



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship

March 19, 2023

9:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”
Adult Bells and Michael Fetzter, Piano

Welcome

(please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

(Psalm 23)

The Lord is my Shepherd

I shall not want.

The Shepherd calls.

We hear the Shepherd's voice.

The Shepherd cares for our every need.

We are loved.

The Shepherd searches for us.

We are found.

The Shepherd leads us through the deepest valleys.

We will not be afraid.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days
of my life,

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Confession

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

We confess that we often invest our attention in misguided places and in misguided ways. We admit that where we focus our attention can prevent us from recognizing you at work right in front of us. Forgive us, and help us to center our lives in you so that cross-marked and Spirit-sealed we may join in your creative and redeeming work for all the world. Through Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord, Amen

God who is rich in mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love has come to us in Jesus, who by his holy cross has redeemed the world. Buried with Christ by baptism into death, Your sins are forgiven in +Jesus' name. Cross-marked and Spirit-sealed, You are raised to new life. Almighty God strengthen you in faith To live each day renewed in God's call for your life.

Amen

Opening Hymn *"God, Whose Almighty Word"* ELW 673

Greeting

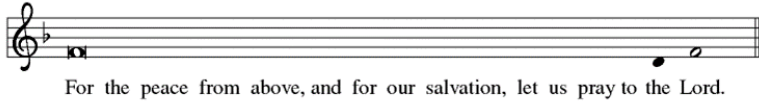
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

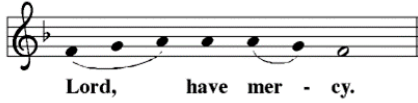
Kyrie



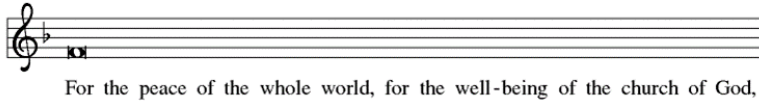
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



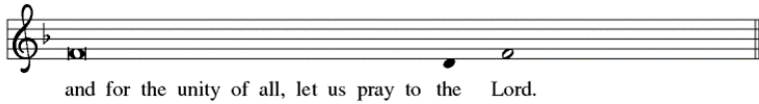
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



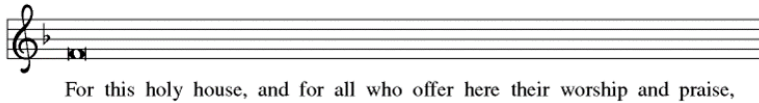
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



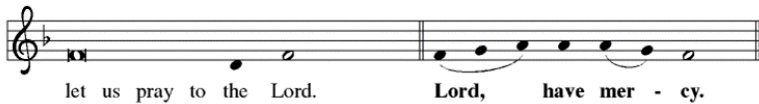
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



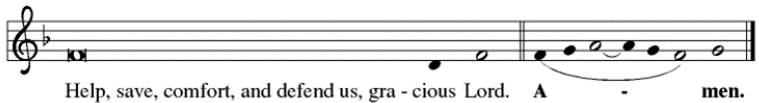
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer Of The Day

When we are distracted by things that cause us to lose track of your call, O God, turn our attention back to you. that we might recognize you at work in our lives. Direct the ponderings of our hearts toward where you call us to pay attention. Teach us to regard your work in all creation and to be attentive to what you are doing. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

Children's Message

Reading

Reader: The Reading today is from Ephesians 5:8-14

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

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**



Psalm

Reader: The Psalm today is from Psalm 23

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

**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

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

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

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

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

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

(please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

"Return to the Lord Your God" ELW p.142

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Preacher: The Gospel according to John the 9th chapter.

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

[As Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent).

Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then 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." Some 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. So 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."

The 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but 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." His 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. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So 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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

He answered 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

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

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

The Message

Pastor Mark Boster

(please stand as you are able)

Hymn Of The Day

"Amazing Grace" ELW 779

The Statement of Faith

(Luther's Explanation to the Third Article of the Creed)

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins—mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

The Prayers

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve especially those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Passing Of The Peace

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

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **“Peace be with you.”**

(please be seated)

Offering *“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

Adult Bells

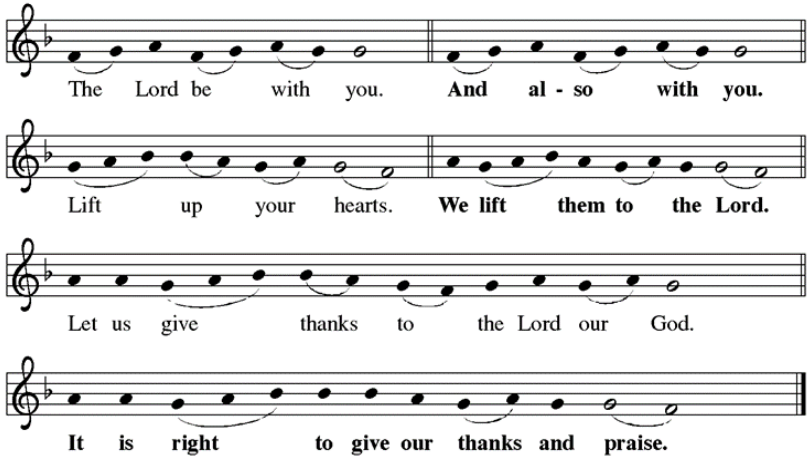
arr. Cathy Moklebust

(please stand as you are able)

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: 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



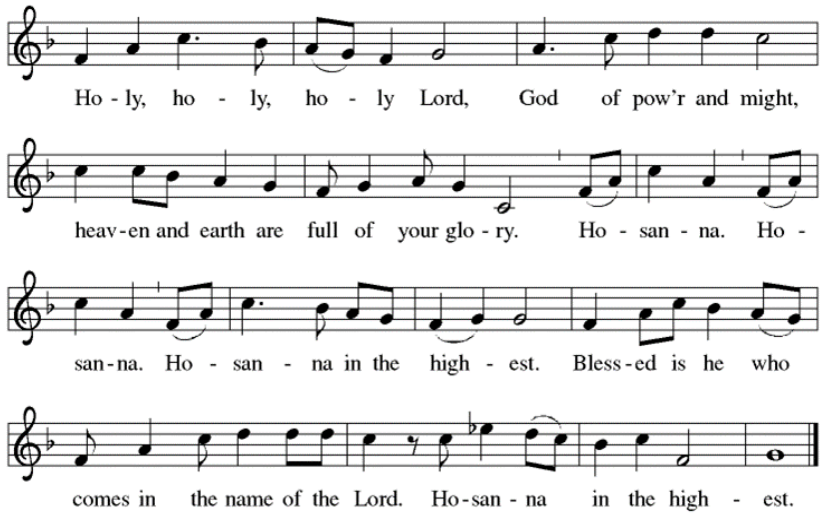
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

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.

(please be seated)

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

“Lamb of God” ELW Setting 3

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” ELW 810

(please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Blessing

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

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

*Assisting Minister: Embodied God, at your table, we
have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of
our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear
the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with
your love.*

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.

Sending Hymn “Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793

Dismissal

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. Serve in love.

*Congregation: **Thanks be to God.***

Postlude