



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Second Sunday in Lent

Service of the Word

February 25, 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 worshippers’ response, and \* means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Lorin Divine

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Brandy & Emma Carothers*

Acolyte: *Morgan Titel*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Tim Jenson*

Ministers: *Everyone*

## **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

**Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer**

LBW#343- all verses

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow’rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791;

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\* CONFESSIO 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 O God, **by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 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 the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis.

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16** (NIV)

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers." <sup>3</sup>Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you

<sup>15</sup> God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Here ends the first reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reading Psalm 22 responsively.

**Psalm: Psalm 22:23-31, (NIV)**

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

<sup>24</sup> **For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

<sup>26</sup> **The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

<sup>28</sup> **for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup> All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive.

<sup>30</sup> **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

Our second reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans.

**Romans 4:13-25 (NIV)**

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

<sup>13</sup> It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. <sup>14</sup> For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, <sup>15</sup> because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. <sup>18</sup> Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, <sup>24</sup> but also for us, to whom God will

credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Here ends the second reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**Gospel: Mark 8:31-38** (NIV)

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord

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



MESSAGE

**"Cognitive Dissonance"**

Pastor Ron Gerl

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

**Blessed Assurance**

WOV#669- all verses

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.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

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**

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

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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.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. 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.**

## **GIVING**

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.

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 O Lord our God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us. Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

\* 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.**

\* BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* BLESSING Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

**Faith of Our Fathers**

LBW#500- all verses

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon,  
 fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
 whene'er we hear that glorious word.

***Refrain***

Faith of our fathers, holy faith, we will be true to thee till death.

The martyrs, chained in prisons dark, were still in heart and  
 conscience free; and blest would be their children's fate  
 if they, like them, should die for thee. ***Refrain***

Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in  
 all our strife; proclaim thee too, as love knows how,  
 by saving word and faithful life. ***Refrain***

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

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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."**



**March 3, 2024**

**We will be celebrating Pastor Ron on his 50 years of being ordained!**

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