE SIGN OF THE CROSS MAY BE MADE BY ALL IN REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR BAPTISM

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. Words to be spoken or sung by the assembly are indicated in bold type.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

God, all-loving and all-caring, We come before you with hesitant steps and uncertain motives Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.

We want to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated And uncover the places where we have strayed from your truth Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.

We ask for courage to open our eyes and unstop our ears That we may be aware of all that distracts us from a whole-hearted commitment to Christ Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.

We want to see ourselves as you do and live our lives as you intended Expose in us the empty and barren places where we have not allowed you to enter **Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

Reveal to us our half-hearted struggles, Where we have been indifferent to the pain and suffering of others Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a right Spirit within us Nurture the faint stirrings of new life where your spirit has taken root and begun to grow **Our hearts are parched from wandering in a desert of sin.**

We long for your healing light to transform us into the image of your Son, For you alone can bring new life and make us whole In your mercy, shine upon us, O God, and make our path clear before us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

II Corinthians 13:13

And also with you.

God has shown us what is good, and what then is required of us?

To act justly, to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with our God.

Micah 6: 8

Jesus says, "Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the One who sent me."

Matthew 10: 40

The Spirit says, "Come."

Let each one who hears the Spirit say, "Come," for all are welcome here.

Revelation 22: 17

In this service, let us draw near to our Reconciling Redeemer, who knows our hearts and is able to mend our souls, to strengthen and sustain us, to reconcile our broken relationships and heal our wounds.

Let us worship God now

With words that proclaim God's inclusive love, With works that bring forth God's powerful justice And with worship that rejoices in God's wondrous presence. Now and always.

Amen!

HYMN of PRAISE

mer - cy.



men.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and psalm.

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹ He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from Psalm 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

- When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
 my adversaries and foes—
 they shall stumble and fall.
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
- ⁴ One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶ Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.Do not turn your servant away in anger,

Do not turn your servant away in anger you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

- ¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
- ¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.
- ¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians.

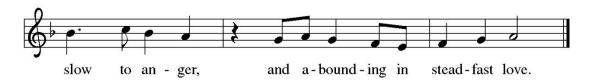
¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Steven

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow



Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789–1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt. Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

LENTEN CREED

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted. We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child. We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts. We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a resurrected glory we cannot yet imagine. We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us. This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the Church and Response



Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence*.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, God, in your mercy,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, *O Lord, hear my prayer...*

Command your angels concerning all who are sick, especially those we remember silently in our hearts and with voice upon our lips (pause) Jimmy LaFrage (husband of Becky LaFrage); Becky LaFrage; Marcus Mann (father of Marc Mann); Joe Black (father of Lynn Black); Bill Black (brother of Lynn Black); Sharon Baldwin; Tracy Hamiter; Connie Pool; Emmy Reeves; Bobbie Prosser; Sarah Trani; Jeff Harrell; James Deckle; Candy Pennington, (friend of Peg Thompson). God of grace,

O Lord, hear my prayer...

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

The assembly remains standing for sharing the Peace.

PEACE ELW pg. 106

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you!

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

The OFFERING & OFFERTORY

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Offertory Anthem

"Cast out, O Christ" by Mary Louise Bringle
Cast out, O Christ, cast far away
the demons that destroy:
the haunting dreads that choke our souls,
the hates that stifle joy.
Our raging griefs, our jealous fears
are legion in their name.
Our shackled hearts implore your grace
to loose our binding shame.
Your Word breathes life and health and hope
that break through evil's thrall.
You send us, strengthened, home in peace
to live your gospel call.

Choir

Eternal Are Your Mercies, Lord

E - ter - nal are Your mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at
tends Your Word; Your praise shall sound from shore to shore,

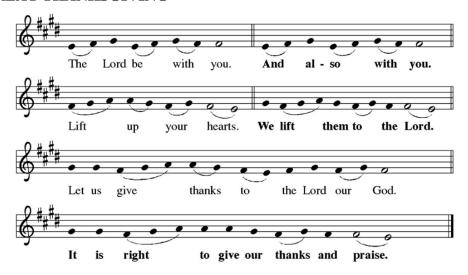
"Til suns shall rise and set no more. A - men.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

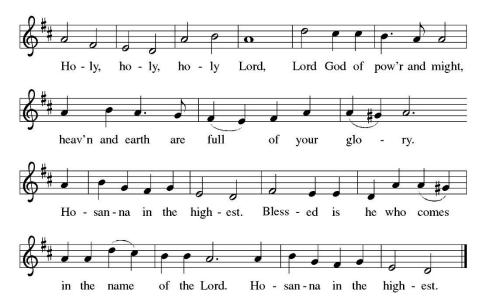
God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



PREFACE and SANCTUS

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, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,

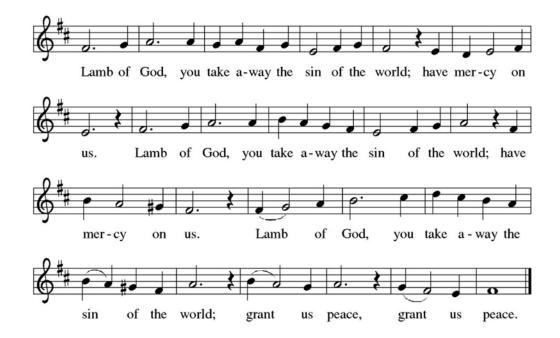
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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.

Lamb of God



THE COMMUNION OF THE BELOVED

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR WORSHIP IS THIS SHARED MEAL,

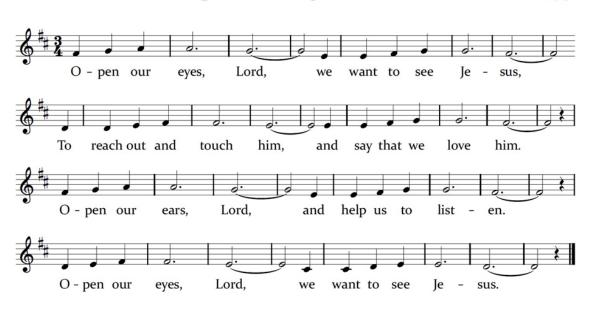
ALL ARE WELCOME to join us as members of God's family in Christ, as we share in this powerful gift of God's love and grace for the whole human family. We gather around the altar, kneeling or standing, wherever there is a place. The presiding minister offers wheaten wafers but can provide a gluten free wafer by request.

The assisting minister offers individual cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) for you to choose. The church also affirms our Lord's full presence in, with, and under each element alone. If you prefer to commune in your pew with a prepackaged communion set, please alert an usher.

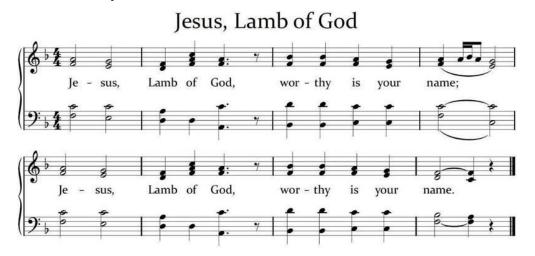
Communion Hymn

Open Our Eyes, Lord

Robert Cull, 1949-



Communion Hymn



The assembly stands and the presiding minister says a table blessing.

THE TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen!**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Let the memory of your incomplete humanity awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, and pain of life. Let the ashes you wore be the ashes of transformation; of awakening to the beauty and love of seizing the moment and living it to the fullest. Let it be said of you that here in this little part of eternity that you lived fully, loved extravagantly and helped humanity evolve into all that God dreamed we can be! You are fearfully and wonderfully made In the image of the ONE who is, was and ever more shall be

Creator, Christ and Spirit ONE, Amen.

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land



Text: African American spiritual Music: WEARY LAND, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT REFORMATION

Wednesday night during Lent

March 12 – April 9 6PM Meal in Fellowship Hall 7PM – Holden Evening prayer in sanctuary

March 30 Invitation Sunday (formerly New Member Sunday)

Members to invite and bring friends Covered Dish Meal Bring dishes plated and ready to serve Pastor will receive new members as needed/desired

Holy Week

Reformation gathers to remember the Great Passion and Resurrection of Jesus with these solemn and beautiful days of Holy Week. Gather for as many as you are able; and remember to invite friends, neighbors, and family!

Maundy Thursday - April 17 - 7:00 PM (A service of Communion and Foot washing)
Good Friday Worship - April 18 - 7:00PM (Hear the gospel reading of the death of Jesus)
Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 20 - 10:00 AM (Resurrection of Our Lord)

After Worship
Easter Potluck Brunch
Easter Egg Hunt for Children

SAFE SPACE Update

We are currently looking for volunteers, especially Reformation volunteers to participate in dinners. We also have openings on the Safe Space Committee.

The openings are as follows:

Vice-Chairperson (Term: 2 years)

Secretary (Term: 1 year)

Two Outreach Committee Members (Term: 1 year)

Social Media Coordinator: (Term: 1 year)

Please reach out to Dean Slade for more information.



REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH IS AN INCLUSIVE, LGBTQIA+ AFFIRMING CONGREGATION that believes Christ calls us to serve others with joy. Safe Space Dinners is a ministry for homeless LGBTQIA+ youth, including people of color.

The ministry is simple. On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, these youth (14-23 years old) are offered a safe space and time to gather for a time to rest and recharge, a home-cooked meal, a haircut, and a backpack of items they will find helpful in their day-to-day life.

There are always a number of games to play, including video games. Sometimes, we have entertainment from the community. There is no preaching, no conversion therapy attempts; only support and comfort. This is a ministry of giving – nothing more