



**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**  
**FOR THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ORDINATION**  
**OF PASTOR RONALD E. GERL**  
**MARCH 3, 2024**

PRELUDE

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

LBW#543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
if with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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\*THE THANKSGIVING

L: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. **C: His mercy endures forever.**

L: Open for me the gates of righteousness. **C: I will enter them and offer thanks to the Lord.**

L: Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord. **C: Happy the people who are chosen as God's own.**

L: I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, says the Lord. **C. And they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed.**

L: I will feed them with good pasture. **C: I will feed them in justice, says the Lord.**

L: Alleluia! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart. **C: In the assembly of the upright, in the congregation, I will give thanks. Alleluia!**

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Let us humbly come before God and acknowledge our need for his mercy and grace.  
**C: God of hopefulness, we don't always understand why we say what say, and do what we do that often hurts others and ourselves. Even our thoughts agitate us when we experience differences in our world. Forgive us for our lack of love and patience with others. Forgive us for not demonstrating dignity for all in your creation. Restore us to wholeness that we may proclaim your good news.**

L: By grace you have been saved through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. In Jesus name, you are forgiven, May Almighty God give you strength, courage and hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L. Let us pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ, you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. Inspire all pastors to proclaim your Word diligently and your people to receive it willingly, that finally we may receive the crown of eternal glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen** (please be seated)

HYMN OF PRAISE

**"All Creatures of Our God and King"**

LBW#527 v 1-4

All creatures of our God and King, Lift up your voice and with us and sing, Alleluia! Alleluia!  
O burning sun with golden beam, and silver moon with softer gleam!

**Refrain:** O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O rushing wind and breezes soft, O clouds that ride the  
winds aloft O praise Him! Alleluia!  
O rising morn, in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice!

**Refrain:** O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O flowing water, pure and clear, Make music for your  
Lord to hear, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
O fire so masterful and bright, Providing us with warmth and light.

**Refrain:** O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Dear mother earth, who day by day Unfolds rich blessings  
On our way, O praise Him! Alleluia!  
The fruits and flow'rs that verdant grow, Let them his praise abundant show.

**Refrain:** O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226

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## GREETING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REFLECTION BY ISSIE HOLLISTER ON BELIZE TRIP

## THE WORD OF GOD

The First Lesson: A reading from Jeremiah 1:4-10

<sup>4</sup> The word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." <sup>6</sup> "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. <sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. <sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Word of God, word of life.**

Second Lesson: A reading from 2 Timothy 4:1-5.

<sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Word of God, word of life.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 4:1-9.

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

<sup>1</sup> Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up,

the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

The gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

Reverend Diane House, NW Synod of WI

HYMN

**"O Jesus I have Promised"**

LBW#503

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.  
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still  
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.  
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;  
now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you  
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.  
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

## FAITH ACCLAMATION (Third Article of Apostles Creed Meaning)

A: I believe that by 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 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.

## LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

A: Let us pray in thanksgiving for the ministry of all pastors and for the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the whole world.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for pouring out your Spirit upon the Church and bringing forth abundant gifts for the ministry of the whole people of God. Fill the Church with truth and love, that all its members may serve you with true and godly lives. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We thank you for raising up men and women of faith to preach your Word and administer your Sacraments, especially we pray for Pastor Ron. As you have blessed him during the last fifty years of ministry, grant that he may continue to keep his ordination vows, fulfill his duties of ministry, serve your people, build up your Church, and glorify your name. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We thank you for raising up men and women of faith to preach your Word and administer your Sacraments, especially we pray for Pastor Ron Gerl, who we honor this day for his service and contributions to all the places he has served. As we have come to know your goodness and love and been enriched in faith through him, grant that he and his family may live continually in your presence, be steadfast in faith, and know your love in such abundance as to continue to share it throughout their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Come, Holy Spirit, and fill all pastors everywhere with your love. Shepherd them who shepherd others. Guide them who guides others. Enlighten them who enlighten others. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: We give thanks as well spouses and significant others and their family, who, in their love and support of a pastor, have made a significant self-offering to the mission of your Holy Church. As they have shared their love, so shower them with your love and blessings. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Bless all bishops and pastors and those who hold authority in the Church, especially Laurie Anderson our Presiding Bishop of the Northwest Synod and her staff including Diane House, and the pastors of our sister congregations. Grant that by their faithful service, faith may abound and your kingdom increase. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Heal the divisions which separate us and bring peace to the Church, that we may speak with one voice of our one Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **C. Hear our prayer.**

A: Make us all to follow the path of righteousness until we join that cloud of witnesses who have gone before, that we may together and live in the joy of your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen**

HYMN

**"Praise God from Whom All Blessing 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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*During the hymn, Pr. Ron is brought to the chancel by those who will give the blessings.*

*Blessing by Reverend Diane House, Assistant to the Bishop:*

Pastor Ron Gerl may the Lord God bless you and keep you always in his care. May the Lord equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight. **C. Amen**

*Blessing by members of the Congregation:*

**Pastor Ron Gerl may the Lord God always be on your lips, that you may declare his saving word of grace and forgiveness to his people. May the Lord give you understanding of the Gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served and God's name be glorified. Amen**

\*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.

Psalm: 51:-10-12

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\*OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we may might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Lord. **C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...

## 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.**

## THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

P: All is now ready

*Receiving the Sacrament (All are welcome to receive the bread and wine which is the body and blood of Jesus Christ regardless of your denomination. If you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior you are welcome. Children will be blessed. Come forward via the center aisle continuously from both sides.)*

COMMUNION HYMNS      LBW #551,   LBW#557,   LBW #558

### **Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee #551**

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

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**Let All Things Now Living #557**

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days. God's banners are o'er us, His light goes before us, a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.

His law he enforces: the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine. We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living unite in thanks giving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

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Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.

**Earth and All Stars! #558**

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song! Oh, victory!  
Loud shouting army! Sing to the Lord a new song!

**Refrain** He has done marvelous things. I too will praise him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song! Flowers and trees!  
Loud rustling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre!  
Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song! Limestone and beams!  
Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

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Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. We thank you, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with the heavenly food of the body and blood of your Son, and have united us through him in the fellowship of your Holy Spirit. As you raise up faithful servants for the ministry of your Word

and Sacraments, grant that we, with all pastors, may joyfully serve you all our days and finally rejoice in your glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P. We give you thanks, almighty and gracious God, that you have blessed many people with the ministry and friendship of this pastor, and we pray that he may continue to exemplify in word and deed the Gospel of your Son. Grant that we, with him/her, may serve you now in the Church on earth and rejoice before your throne in heaven forever; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C. Amen**

*BENEDICTION*

P. Let us bless the Lord.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

P. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C. Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

**“Lead on, O King Eternal”**

LBW#495

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;  
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;  
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;  
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,  
but deeds of love and mercy the heav'nly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,  
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light;  
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917

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POSTLUDE

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Serving us today: Reverend Diane House, Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Pr. Ron Gerl, Interim Pastor; Keith Lee, Lay Minister and reader; Lay Assistant: Issie Hollister

Music: Michelle Young; Acolytes: Cade Larson and Colton Plemon

Ushers: Tim Jenson, Gordy Sessions and Steve Sweeney

Video: Dave Young Ministers: Everyone

Thank you to Clauden Oebser for assembling the video reflecting the ministry of Pastor Ron.

Thank you to WELCA.

Thank you to those assisting with reception.

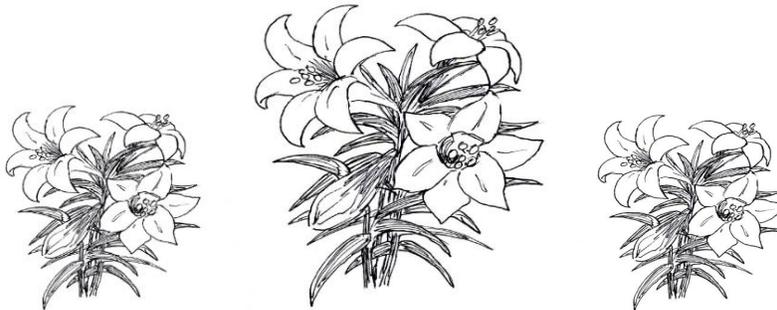


THIS WEEK AT CHURCH and BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	3/3	8:45 am	- Sunday school & Adult Bible Study
		10 am	- Third Sunday in Lent Worship with communion and <i>Celebration of Pastor Ron's 50 year ordination Anniversary</i>
MONDAY	3/4	10-Noon	- Secretary in Office
		7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	3/5	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	3/6	6 pm	- Soup Supper- all welcome
		7 pm	- Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Service
FRIDAY	3/8	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	3/10	8:45 am	- Adult Bible Study
			<b>NO Sunday school- EM Spring Break</b>
		10 am	- Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship, Luther Park representative speaking during worship

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Sunday school Coordinators: Jaime Folczyk [mjfolczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:mjfolczyk@yahoo.com) and Holly Sweeney  
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ANNOUNCEMENTS



The WELCA group has ordered a few extra Easter lilies this year for decorating the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to buy one at

\$12.50 with the *idea of taking it home on Easter Sunday*, complete the order form located on the table by the mailboxes and drop it in the labeled box.

\* The deadline for ordering lilies is March 10 \*

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.*

- Anita Clemmens E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Audrey Bracher: Colfax 110 Park Drive Room 310, Colfax, WI 54730

### **Giving Through our Website**

Our website now provides us with the opportunity to give donations on-line at any time without banking information. Most people are using credit cards today and not writing checks and now this includes the option of supporting the continuing work of Christ here at Shepherd of the Hill. Even if you only watch our streaming of worship services, you will now have the flexibility to make offerings from your home!



**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."**

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