

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Second Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

The Second Reading: Micah 6:3-8

³⁻⁵“Dear people,” says the Lord, “How have I done you wrong? Have I burdened you, worn you out? Answer! I delivered you from a bad life in Egypt; I paid a good price to get you out of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you—and Aaron and Miriam to boot! 6-7You ask me, ‘how can I stand up before the Lord and show proper respect to the high God? Should I bring an armload of offerings to his holy altar? Would God be impressed with all the money in my wallet, or with buckets gold and silver? Would he be moved if I sacrificed my firstborn child, my precious baby, to cancel my sin?’ ⁸“No!” Says the Lord, “I have already made it plain how to live, what to do, what I am looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and be honest with me. Where you are weak, I will shore you up. Where you are strong, I will teach you generosity.”

The Third Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

The Third Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

¹⁻⁴If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care—then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. ⁵⁻⁸Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion. ⁹⁻¹¹Because of that obedience, God lifted him high and honored him far beyond anyone or anything, ever, so that all created beings in heaven and on earth—even those long ago dead and buried—will bow in worship before this Jesus Christ, and call out in praise that he is the Master of all, to the glorious honor of God the Father.

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The Fourth Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14 (*Please stand as you are able*)

⁹⁻¹²Jesus told his next story to some who were complacently pleased with themselves over their moral performance and looked down their noses at the common people: “Two men went up to the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax man. The Pharisee posed and prayed like this: ‘Oh, God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, crooks, adulterers, or, heaven forbid, like this tax man. I fast twice a week and tithe on all my income.’ ¹³ “Meanwhile the tax man, slumped in the shadows, his face in his hands, not daring to look up, said, ‘God, give mercy. Forgive me, a sinner.’” ¹⁴Jesus commented, “This tax man, not the other, went home made right with God. If you walk around with your nose in the air, you’re going to end up flat on your face, but if you’re content to be simply yourself, you will become more than yourself.”

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The Fifth Hymn & Offering: *Congregation Chooses* (*you may be seated*)

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <https://secure.myoanco.com/L-ZHX5> Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

Hymn of Thanksgiving: “Give Thanks” W&P 41 (*Ushers may bring offering forward*)

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.

Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

Statement of Faith: “In Christ Alone” (*Please stand as you are able*)

**V1: In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground.
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm; What heights of love, what depths of peace; When fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all; Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**V2: In Christ alone, who took on flesh; Fullness of God in helpless babe; This gift of love and righteousness.
Scorned by the ones He came to save; ‘Til on that cross as Jesus died; The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**V3: There in the ground, His body lay; Light of the world, by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day.
Up from the grave, He rose again; And as He stands in victory; Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine; Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**V4: No guilt in life, no fear in death; This is the power of Christ in me; From life’s first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny; No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man; Can ever pluck me from His hand.
‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand; No power of hell, no scheme of man;
Can ever pluck me from His hand. ‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.**

The Prayers: (*call 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.* God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Nicole Anderson, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Steve Pabst, Bob Eppen, & Chase Hanson. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving: P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer: 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.

Meal and Hymns: (*you may be seated*) *All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine. Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.*

“Amazing Grace” ELW #779

- Vs 1: Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
- Vs 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!
- Vs 3: Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
- Vs 4: The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.
- Vs 5: When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

“Here Is Bread” ELW #483

Vs 1: Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Refrain: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

Vs 2: Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. [Refrain]

“Borning Cry” ELW #732

Vs 1: I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

Vs 2: When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.

Vs 3: In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

Vs 4: I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Hymn of Thanksgiving for the Holy Supper: “Christ Be Our Light” ELW #715

Vs 1: Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Vs 2: Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

Vs 4: Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

Vs 5: Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. [Refrain]

The Blessing: P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn: Congregation Chooses (you may be seated)

Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **C: Thanks be to God.**



St. Luke Lutheran Church
Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM • March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Prelude: “Lamb of God” ELW #336 (congregation sings)

**Verse 1: Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have sent him from your side
to walk upon this guilty sod and to become the Lamb of God.**

**Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
Oh wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**Verse 2: Your gift of love we crucified. We laughed and scorned him as he died.
The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the Lamb of God. [Refrain]**

**Verse 3: I was so lost. I should have died, but you have brought me to your side
to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb of God. [Refrain]**

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten Greeting: (please stand as you are able)

P: Friends in Christ, we gather during this season of Lent to remember Jesus' Passover from death to life. We journey through this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's grace. We are created to live in joyful communion with God and one another, but we oftentimes wound our relationship with God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we long for repentance leading to change.

C: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek your will for our lives.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: With honesty of heart, we confess our sin together. Merciful God,

C: Lord, forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We were still when we should have moved. We moved when we should have been still. For the wrong we have done, & for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us & bring us new life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. You are free from sin and death. Live anew with God and each other today. **C: Amen.**

The First Hymn: Congregation Chooses (you may be seated)

The First Reading: Romans 7:17-25, 8:1-2

What is sin, you ask? This is sin: I know God's law that teaches me how to live well with God and others, but I just can't keep the law. And if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it. I decide to love my neighbors, but I don't really do it; I decide not to hurt anyone, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. ²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's law, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge. ²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question? ²⁵ The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can & does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart & mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. ^{8:1-2} With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.