



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship

March 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday in Lent

Prelude

(please rise in body or spirit)

Confession

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of
God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but
our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the
world. We do not show others the tender compassion you
have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the
radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress
others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform
our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open
wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's
house forever.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Take My Life that I May Be ELW 685

vv 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

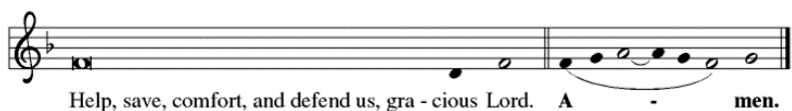
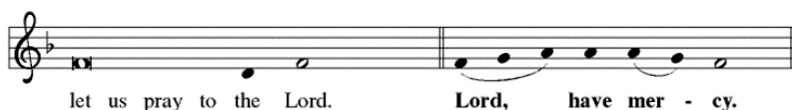
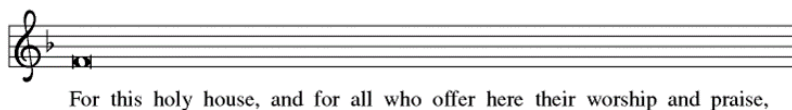
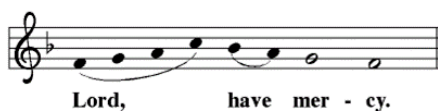
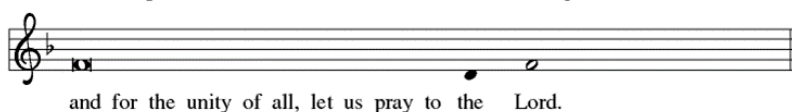
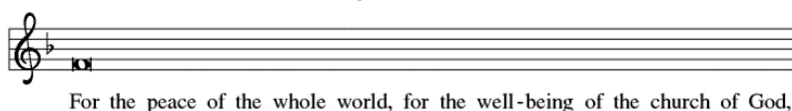
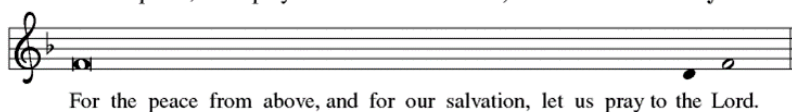
Greeting

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.

Kyrie

(ELW Setting 3 p. 138)



Prayer Of The Day

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(you may be seated)

Community Moment

Reading

Reader: The Reading today is from 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

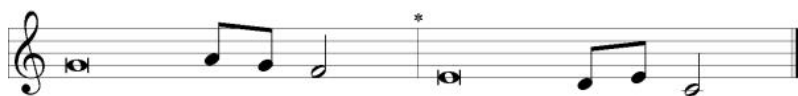
Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

The Psalm today is from Psalm 63



O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry
and weary land where there | is no water.

**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

For your steadfast love is better than | life itself;
my lips shall | give you praise.

**So will I bless you as long | as I live
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of foods,
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

**when I remember you up- | on my bed,
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

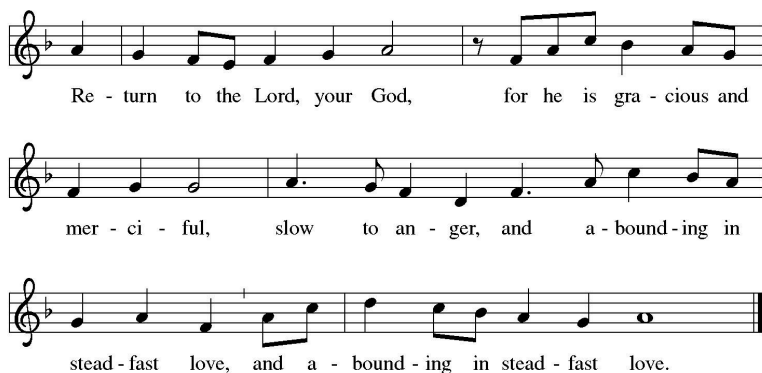
For you have | been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

**My whole being | clings to you;
your right hand | holds me fast.**

(please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.142



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Preacher: The Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter.

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

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(you may be seated)

The Message

Pastor Mark Boster

(please rise in body or spirit)

Hymn Of The Day

When We Are Tested ACS 922

The 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.

The Prayers

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples.
Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons,
elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon
you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach
your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing
what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet
that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

The Sharing of Peace

Presiding Minister: The peace of the Lord
be with you always.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **"Peace be with you."**

(you may be seated)

Offering

Order My Steps
Adult Choir

arr. Burleigh

(please rise in body or spirit)

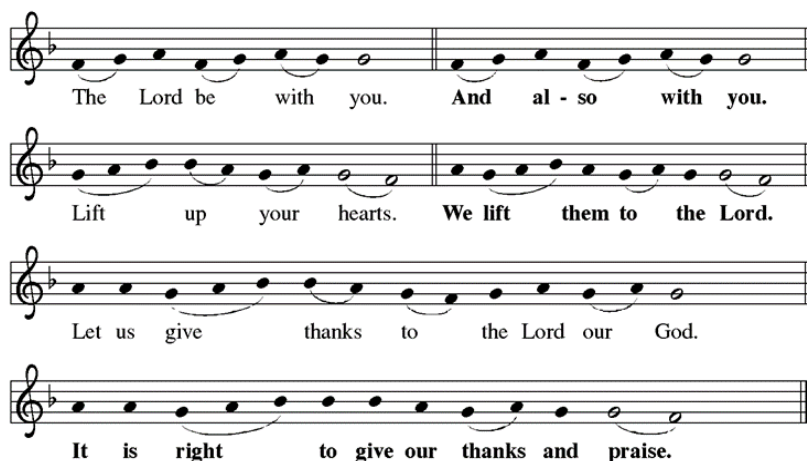
Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on
your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing
those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus
Christ.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

(ELW Setting 3 p. 144)



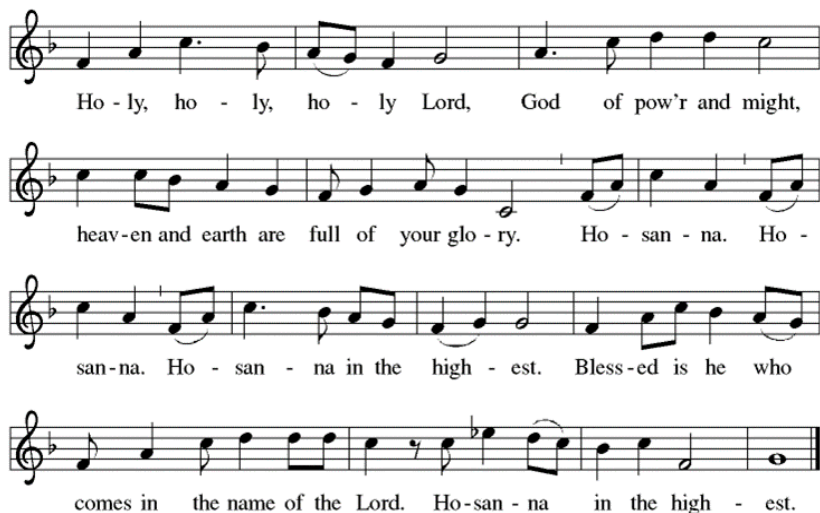
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and
our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise.....we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

The 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.

(you may be seated)

Invitation to Communion

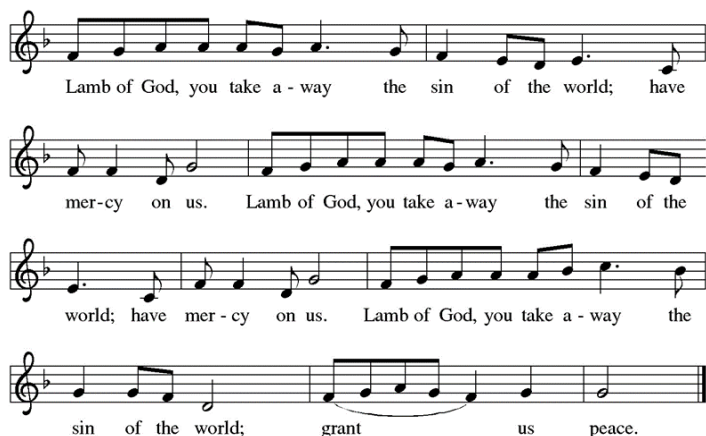
All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

"Lamb of God"

(ELW p. 146)



Rock of Ages ELW 623

Jesus Still Lead On ELW 624

(please rise in body or spirit)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body of Christ and his precious blood, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Prayer

Assisting Minister: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

Sending Hymn Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer ELW 618

Dismissal

Assisting Minister: Go in peace.

Care for others as God cares for you.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



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