



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 16, 2024 ~ 5:00 pm Sunday, March 17, 2024 ~ 9:00am

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

GATHERING SONG

"Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church"

ELW #321

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE





We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

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. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against 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.

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;

that the body you have broken may rejoice.

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

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Christ 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";

⁶as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,

according to the order of Melchizedek."

⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal

salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

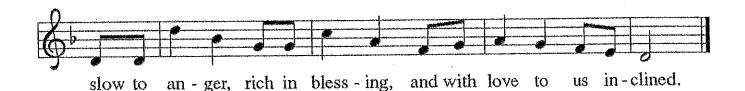
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



GOSPEL John 22:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

ELW #808

APOSTLE'S CREED

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 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 THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

"Take My Life, That I May Be"





take my mo-ments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise. take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

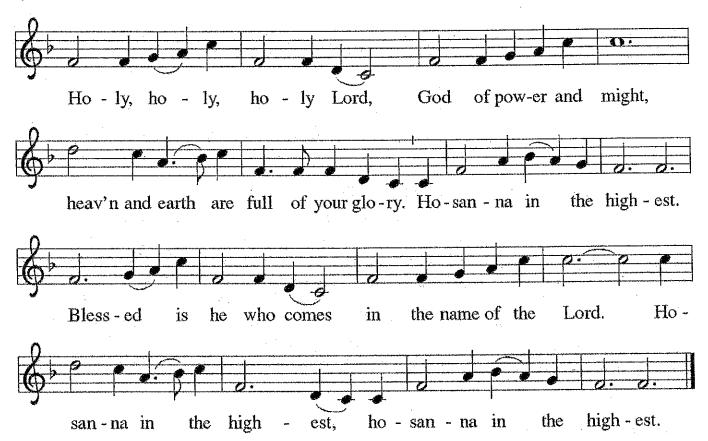
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



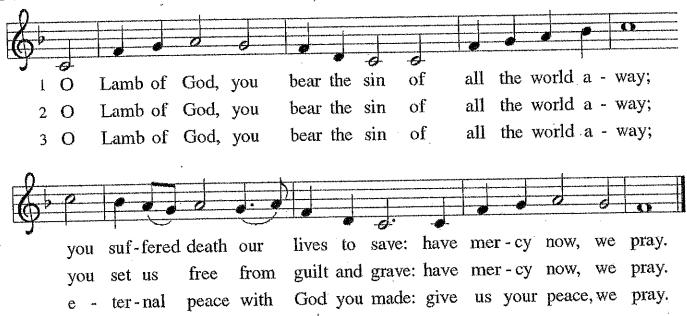
WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as

we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

COMMUNION SONG



THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Please follow the directions of the pastors to receive communion. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing. Those who are worshiping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

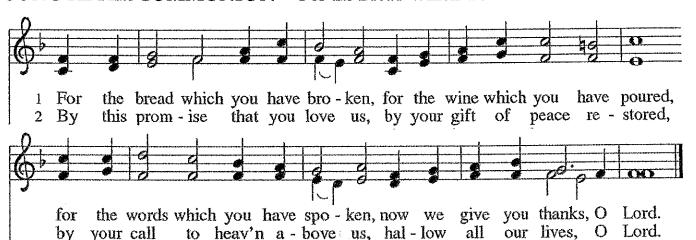
"As the Grains of Wheat"

ELW #465

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

"Lift High the Cross"

ELW #660

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

Saturday	5:00 pm Worship Service		
Ushers	Scott & Lori Rochau		
Reader	Scott Rochau		
Communion Assistant	Not determined at time of printing		
Counters	Not determined at time of printing		

SUNDAY	9:00 am Worship Service	
Ushers	Sherri Brundies & Bill Wittkowski	
Reader	Sherri Brundies	
Communion Assistant	Myra Krieter	
Counters	Kenny & Sue Oetzmann	

Choir Director	Susan Becker		
Organist	Teri Wittkowsi and Susan Becker		
Jubilation Leader	Neal Becker		
Online Streaming Crew	Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich		



Called Where Jesus Goes

Tt isn't only the first disciples who become uncomfortable when Jesus talked Labout his approaching death. We often do as well. Perhaps focusing on the crucifixion seems gruesome. Perhaps it conjures in us the (false) story of a divine parent who cannot forgive without punishing someone, with Jesus standing in as that one. Maybe it feels like a morbid emphasis on sin.

Jesus did not understand himself as the victim of divine punishment. He entered into suffering as a part of his glorification, working with—not against—his Father. He knows that human life has become twisted under the powers of sin and death so that if we grasp onto our "life in this world," we will miss God's gracious intention for us. Christ's judgment of sin is not for our exclusion. Jesus never seeks to shame us, but condemns sin in order to deliver us from its power.

Perhaps, however, we shy away from talk of Christ's death because we sense, on some level, that if our Lord must go to the cross, then so too must we. Jesus declares, "Whoever serves me must follow me." Discipleship is a summons to die to ourselves and lose our life on this world's terms. Paradoxically, this cruciform journey is the road to true fruitfulness and flourishing. It begins in our baptism and is nourished at the Lord's table. It is sustained by the fellowship of faith, where together we hear the life-giving word of Jesus. It will find completion on the day of resurrection.

Our souls long for this way of salvation. Deep within us all, a voice whispers, "We wish to see Jesus." God knows this need, so Jesus is lifted up to drive out the powers of sin and death. God's unending mercy is displayed. For the same reason, we come together so that in hearing the word and sharing the eucharistic meal, and in our prayers, laments, and praises, Jesus may be lifted up to draw us, and all people, to salvation.

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931-2003

Music: OLD 124TH, Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551

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Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song



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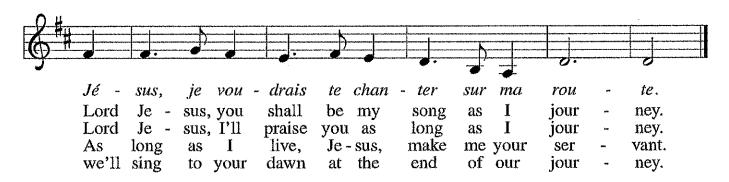
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à mes voi-sins par-tout, Jé - sus, vou - drais t'an-non-cer je ev-'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher-ev - er go: be a faith-ful re-flec-tion of May all of joy you. my car - ry your cross and to share all your bur-dens and tears. but cour-age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.





Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; u. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931 Music: Les Petites Soeurs, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville Used with permission of OneLleense.net A-731185.

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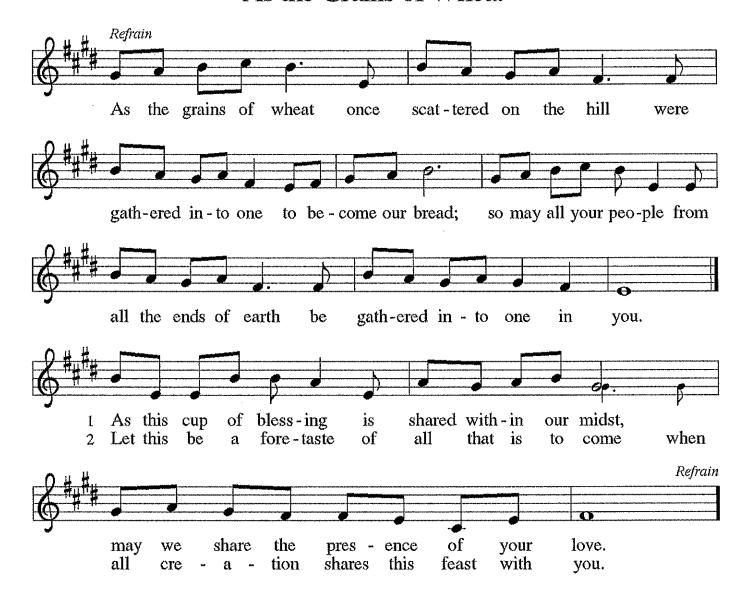
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As the Grains of Wheat



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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Lift High the Cross



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante

Pastor Heather Geest

Worship: Saturday 5 pm Sunday 9 am

Telephone: (563) 285-450l Email: faitheldridge@netins.net

GRACE - GIFTED

FAITH - LIFTED

CALLED TO SHARE SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.



The Fifth Sunday in Lent March 16 & 17, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at **faithlutheraneldridge.com**.

CHILDREN are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST? Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.

Flord, Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.					
Ron McFate	Dan Anderson	Sue Vogel	Marilyn		
Sally Puls	Pam White	Andrew Arp	Glen		
Jensen Spencer	Jim St. John	Kim Pierce	Kelly		
Ann Kuehl	Carolyn Scheibe	Jeanette Myers	Vaughn		
Madison Russo	Maisie Knutsen	Bill Lind	Shawn		
Janet Bowman	Jim Schneider	Pam Lueder	Don		
Kathy Stoltz	Ida Weibel	Barb Conklen	Tim		
Steve Mixdorf	Ed Stoltz	Jacki Caugherty	Craig		
Duane Miller	Judy Knoer	Jim Peters	Joyce		
Henry Storjohann	Melissa Alden	Kathy Schultz	Roger		



















If you wish to contribute toward Easter lilies to decorate the altar area this year, please list your name and the name(s) of those you wish to honor on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex area or online. We are asking for a contribution of \$14.00 to help offset the cost of the plants. Please indicate 'flowers' on your envelope so we know how to allocate the funds. Names received by March 24 will be published in the Easter worship bulletin.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. It begins with an ashen sign of mortality and sin. Bright colors turn to deep purples, alleluias fall silent, and we ponder what to give up this year. Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Bells ring, alleluias echo, white and gold shine brightly, and every single candle is lit. Jesus is risen, and so are the daffodils, hyacinths, and lilacs. Joy clearly belongs to Easter.

Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter? A joyful Lent is not an oxymoron. As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent—and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward-God's unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.

During the season of Lent, we will explore how joy is planted, tended, nurtured and nourished by God and God's people through the scripture readings assigned for each week. Each Wednesday, during our Lenten Evening Prayer Service, we will use Holden Evening Prayer and will respond to readings from the previous Sunday using a different devotional practice to help provide fertile ground to explore the seed of joy. The theme and practice for each week will be:

Week 5: Vocational Joy—Vocational Prayer
Holy Week will focus on "Joy Everywhere and Nowhere," and Easter will finally erupt in "Glorious Joy."

There will also be an accompanying daily devotion guide that will guide us through the covenants of God as we explore scripture's lead to explore the different textures and colors of joy each week. With the exception of the brief half-week at the beginning of the season, each week's devotions are structured by the regular practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving using a journal or through reflection or conversation, whatever works best for you and your life. Sundays will reflect on the scripture. Mondays will invite you the practice a kind of prayer to connect to a specific aspect of joy. Tuesdays will provide a prompt for journaling that suggests how you might ask for God's help. Wednesdays provide a suggestion for a fast, not from food, but to help you focus on what you already have rather than what you have given up. Thursdays return to the journal with prompts for how to direct thanksgiving to God. Fridays invite you to respond to God's work in your life by giving time, talent or treasure in a way that honors the week's exploration of joy. Saturdays invite you to connect with creation to learn how to "tell forth the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1).

We hope that you will join us on this Lenten journey as we seek that God-given joy that is richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness.



We are looking for Ushers, Readers and Communion Assistants to serve during March, especially during the Holy Week and Easter worship services. Please check the sign up sheet on the bulletin board or on our website to sign up. *Thank you for helping!*

New Church Photo Directory



Photos for a new church directory will be taken April 16-20 with a Fall 2024 delivery. A free directory and 8x10 photo will be given to each family who has their photo taken for the directory. You can bring family, friends, and pets! No obligation to buy photos. Sign up early to get the spot of your choice. Sign Up online at www.ucdir.com The Church Code is **IA300**, and the password is **photos**. Call Joan Hennigan or Pam Engelbrecht for help or more info.

Youth who will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July will be making and selling cinnamon rolls the weekend of March 23 & 24 to help raise funds for their trip. You can purchase these delicious rolls in person around worship March 23 & 24, or pre-order by signing up online (link found on our website and on Facebook) or on the sheet in the gathering space. Cost

is \$3/2 rolls, \$8/6 rolls, and \$15/dozen. Along with baked rolls, we will have the option to purchase unbaked rolls by the dozen. *Thank you for supporting our youth!*

Service in the World Compassion Children and Missionary Sponsorships

There are opportunities now available to sponsor the Bencke Family or Compassion Children John and Denisse in 2024. The sign up form is on the bulletin board and on our website. Thank you for your past and future support. ~ Service in the World Team



We are in need of snow removal volunteers! If you are able to help clear sidewalks after a snowfall, please sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or online using the link on our web site: www.faithlutheraneldridge.com. *Thank you for your help!*







Saturday, March 16	5:00 pm	Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, March 17	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:15 am	Worship In Sanctuary Fellowship Hour Sunday School
Monday, March 18	Office Closed	
Tuesday, March 19	1:00 pm 5:15 pm 5:30 pm	Bible Study Resounding Joy Food Pantry
Wednesday, March 20	5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:30 pm	Confirmation Meal Confirmation People of Praise Worship Service High School Youth
Thursday, March 21	6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Council Meeting Women of Faith Bible Study
Friday, March 22	9:30 am 2:00 pm	Food Pantry Youth Cinnamon Roll Bake
Saturday, March 23	All Day 5:00 pm	Youth Cinnamon Roll Bake Worship In Sanctuary & Online
Sunday, March 24	9:00 am 10:15 am 10:15 am 10:15 am	Worship In Sanctuary Fellowship Hour Sunday School 1st Communion Class



Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but we need your help to know when and where that is needed. Please contact us at the church office Tuesday thru Friday, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm at (563) 285-4501. For after-hour emergencies, please contact Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326 or Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606.