



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Service of the Word

March 17, 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

Lay Minister Keith Lee

Reader: *Kris Jenson*

Acolyte: *Hailey Webb*

Video: *Barb Vadnais*

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

What Feast of Love

WOV#701

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

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* 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 O God, **with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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 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 31st chapter of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NIV)

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹ "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading Psalm 51 responsively.

Psalm 51:1-12 (NIV)

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

² **Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

⁴ **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.**

⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

⁶ **Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

⁷ Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

¹⁰ **Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Our second reading is from the 5th chapter of Hebrews.

Hebrews 5: 5-10 (NIV)

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation

⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." ⁶ And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." ⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to John 12th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 12:20-33 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. ²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep

it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. ²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!" Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him. ³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.
The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you O, Christ.**

MESSAGE

Lay Minister Keith Lee

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

LBW#301

Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all,
in a full perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, impotent, and blind;
here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore; those who drink shall thirst no more.

Those who drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
signed when our redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

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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

* PRAYERS 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 of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill, we especially pray for Barb Barum, Ron Rose, Sandy Kenefick, Lori Jenson and the family of John Ausman.. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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.

*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 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.

WEDNESDAY	3/20	6 pm 7 pm	- Soup Supper- all welcome - Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Service
FRIDAY	3/22	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SATURDAY	3/23	8-11 am	- Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for EM Power Lifters
SUNDAY	3/24	8:45 am 10 am 11 am	- Sunday school & Adult Bible Study - Palm Sunday Worship Service - Transition Team Meets

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



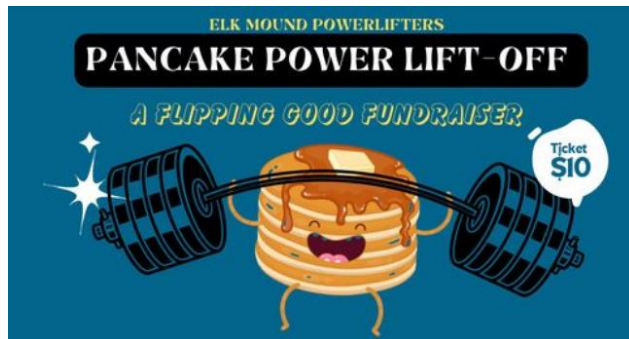
The Chippewa Valley WELCA conference is holding the **Day of Renewal** event on April 20 at Hope Lutheran church in Eau Claire. There will be two main speakers, and music by the Good Neighbor Ukulele ministry. Lunch will be provided. Please meet other women of faith from 30 churches in the conference. It will be an uplifting time. Registration forms are on the table by the mailboxes. Mail your form no later than April 8th. If this is your first time attending your *registration fee* will be sponsored by a member of SOTH. Please let Clauden Oebser or Kris Jenson know if you are interested.



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."



SOTH will be serving on Sunday March 31st!
Volunteers needed, please consider helping. Two shifts available 1-3:15pm and 3-5pm. Sign-up sheet is in the gathering area on the bulletin board.
Contact Holly Sweeney- 715-456-6960 with any questions.



Come support the EM Power Lifting Team Fundraiser. They are hosting a pancake breakfast here at SOTH on Saturday March 23rd 8-11 am. **\$10.00 a ticket.**
Proceeds help the team compete in the USAPL High School National Competition.



As many of you know our Sunday school classes take a collection on Sunday mornings during opening and we use it towards the ELCA Good Gifts program. As a group we vote what we'd like to purchase and set the goal. Our most recent collection goal was \$240.00- we made it!! For our \$240.00 we were able to purchase 4 roosters, 2 piglets, 2 water filters and stock 6 backpacks with food!!



Palm Sunday~ March 24th, 2024, 10 am Worship
Service Sunday school will parade in at beginning of service with palms.

What is Palm Sunday? Palm Sunday marks the day Jesus returned to Jerusalem. He rode into the city on a donkey, which symbolized that he was a king who came in peace. His faithful placed palm leaves in front of his path. In placing the palm leaves in front of Jesus, his believers demonstrated they accepted him as their redeemer. In the days to follow, Jesus would be betrayed, tried, and crucified before his divine resurrection. The first day of Holy Week, Palm Sunday occurs on the final Sunday of the Christian religious observance of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and leads up to Easter.

Easter Sunday during Worship kids will take a noisy offering!
Collection towards our new Audio and Video Sanctuary Technology fund!
Start saving your change!

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 included.

- **Anita Clemmens: E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739**
- **Audrey Bracher: Colfax Health & Rehab
110 Park Drive Room 310, Colfax, WI 54730**
- **Mary Ausman: E9556 490th Ave, Elk Mound, WI 54739**
- **Sandy Kenefick: PO Box 102, Elk Mound, WI 54739**

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!

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