



Worship Program
March 16th & 17th, 2024
5th Weekend of Lent

Introduction

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Confession and Forgiveness *(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: 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,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: 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 Song is Love Unknown**” Hymn 343

1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow.
The world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

3 Sometimes we strew his way
and his sweet praises sing.
Resounding all the day
hosannas to our king.
Then "Crucify!" is all our breath,
and for his death we thirst and cry.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen. *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

(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.)

WA: The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. A covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Psalm 51:1-12

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
In your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

P: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. So you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

P: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

P: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean. Wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness. That the body you have broken may rejoice.

P: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

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

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

C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

(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.)

WA: Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”. As he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

And having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. The word of the Lord .

C: Thanks be to God.

Lenten Acclamation

Let your steadfast love

come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised.

We will trust your word.

x2

Gospel: John 12:20-33

(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.)

P: The holy gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew.

Then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Now my soul is troubled.

And what should I say ‘Father, save me from this hour’?

No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world.”

“Now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

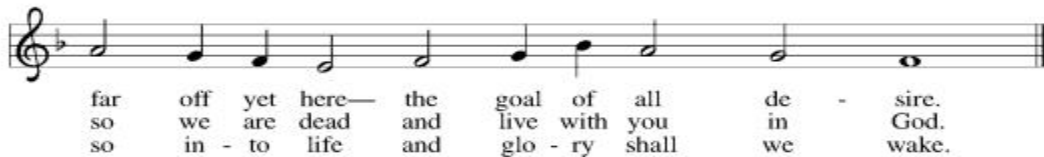
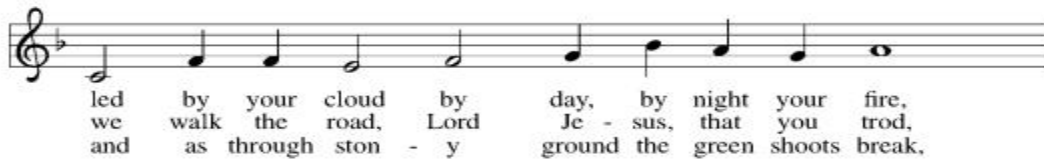
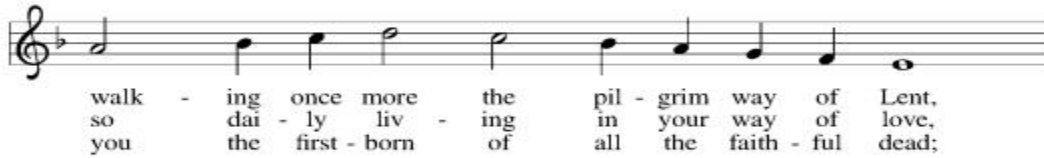
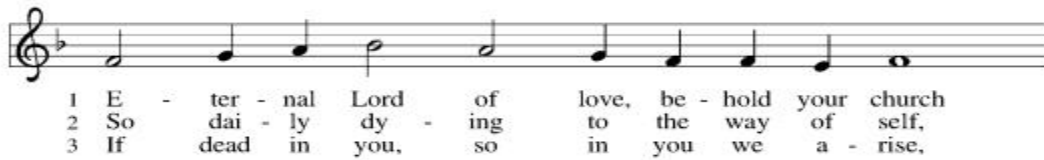
He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ. *(Please be seated)*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “**Eternal Lord of love, Behold Your Church**” Hymn 321



Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

Prayers of Intercession

WA: 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. (*silence is kept for reflection*)

WA: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: 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. (*especially*)

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

WA: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

Offertory Song

“Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” (ELW 716) v.1-3

Offering Prayer

(Please stand if you are able)

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so 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.

C: Amen.

The Dialogue

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 to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (Setting One, ELW pg. 108)

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. **C: Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! *(Please be seated)*

“Lamb of God” (Setting One, ELW pg.112)

Special Music

Psalm 23 Performed by Phil Wickman

Prayer after Communion *(Please stand if you are able)*

P: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world. In the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn **"Beneath the cross of Jesus"** Hymn 338



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Readers/Communion Assistants

Mar 16 Kerri & Tim Moyer

Mar 17 Noelle Berkey

Mar 23 Philip Faranda

Mar 24 Ray Leverknight

Mar 30 Kerri & Tim Moyer

Mar 31 Todd Moss

Ushers

Mar 16 Linda Barnhart & Patricia Bittner

Mar 17 Bill Eschrich & Mary Ann Mapes

Mar 23 volunteer needed

Mar 24 Bill & Cara Lonsinger

Mar 30 volunteer needed

Mar 31 The Whetzel's

Altar Guild

March - Cindy & Sara Solarczyk & Tony

Worship Leader Schedule

March 16/17 Gary Mickle

March 23/24 Pastor Ed DeVore

March 28 Pastor Kevin Shock, *Maundy Thursday*

March 29 The Very Reverend Daniel Lees, *Good Friday*

March 30/31 Pastor Ed DeVore, *Easter Weekend*



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 19 Church Council Meeting 6:30 PM

March 20 Social Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM

March 21 "The Chosen" Series 6:00 PM

March 22 The stripping of the palms 5:00 PM

March 23 Easter Egg Hunt 3:30PM

March 24 Palm Sunday Service 8:45 AM

March 28 Maundy Thur. Meal/Service 6:00 PM

March 29 Good Friday Service 7:00 PM

March 30 Easter Sat. Service 5:30 PM

March 31 Sunrise Service 6:30 AM (at Richland Cemetery)

March 31 Easter Sun. Service 8:45 AM