

3rd Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025



Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)
10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134

"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"

Welcome to Worship!

Welcome to Lord of Love! We are the body of Christ, and we are not whole without you.

Visitors: We're so glad you're here, and we'd love the opportunity to connect with you! Text WELCOME to 402-493-2946 so we can follow up with you.

Nursery: The nursery (just off the Narthex) is open during worship. Please know that children are always welcome in the Sanctuary for worship. Quiet toy bags are available from the ushers.

Offering: An offering plate is at the back of the Sanctuary, and gifts may be placed there. Children may put their offering in the noise jar during the offering song.

Communion: Everyone is welcome at communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by asking a communion server. In the communion trays, the wine is red and grape juice is white.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request, you can text PRAY to 402-493-2946.

Fellowship: Donuts and coffee are available in the Narthex after worship. Please join us!

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Bold type indicates Congregational responses.

**** Congregation please stand as you are able***

Introduction

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

Prelude “Deep River” arr. Martha Kelsey

Announcements

Bell Choir “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”arr. Tammy Waldrop

Ringing of the Bell

***Gathering Song:** “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” ELW 618

***Greeting**

P: 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**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,

but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.

We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

***Kyrie**

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,

to Verses

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Choir Anthem "O Lord".....Elaine Hagenberg

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

L: Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where
there is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**

My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and



mer-cy; Come, seek the ten-der faith-ful-ness of God.

***Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Sermon Rev. Becky Sells

Hymn of the Day: "As the Deer Runs to the River" ELW 331

Holy Baptism for Henley Finn Brewer

Presentation (from ELW, pg. 227)

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidates:

P: Who presents this child for the sacrament of baptism?

*Sponsors respond: **We present Henley Finn for baptism.***

P: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have *your child* baptized into Christ?

*Parents respond: **We do.***

P: As you bring *your child* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with *her* among God's faithful people,
bring *her* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *her* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in *her* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *her* in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P: Parents, do you promise to help *her* grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents respond: **We do.***

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *her* in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help *her* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors respond: **We do.***

P: People of God, do you promise to support *Henley* and pray for *her* in *her* new life in Christ?

Assembly responds: **We do.**

(All respond to next questions.)

Profession of Faith

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All respond: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All respond: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All respond: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at The Font

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

P: *Henley Finn*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

(Prayer shawl given, laying on of hands by pastor)

P: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain *Henley* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

(She is anointed with oil in the sign of the cross)

Henley Finn, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

L: Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ
and into the mission we share:
join us in giving thanks and praise to God
and bearing God's creative
and redeeming word to all the world.**

***Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share signs of peace with one another.

***Prayers of Intercession**

L: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. We especially pray for those on our prayer list and the names of those we lift up to you in our hearts now...God, in your mercy,
receive our 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.

Please be seated.

Offering

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or given electronically at www.lord-of-love.org. Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar during this song.

Communion servers, please come forward during the offertory song.

Refrain

Congregation:



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst
2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.


*Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

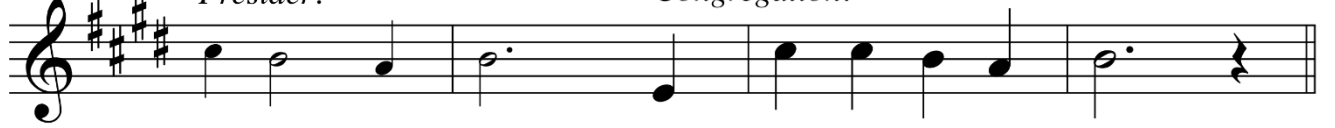
***The Great Thanksgiving**

Presider: *Congregation:*




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

Presider: *Congregation:*




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

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God 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, 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:

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Congregation:

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff begins with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff changes to 3/8 time, and the third staff returns to 6/8. The fourth and fifth staves continue in 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Words of Institution

P: 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.

*The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Please be seated.

Communion Invitation

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Lamb of God



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion “As the Deer Runs to the River” arr. Edwin Childs

*Post-Communion Prayer

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Sending Song:** “Jesus, Still Lead On” ELW 624

****Dismissal***

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude “Lord Whose Love in Humble Service” arr. Rachel Porter

Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

Text and Music: Marty Haugen

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