



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Service of the Word

March 10, 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: *Kris Jensen*

Acolyte: *Hailey Webb*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers *Tim Jensen*

Serving Fellowship: *Linda & Bob Dempski*

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

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

LBW#479

My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
guilt away, oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's
tears away, nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream, when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then, in love fear and dis
trust remove; oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

* CONFESSIOIN 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, **rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, 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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LUTHER PARK PRESENTATION

Abby Vander Laan, Program Director

GROWING

Our first reading is from the 21st chapter of Numbers.

Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" ⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the

people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading Psalm 107 responsively.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (NIV)

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² **Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,**

³ those he gathered from the lands, from east and west, from north and south.

¹⁷ **Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities.**

¹⁸ They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

¹⁹ **Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.**

²⁰ He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

²¹ **Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.**

²² Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

Our second reading is from the 2nd chapter of Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (NIV)

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

¹ As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to John 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 3:14-21 (NIV)

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE

"Garbage In, Garbage Out"

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

LBW#448

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

* 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.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth’s fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain, especially Barb Barum and Ron Rose. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. We especially pray for the family of John Ausman. 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.

* 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

* SENDING HYMN

Give to our God Immortal Praise

LBW#520

Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways; wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

He sent his Son with pow’r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown. His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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* DISMISSAL Go in peace. You are God’s beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

* BELLS/POSTLUDE

Lorin Divine



THIS WEEK AT CHURCH and BEYOND OUR DOORS

TODAY	3/10	8:45 am	- Adult Bible Study
			No Sunday School
		10 am	- Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship
			- Fellowship after church
MONDAY	3/11	10-Noon	- Secretary in Office.
		7 pm	- AA Meeting
TUESDAY	3/12	4-6 pm	- Food Pantry
WEDNESDAY	3/13	6 pm	- Soup Supper- all welcome
		7 pm	- Holden Evening Prayer Lenten Service
FRIDAY	3/15	10-Noon	- Food Pantry
SUNDAY	3/17	8:45 am	- Adult Bible Study
			No Sunday School
		10 am	- Fifth Sunday in Lent Worship
		11 am	- Church Council Meets

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



** March 10th Last Day to Order **

The WELCA group ordered extra Easter lilies this year for decorating the church on 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 in the labeled box.

Please keep the family of John Ausman in your thoughts and prayers for comfort and peace.

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."

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
- Mary Ausman: E9556 490th Ave, Elk Mound, WI 54739

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