

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

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

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

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.

Gathering Song – “Come Into His Presence”

(piano)

**Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart
and give Him praise, and give Him praise.**


**Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart,
your voices raise, your voices raise.**

Give glory and honor and power unto Him, Jesus, the name above all names.


*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.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*


*Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 8, page 185 (piano)

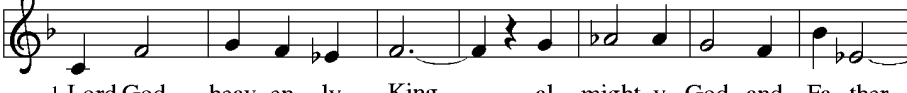
Refrain



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



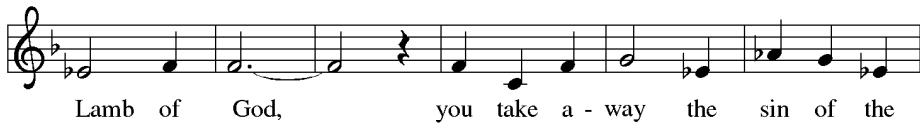
Refrain
for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-



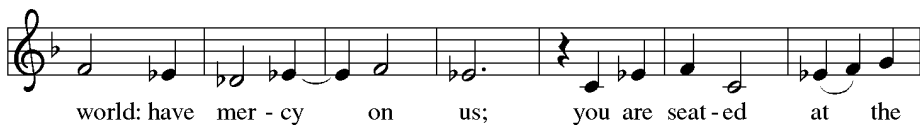
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



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



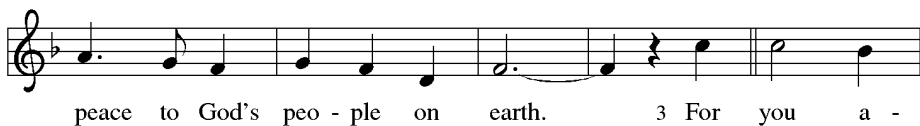
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



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 25:1-13 Readers: John Williams & Pastor Glen

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish

took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” ⁹But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” ¹²But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Taizé Song— “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” ELW 752 (piano)

**Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.**

Sermon — “When It Counts, Are You Foolish or Wise?”

Song of the Day — “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW 338 (organ)

- 1 **Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- 2 **Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- 3 **I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

**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

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

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.

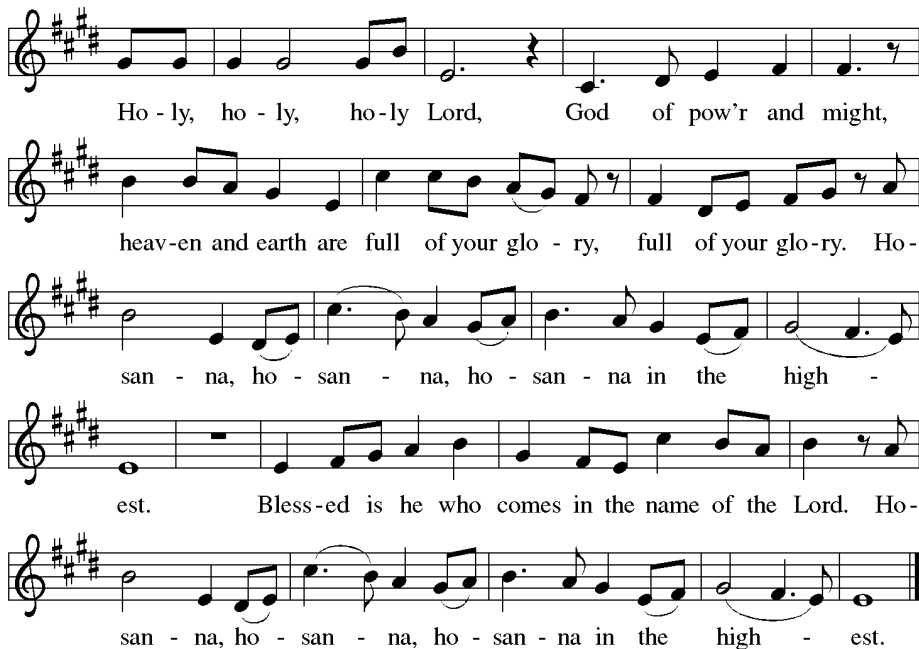
P: Lift up your hearts.

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

"Be Still for the Presence of the Lord"

(piano)

1. **Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.
In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.**
2. **Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire, with splendor he is crowned.
How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.**
3. **Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.
No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.**

"Abide with Me" ELW 629

(organ)

1. **Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.**
2. **Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
3. **I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.**
4. **I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!**

5. **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

**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 – “Blessed Assurance” ELW 638* *(organ)*

1. **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**
*Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*
2. **Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.** *Refrain*
3. **Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**
Refrain

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Song Credits

“Come Into His Presence,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583
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“Be Still for the Presence of the Lord,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Liddy Stark
Greeter: Lillian Korous
Reader: John Williams
Usher: Pat Glyshaw
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw
Coffee Hosts: Hallie Mayner & Liddy Stark



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

The plants at the altar today are donated by Amy Stevens-Kaufmann
in celebration of the birth of granddaughter Fallon Marie Merriman
and by
Kim & Pat Heise in celebration of grandson Luke Edward Cornell's baptism today

What's Coming Up at Faith?

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”

It's time 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 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!

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 **tonight 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.

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!

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!*

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.