



*Loved by God,
Sent to Serve.*

**2nd Sunday in Lent
February 25, 2024**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Setting 4

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

Arr. by Cindy Berry

Confession and Forgiveness

ELW p. 94

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 O Word of God in-car-nate, O Wis-dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Mas-ter, re-ceived the gift di-vine;
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav-ior, a lamp of bur-nished gold

O Truth un-changed, un-chang-ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift-ed o'er all the earth to shine.
 to bear be-fore the na-tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra-diance that from the hal-lowed page,
 It is the chart and com-pass that, all life's voy-age through,
 oh, teach your wand-ring pil-grims by this their path to trace,

a lan-tern to our foot-steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick-sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark-ness end-ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. Music: *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693 Public Domain

Greeting

ELW p. 147

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 (*sung*)

ELW p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
 and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom.

Amen.

WORD

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

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

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

Psalm 22:23-31 (*read responsively*)

²³You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver

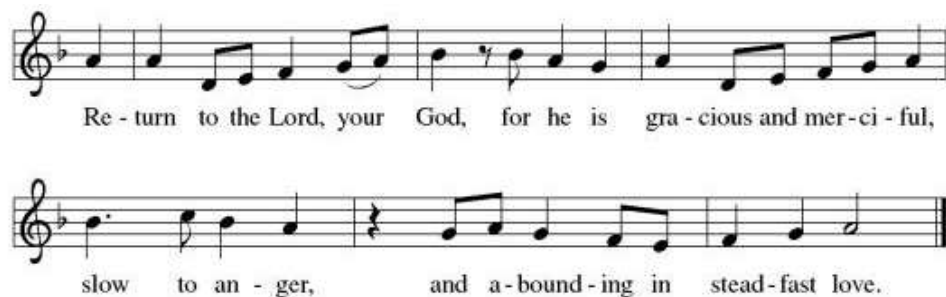
concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

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

Gospel Verse

ELW p. 151



Gospel: Mark 8:31-38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful

generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Karla Wildberger

Hymn of the Day: *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

ELW 757

Affirmation of Faith

Let us profess our faith together:

I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love. I believe that God created me and delights in that creation. I believe the psalmist who says, “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” I believe that, just as God called Jesus “beloved,” God extends this same term of endearment to us.

I believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip me of that sacred title. I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and I would still be God’s beloved.

Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. I anchor myself with this good news, allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as best I can, because I know where I belong.

I am a child of God. I am beloved. I strive to live this way.

Amen.

From *How Does a Weary World Rejoice* © sanctified art; www.sanctifiedart.org; Used by permission.

Prayers of Intercession

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**
...through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

ELW p. 152

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

ELW p. 152

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (*sung*)

ELW p.152

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 153

Thanksgiving at the Table

...be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Lamb of God

ELW p. 154

Communion Music: *More Precious than Silver*

Arr. by Randy Smith

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing

HS p. 21

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song: *Will You Come and Follow Me* vs. 1,2,4

ELW 798

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: Scottish traditional

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Come Into His Presence*

arr. by Randy Smith

Announcements

Altar Flowers today are provided by Jim & Bernita Gilbertson in memory of Eldon and Marge Gilbertson.

Midweek Lent Services

Midweek services continue Wednesday at 6:00 pm. This week's focus will be "In Community with all the Saints" and will be led by Pastor Karla with Matthew Walsh as the musician.

Intergenerational Faith Formation

Just kidding! The next class focusing on Holy Communion will be at the regular time – first Sunday of the month, March 3 at 9:15. During this time, teaching for First Communion will take place. We will gather around our younger ones and learn about God's sacrament. We will live out our baptismal calling by gathering together....join us at 9:15am on the 3rd.

This Week at Lord of Life

Sunday, February 25	8:00 AM	Worship in-person
	9:15 AM	Sunday School, Confirmation, Adult FF
	10:30 AM	Worship in-person or online
Wednesday, February 28	6:00 PM	Midweek Lent Worship in-person or online

Prayer List

Allan & Christine Simms
Rev. John and Mona Sorenson
David & Andy Spaniol and family
Alan & Kris Stache and family
Ken & Kara Steffen and family
William Thill, Sr.
Galen & Debbie Thomas

This Week's Worship Servants

Readers:	8:00 Sue Deaver	10:30 Steve Geisert
Ushers:	8:00 Dan & Joan Decker	10:30 Tara Grace
Tech/PPT:	8:00	10:30 Nate Frambach

Acknowledgments

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