



Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 17, 2024

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 worshiping 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE — God So Loved the World, (from The Crucifixion), John Stainer, Albin C. Whitworth, arr., © 1981, Lillenas Publishing Co. Organist — Brenda Peck

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Oh, Tender God, Have Mercy (3 times)

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us.
O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us.
O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us,
For you are for us.

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Gloria!

Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Open now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

O Lord, rush to help to deliver Your world.
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Maker, Spirit, Friend, You are Great Mystery!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!
Gloria! Gloria! Highest glory to you!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live 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.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12 Read Responsively

- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

- ⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,
“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

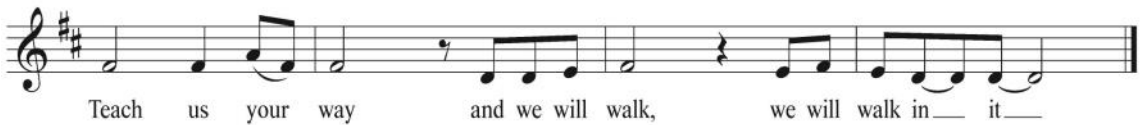
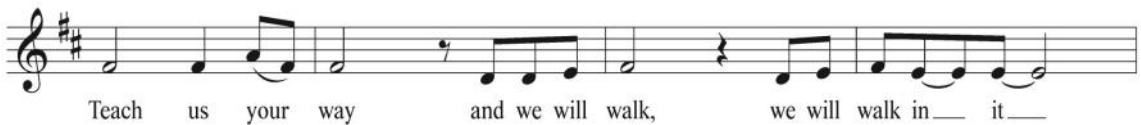
⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

You Are Slow (2 times)



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GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to St. John the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰ Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON

PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM — Jesus Died for Me

Jay Althouse

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+ 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, Tithely, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #186



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name.
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.

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.

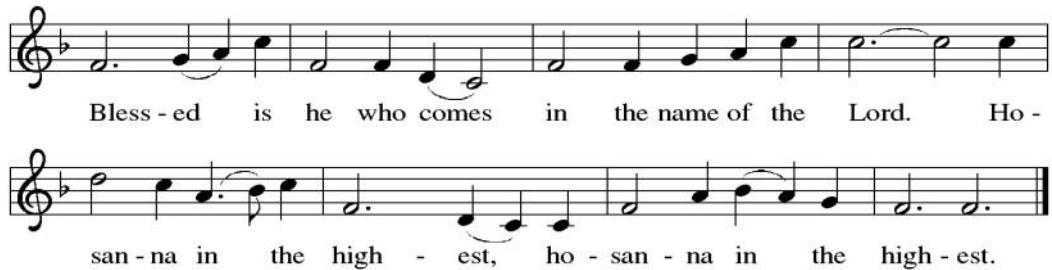
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 207



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

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

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS *Glorify Thy Name
As the Grains of Wheat*

Video Song
ELW #465

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. Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW #379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol
Text from *Oxford Book of Carols*, © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Go Forth in Faith, Franklin Ritter, © 2002, Lorenz Publishing Co.

Organist — Brenda Peck

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ABOUT THIS WEEK'S TEXT

GOD PROMISES JEREMIAH THAT A "NEW COVENANT" WILL BE MADE IN THE FUTURE: A COVENANT THAT WILL ALLOW ALL THE PEOPLE TO KNOW GOD BY HEART. THE CHURCH SEES THIS PROMISE FULFILLED IN CHRIST, WHO DRAWS ALL PEOPLE TO HIMSELF WHEN HE IS LIFTED UP ON THE CROSS. OUR BAPTISMAL COVENANT DRAWS US TO GOD'S HEART THROUGH CHRIST AND DRAWS GOD'S LOVE AND TRUTH INTO OUR HEARTS. WE JOIN TOGETHER IN WORSHIP, SHARING IN WORD, SONG, AND MEAL, AND LEAVE STRENGTHENED TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL THE WORLD.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, PAULA TONELLATO,
NORM KOEFOED, IVY KOEFOED, RON WEBER,
GENE WALKER, BILL SPINDEL, NANCY KIEL, RAY STROH,
VALERIE SPURGEON, DIANE CHRISTELL, PASTOR MARY, JAY EDGEComb

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.

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 17:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING: MICHAEL HORN

USHERS: JOE HENKLE, ANDY SPIRO

CAMERA: AMANDA KIM

POWERPOINT: LUCAS ROACH

MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK

REFRESHMENTS: TRICHA ROACH/MIKE GOTTSCHALK

FLOWERS: ELAINE UREKAR — **IN HONOR OF DAD'S BIRTHDAY**

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING — 11:15AM

SUNDAYS@6 — 6:00PM

MONDAY, MARCH 18

STAMP CLUB — 6:00PM

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK (Cont.)

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

POLLING PLACE AT THE CHURCH

LENTEN DINNER CHURCH — 5:30PM

CHOIR PRACTICE — 7:00PM

FULL COUNCIL MEETING — 6:00PM

PALM SUNDAY

IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

YOUTH TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

SUNDAYS@6 — 6:00PM



GROWING IN BAPTISMAL GRACE

During the season of Lent all are invited to Dinner Church on Wednesday evenings. Dinner church is a type of worship that involves fellowship, a meal, scripture, discussion, and Holy Communion. Pope Francis has said, “Lent is a time of grace, a time to convert and live out our baptism fully.” Each week we will consider a facet of Baptism. There will be opportunity to discuss the significance of this sacrament as well as a hands-on activity each week. Join us as we dive deeper into our baptisms and learn how we can live out our baptisms more fully!

WORSHIP/MEAL BEGINS AT 5:30P.M. FEBRUARY 21, 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20

ANNOUNCEMENTS



- DWELLING IN THE WORD MEETS AT 10:45AM AFTER WORSHIP
- SUNDAYS@6 MEETS VIA ZOOM AT 6:00PM ON SUNDAY EVENINGS. SEE NYCU FOR A LINK TO THE MEETING.
- WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT BOOKS AND MONETARY DONATIONS FOR THE LOVE OF READING FOR BLACKHAWK SCHOOL. YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!
- WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT KLEENEX FOR BLACKHAWK SCHOOL AND THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER. SEE NYCU FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- TO SPONSOR ALTAR FLOWERS, SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX OR CALL YVONNE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 217-546-7646. MANY DATES STILL AVAILABLE.
- TO SPONSOR REFRESHMENTS FOR AFTER WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP TIME, CONTACT LINDA RICE AT 217-494-2658.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Food Baskets for Blackhawk School

It's time to begin collecting food items for Peace's annual gift of Easter food baskets to 20 families at Blackhawk Elementary School, in partnership with the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry. Each year at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, we provide families at Blackhawk with a large tote of non-perishable foods, a 10-pound ham, a gallon of milk, a dozen eggs, a loaf of bread, a sack of snacks, and a bag of personal hygiene items. Below are a suggested schedule for the items we will collect and the quantities we need. In addition to food, you can support this project with monetary donations earmarked for "Holiday Food Baskets." The baskets will be packed at Grace Food Pantry and delivered to Blackhawk on Wednesday, March 27.

- February 18 - 20 boxes of Cereal
- February 25 - 20 boxes of Cereal
20 Cans of Peaches
- March 3 -- 20 packages of Spaghetti
20 cans of Pasta sauce
- March 10 - 20 cans of beef ravioli
20 cans of pork and beans
- March 17 - 20 jars of peanut butter
20 jars of jelly**
- March 24—20 boxes of mac and cheese



PRAYER IS SUCH A VITAL PART OF OUR WORSHIP. PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE A NAME FROM THE BOWL IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY AND **INTENTIONALLY PRAY FOR THAT PERSON THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP US
STOCK OUR
MICRO
PANTRY
STORAGE
SHELVES



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

THANK YOU FOR BEING A NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBORS!



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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.**