



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

First Sunday in Lent

Service with Communion

February 18th, 2024

This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshipers’ response, and * means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Brandy & Emma Carothers*

Acolyte: *Morgan Titel*

Communion: *Sarah Larson*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: Steve Sweeney and *Tim Jenson*

GATHERING

* GREETING The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LBW#228- verses 1-2

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old evil foe, sworn to work us woe, with dread craft and might
he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he! Jesus Christ, our Lord,
God’s only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

* CONFESSION 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.

* FORGIVENESS 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.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Holy God, **heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

LBW#564

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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GROWING

Our first reading is from Genesis, 9th chapter.

Genesis 9:8-17 (NIV)

As in the first creation, after saving Noah and his family in the flood, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures. The rainbow is a sign of a new covenant.

⁸ Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: ⁹ "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you ¹⁰ and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. ¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." ¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: ¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, ¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures

of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. ¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." ¹⁷ So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth."

Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading from Psalm 25 responsively.

Psalm 25:1-10 (NIV)

¹ In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

² **I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³ No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

⁴ **Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.**

⁵ Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

⁶ **Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.**

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

⁸ **Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.**

⁹ He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

¹⁰ **All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.**

Our second reading is from 1 Peter, 3rd chapter.

1 Peter 3:18-22 (NIV)

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹ After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰ to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:9-15 (NIV)

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending

on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, ¹³ and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted^[a] by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. Jesus Announces the Good News ¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O, Christ.



MESSAGE

"Rainbows and Baptism"

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

WOV#776- all verses

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th-10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED (professed together)

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 into hell.* 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**

*Or, He descended to the dead. ** universal

* PRAYER 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.

A brief silence.

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's mission and ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN

Create in Me a Clean Heart

LBW page 96

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Psalm: 51:-10-12

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* OFFERING PRAYER **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**

* ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

* INVITATION All is now ready. Everyone is welcome!

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

* BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

LBW#228- verses 3-4

Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpower us.
This world's prince may rage, in fierce war engage. He is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,
wrench our life away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" was reprinted with permission under One License #A-724679. All rights reserved.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

* DISMISSAL Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* BELLS/POSTLUDE

Michelle Young



THIS WEEK AT CHURCH AND BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	2/18	8:45 am	- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
		10 am	- First Sunday of Lent Worship, w/ communion
		11 am	- Transition Team Meets
MONDAY	2/19	10-Noon	- Secretary in the Office
		7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	2/20	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	2/21	6 pm	- Soup Supper
		7 pm	- Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Service
FRIDAY	2/23	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	2/26	8:45 am	- Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
		10 am	- Second Sunday of Lent Worship
		11 am	- Church Council Meets

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hollysweeney65@gmail.com Giving questions contact: Barb Vadnais barbvadnais1@gmail.com

~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer, or sympathy.

Please, let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.

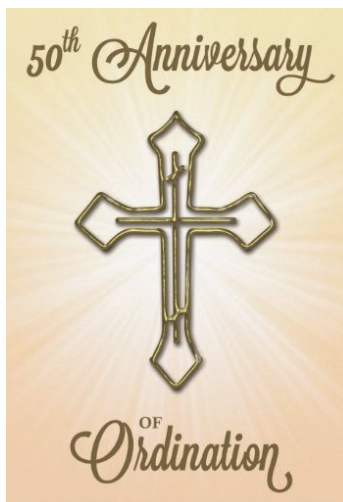
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- o Roger Tubbs: 3706 Damon St Apt 11, Eau Claire, WI 54701-9266



Join Us Wednesday Nights During Lent. Enjoy a Delicious Soup Supper at 6 PM and Stay For 7 PM Lenten Service. We Use The Beautiful HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER and Our Theme This Year is "Amazing Grace."



March 3, 2024
We will be celebrating Pastor Ron
on his 50 years of being ordained.
More details to come!!!!



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