

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 19, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

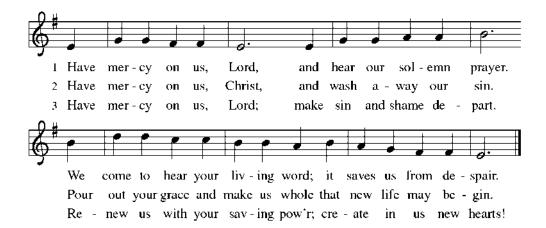
Most merciful God,

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.



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

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ WORD +

PSALM: Psalm 23 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—
⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung to the tune of "Canticle of Turning" Return to me, so says Our God.

Return with broken heart.

Your sins, your guilt, your fears, your tears, will not keep us apart.
I am slow to anger, full of love, for sinners great and small.
Return to me with arms outstretched, I welcome one and all.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John the 9th Chapter

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He an-

swered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

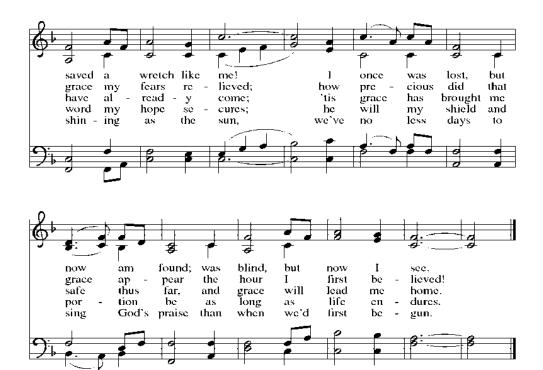
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION





Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sis. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
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

* Prayers are offered for the church, the world, and all creation.

Merciful God. Receive our prayer.

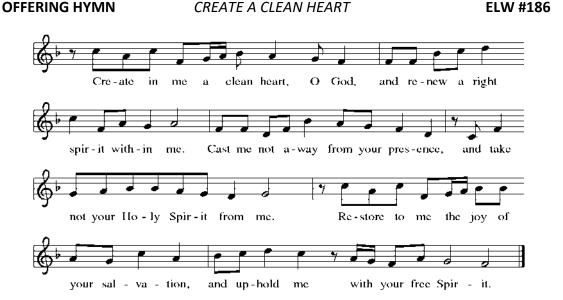
THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

ELW P. 144





THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:

beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:

at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

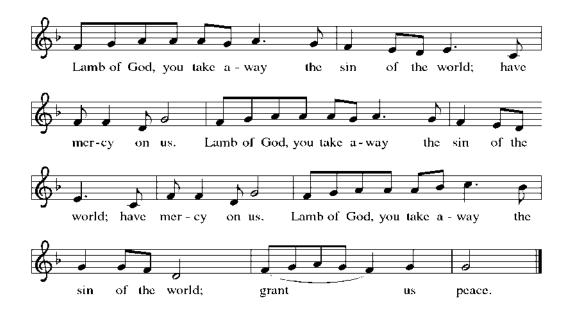
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD ELW P. 146



COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS

AMAZING GRACE MY CHAINS ARE GONE

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

ELW #715

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.



Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull. 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

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ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

BAPTISM IS SOMETIMES CALLED ENLIGHTENMENT. THE GOSPEL FOR THIS SUNDAY IS THE STORY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND HEALED BY CHRIST. "I WAS BLIND, NOW I SEE," DECLARES THE MAN. IN BAPTISM GOD OPENS OUR EYES TO SEE THE TRUTH OF WHO WE ARE: GOD'S BELOVED CHILDREN. AS DAVID WAS ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL, IN BAPTISM GOD ANOINTS OUR HEAD WITH OIL, AND CALLS US TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN OUR DAILY LIVES.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, JUDY BARHOOVER, MICK BUCHLER, TOM CHRISTELL, PAULA TONELLATO, MIKE SCADUTO, NORM KOEFOED, NANCY KIEL

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MAR. 19 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM

FAITH FORMATION—10:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD—10:45AM SUNDAYS@6—6:00PM VIA ZOOM

MONDAY, MAR. 20 STAMP CLUB—6:00PM

TUESDAY, MAR. 21 COUNCIL MEETING—6:00PM LENTEN SUPPER—5:45PM LENTEN SERVICE—6:30PM

CHOIR REHEARSAL—7:00PM

SUNDAY, MAR. 26 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM—9:30AM

FAITH FORMATION—10:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD—10:45AM SUNDAYS@6—6:00PM VIA ZOOM

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 19:

PRESIDING: REV. MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING MINISTER: AMANDA KIM

POWERPOINT: LINDA RICE

FILL ONGLIER: CHARGAL CIR.

MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK FELLOWSHIP: SHARON GIPSON

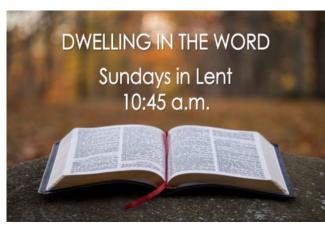
USHERS: ANDREA BERRYMAN, LINDA SHUDROWITZ

FLOWERS: TO THE GLORY OF GOD



LAST CHANCE TO ORDER EASTER LILLIES

ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MARCH 20. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE LILLIES OR DONATE, PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.



DWELLING IN THE WORD

THE EVANGELISM / FAITHFUL INNO-VATIONS COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO JOIN IN A TIME OF "DWELLING IN THE WORD" SUNDAY MORNINGS AF-TER WORSHIP DURING THE SEASON OF LENT. WE WILL GATHER IN THE SANCTUARY AFTER WORSHIP (APPROX. 10:45), WE'LL READ SOME SCRIPTURE AND THEN DISCUSS THE

TEXT USING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS OUR GUIDE – WHAT QUESTIONS DO I HAVE, WHAT CAUGHT MY ATTENTION, WHERE MIGHT THE SPIRIT BE NUDGING US THROUGH THIS TEXT.



PASTORAL CARE

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary or you have a pastoral emergency please call pastor on her cell phone at 920.671.4338. you may also leave a message on the office phone at 217.546.7646.



WATCHERS ON THE HILL

THE HILL CALLED GOLGOTHAT WAS NOT EMPTY THAT FRIDAY. BESIDES THE CROSSES AND THOSE DYING UPON THEM, THERE WERE WITNESSES – WATCHERS ON THAT ANCIENT HILL. THIS SERIES ATTEMPTS TO OVERHEAR THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THOSE FIRST-CENTURY CHARACTERS – SOME HISTORICAL, SOME FICTICIOUS – AS THEY WITNESSED THE DEATH OF OUR LORD. WITH THE CROSS AS THE FOCAL POINT AND THE FINAL WORDS OF JESUS AS THE COMMON THREAD, EACH DRAMA DRAWS US INTO THE REALITY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR SAVIOR'S DEATH, CELEBRATING, AT LAST, THE MIRACLE OF OUR SALVATION.

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Palm Sunday

WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.

On this day we wave palms in celebration Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6 Maundy Thursday WORSHIP AT 5:30 P.M.

We begin in the Fellowship Hall

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. On this night we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another.

Worship begins in the Fellowship Hall. Around tables we will share a meal, hear scripture, experience a 'ritual washing of hands', and share Holy Communion with one another. A procession will lead us to the sanctuary for the 'Stripping of the Altar & Chancel'.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7 **Good Friday**

WORSHIP AT 6:30 P.M.

Life and death stand side by side as we enter Good Friday. With scripture, prayer, reflection, and music we will recall Jesus' passion and death. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the Three Days in the Easter Vigil.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Easter Sunday

WORSHIP AT 9:30 A.M.

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

*Weather permitting there will be an easter egg hunt for the children.



EASTER FOOD BASKETS FOR SCHOOLS

IT'S TIME FOR PEACE'S ANNUAL COL-LECTION OF FOOD AND FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO SUPPORT THE DELIV-ERY OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS TO 30 FAMILIES AT BLACKHAWK ELEMEN-TARY AND JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOLS. THROUGH A PARTNER-

SHIP WITH THE GRACE LUTHERAN FOOD PANTRY, WE PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH A LARGE TOTE OF CANNED AND BOXED GOODS, A HAM, MILK, BREAD, EGGS, SNACKS AND PERSONAL ITEMS. YOU CAN SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN TWO WAYS: MAKING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS DESIGNATED FOR "HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS" AND/OR DONATING FOODS THAT WE'LL COLLECT ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE: FEB. 26 AND MARCH 5 -- CEREAL; MARCH 12 -- CANS OF BEEF RAVIOLI; MARCH 19 -- CANS OF PORK AND BEANS; MARCH 26 -- CANS OF PASTA SAUCE; APRIL 2 -- JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY. THE BASKETS WILL BE PACKED AND DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOLS ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5.



- OATMEAL, CEREAL AND PANCAKE MIX
- PASTA SAUCE IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- PASTA
- PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS
- INSTANT POTATOES
- CRACKERS
- TUNA IN A POUCH INSTEAD OF A CAN
- NOODLE SIDES
- STUFFING MIX
- CEREAL BARS, GRANOLA BARS, TRAIL MIX AND NUTS
- COFFEE

THANK YOU FOR BEING A NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBORS!



ALTAR FLOWERS

WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR 2023 ALTAR FLOW-ERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF OR IN HONOR OF A PERSON OR EVENT IN THE COMING YEAR PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS ON OUR WEBSITE IN THE MEMBERS' SECTION. FLOW-ERS ARE \$35.00. MANY DATES STILL AVAILABLE!



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