

Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

We welcome the Rev. Dr. Glen VanderKloot this morning
while Pastor Adam is in Uganda

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Mighty to Save,” by Reuben Morgan & Ben Fielding

GATHERING

**Confession and Forgiveness*

P: Jesus came both to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Our readings throughout Lent confront us with challenging teachings, reminding us of our sin and need for God's forgiveness. Together, let us come before God, confessing our sin and resting in the gift that is God's grace.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

**Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

- 1 **Here in this place the new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

- 3 **Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion,
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

- 4 **Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

*Kyrie

ELW Setting 8, page 184 (piano)

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*


*Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 8, page 185 (piano)

Refrain




Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain



for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



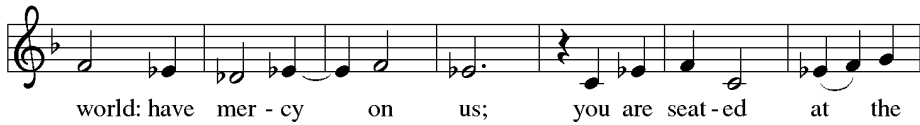
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



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



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -



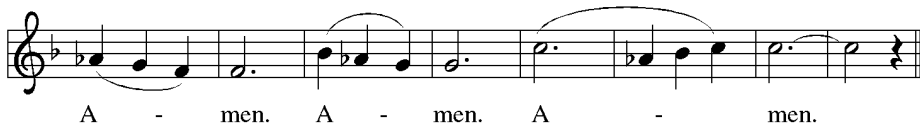
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.



A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
 peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Children's Sermon

WORD

**Gospel Reading:* Matthew 22:1-14 Readers: Kelly Hartz & Pastor Glen

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and

foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Taizé Song– “Where True Charity and Love Abide” (WOV 665) (piano)

*Where true charity and love abide,
God is dwelling there.*

Sermon – “Accept the Invitation; Come When God Calls; Respect and Equalizer”

Song of the Day – “Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798 (organ)

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?**
3. **Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris’ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean 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?**
5. **Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

**The Apostles' Creed*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

Stewardship Time

"He Is Exalted," by Twila Paris
sung by the Faith Singers

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

C: We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.

**Great Thanksgiving*

ELW Setting 8, page 190 (piano)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

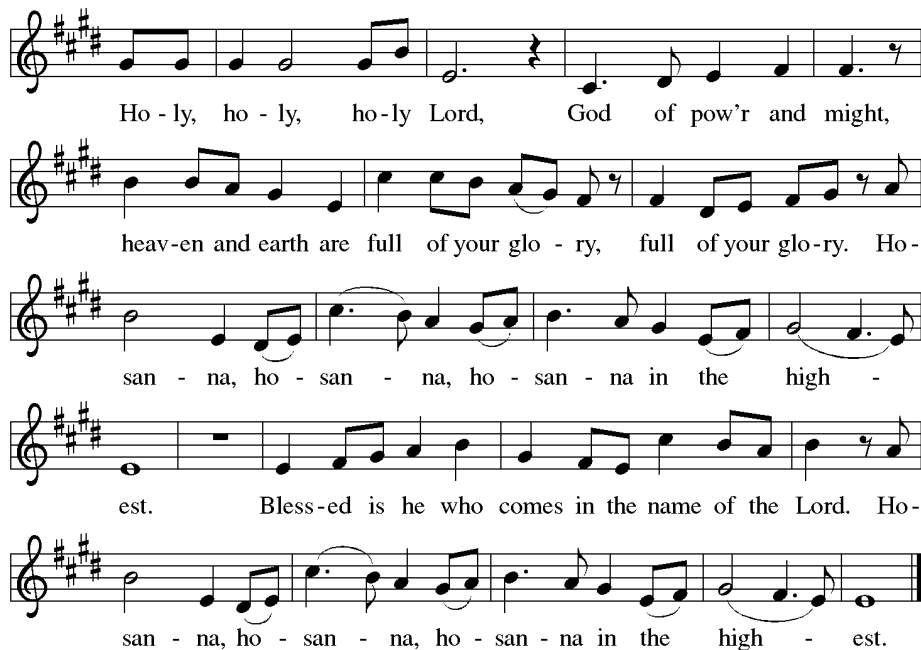
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ... and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

"Comfort, Comfort All My People" *(piano)*

Refrain: Comfort, comfort all my people with the comfort of my Word.

Speak it tender to my people: All your sins are taken away.

1. **Though your tears be rivers running; though your tears be an ocean full;
though you cry with the hurt of living: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry valley shall be lifted, ev'ry mountain shall be low,
ev'ry rough place will be smoother, comfort, comfort! *Refrain***
2. **Though your eyes see only darkness, though your eyes can see no light,
Though your eyes see pain and sorrow: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry night will have its morning, ev'ry pain will have an end,
Ev'ry burden will be lightened: comfort, comfort. *Refrain***
3. **Though we build strong walls for prisons, though we feast while others starve,
Though we fill this world with weapons: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry pris'ner will be rescued, ev'ry hungry mouth be filled,
Ev'ry gun will rust, forgotten: comfort, comfort. *Refrain***
4. **Though we fracture God's creation, though we stand so far apart,
Though we fail to love each other: comfort, comfort.
Ev'ry wall will crack and crumble, ev'ry stranger will be friend,
Ev'ry one embrace another: comfort, comfort. *Refrain***

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" ELW 618 *(organ)*

1. **Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**
2. **Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
Shield me with your mighty arm.**

3. **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Sending Song – “Make Me an Instrument”*

(piano)

*Refrain: Make me an instrument of your love; let me be a channel from above;
Make me an instrument of your love, an instrument of your love.*

1. **When a friend is in need of an open heart, let me be there, oh, let me be there.
When a friend is lost with nowhere to go, let me be there. Refrain**
2. **When someone is hungry, when someone is cold,
let me be there, oh, let me be there.
When someone needs help to carry their load, let me be there. Refrain**
3. **If someone should wonder, is God still alive, let me be there, oh, let me be there.
If someone should wonder, does God really care, let me be there. Refrain**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Hallie Mayner
Greeters: Lynette Hamilton & Hallie Mayner
Reader: Kelly Hartz
Usher: Doris Robinson
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Mike Oldenettel
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth
Coffee Host: Laura Sweatman



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street
Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street

Song Credits

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission.

With One Voice, © 1995 Augsburg-Fortress. Used by permission.

“Comfort, Comfort All My People,” by Robin Mann, © 1975. CCLI#973583

“Make Me an Instrument,” words and music by Larry Olson and Karol Baer, Dakota Road Music, © 1989.
CCLI#973583

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 12, 10:45am: Ringer Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 15, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

10am: Discipleship Group

6:00pm: Lenten Soup Potluck

6:45pm: Lenten Service

Sunday, March 19, 10:45am: Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 22, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

6:00pm: Lenten Soup Potluck

6:45pm: Lenten Service

Thursday, March 23: Uganda Team Returns!

News Updates

Lenten Midweek Supper and Worship Services: "Open My Life, Lord"

Please join us for Lenten midweek soup and worship! Suppers are potluck style. Come at 6:00 in the Great Room, and bring a dish to share. If your day is busy, come and eat, knowing that the gift you bring is yourself! Worship begins at 6:45 and will follow the Holden Evening Prayer format. Our theme is "Open My Life, Lord" as each week looks at a different way God opens us to deeper faith. The "body prayer" engages our whole bodies and a Taizé song draws us deeper into prayerful meditation. You won't want to miss these wonderful opportunities for fellowship and worship as we gather together as the body of Christ!

During our Midweek Worship Services, we will explore the following themes:

Week 3: "Open My Ears, Lord" - How can we grow from hearing to listening?

Week 4: "Open My Heart, Lord" - How can an open heart increase our willingness and trust?

Week 5: "Open My Life, Lord" - It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us!

Discipleship Group

Join us at 10am on **Wednesday, March 15**, in the Faith Library as we meet for great conversation and fellowship time. If you haven't attended before, don't be afraid to join in! For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

First Communion Instruction

Do you have a child interested in receiving communion? If they are in first grade or older and you feel they are ready for this step in their faith, come talk to Pastor Adam. He will be leading a three-session course that will include teaching, discussion, making chalices, and baking communion bread. The classes will be held in April and May with plans to celebrate First Communion with the congregation on Mother's Day, May 14.

Music Rehearsal Time Changes

Our Exaltation Ringers and Chancel Choir are trying out a new rehearsal schedule to encourage more to be a part of the music program here at Faith.

**Chancel Choir will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays;
Exaltation Ringers on the 2nd and 4th Sundays; all from 10:45-11:15am**

I hope to see you on Sunday mornings for rehearsal at 10:45am in the sanctuary!

Jean Welch, *Director of Music*

Easter Altar Plants

We will adorn our altar with live plants on Easter again this year. To make a donation, mark your check or envelope as "Easter Altar Flowers" and place it in the offering box or mail it to the church office.

Financial Statements

2022 Financial Statements are available at the tall table outside of the office at church. If there is no envelope with your name on it, please let Pam Devlin know or contact the church office.

Faith Telephone Directory

A new Faith Directory is available in the gathering area on the Coffee Sales counter by the Mission & Ministry Center for all to take home (1 per household, please).

Free Spring Concert to Support Green Pastures

The popular Christian quartet TWO BY TWO and K's Creek Golf Club are hosting a Free Spring Concert on **Sunday, March 19 at 6:00pm** at K's Creek, 1265 Sandusky Rd. in Jacksonville. Featured performers will be TWO BY TWO, Hope Cherry, The Benz Trio, Roger Wainwright, Rod Nicholson, and John Love. There is no cost to attend – free-will donations to benefit Green Pastures Christian Retreat Center will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call 217-473-4735.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

will be available soon in the gathering area — the printing has been delayed, but the company will get them to us as soon as they can. After they come in, if you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office. There are no fees, and it saves you from remembering to write that weekly check!

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$6.50** regular; **\$7.50** decaf & flavored; **\$3.00** tea; **\$2.50** chocolate bars; **\$5.50** hot chocolate—milk & dark; **\$5.50** coffee pods). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.