

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

~John 4:13

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

3rd Sunday in Lent – March 12, 2023

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

*If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own?
If you are visiting us, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.
Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate.*

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable,
please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**.*

*All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the
large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of Peace, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of
peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to
offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in
each pew.*

*At the time of Offering, you are invited to share a gift as you are comfortable. You may also
place any updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing
them in the offering plates. Attendance cards are also collected at the time of Offering.*

*If you need a restroom, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the
building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the
sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*WORDS OF WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

*GATHERING SONG *As the Deer Runs to the River* (ELW 331)



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst-ing for your heal - ing grace.
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."
Lead us to the wa - ters flow-ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv-ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

***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.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In God's love we know that we fall short. We trust in God's forgiveness, but before we can accept forgiveness, we must confess our failings and shortcomings. We must acknowledge our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Let us come before God and one another and confess our sins.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**
**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**
Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.
This promise is for you!
God embraces you with divine mercy,
✠ forgives you in Christ's name,
and revives you in the Spirit's power.
Amen.

Sure of God's forgiveness, let us approach God in prayer and supplication:

*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



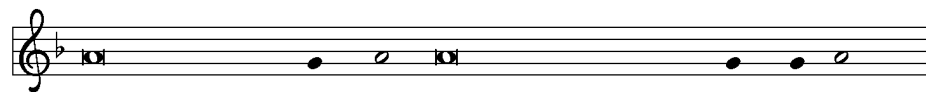
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

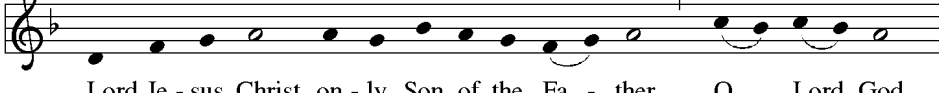
All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



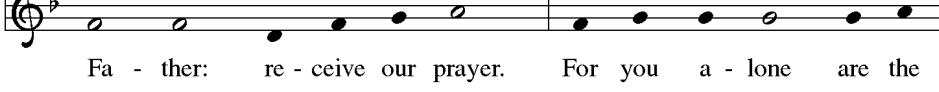
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



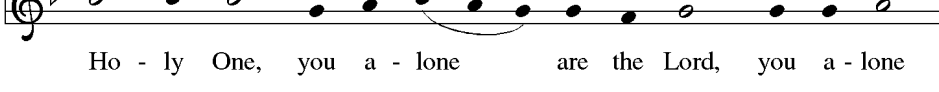
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



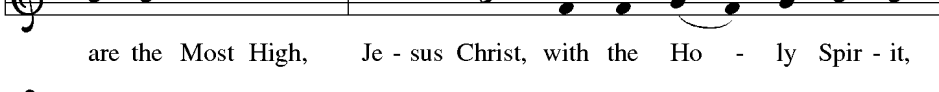
mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



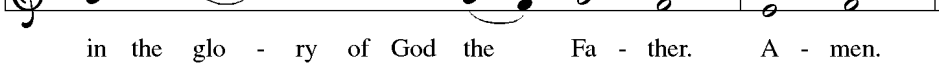
Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

¹Come, let us sing [|] to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of [|] our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence [|] with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the [|] LORD with psalms.**

³For you, LORD, [|] are a great God, and a great ruler a- [|] bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns [|] of the earth; the heights of the hills are [|] also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, [|] for you made it, and your hands have molded [|] the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship [|] and bow down,
let us kneel before the [|] LORD our maker.**

⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep [|] of God's hand. Oh, that today you would [|] hear God's voice!

⁸**"Harden [|] not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah [|] in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors [|] tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had [|] seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that gener- [|] ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not [|] know my ways.'**

¹¹Indeed I swore [|] in my anger, 'They shall never come [|] to my rest.' "

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

A reading from the book of Romans.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband';¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews."²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him."²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

(continued)

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN’S CHOIR *He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands*

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *We've Come This Far by Faith* (ELW 633)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)

Refrain – All



We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;



trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.



Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this far by



faith. We've come this far by faith.

Leader



1 Just re-mem-ber the good things God has
2 Don't be dis-cour-aged with trou-ble in your



done, things that seemed im-pos-si-ble; oh,
life; he'll bear your . . . bur-dens, and

Refrain



praise him for the vic-t'ries he has won. Oh!
move . . . all the dis-cord and strife. Oh!

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.

God of life, we pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the world. All creation teems with life. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness especially Jeff, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Beverly, Karen, Katie, Larry, Debi, Todd, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Nurture faith within us and open our hearts to your questions throughout your Word and in our faith inviting us deeper into relationship with you and your beloved. Give us courage to bring our unanswered questions to you. Help us to know of your abiding presence even in our uncertainties, trusting that your love and faithfulness are sure this day and always. Merciful God.
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, especially those on the hearts of this congregation today (*prayer cards are read*). We commend all the prayers, spoken and unspoken to you, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* (ELW 335)

**Rise on 4th verse*



- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God, we may never know what you will do with these gifts of our time, talents, and treasures. But we carry a faith passed to us through generations. We set the table with food and drink harvested by many hands. We offer ourselves to your service. And we trust that you will use the gifts we give today in ways beyond our understanding.

Amen.

*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,
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 call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

The musical notation consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness is with us through all times.

You sent to us Jesus, a Savior with questionable beginnings from a dubious place.
When everyday people met your Son,
They asked, “He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”
When religious leaders heard Jesus’ teachings,
They wondered “Can these words come from the God we know?”
People had their doubts, but Jesus’ faith compelled them to ask,
“Is this really the one who will save us from our sins?”

Christ’s abundant forgiveness to sinners, and glorious resurrection from the tomb answer *yes!*

Yet for all this, even the people who knew Jesus best carried doubts.
They lived with unanswered questions.
And when Jesus gathered them for one last meal, uncertainty swirled in their hearts.

So to explain your love, oh God, to show it and share it,
On the very night on which he would be 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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

God of all times, reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Bless this feast and grace our table with your presence.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come Holy Spirit.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.

Amen.

Jesus, you have asked us to ask you for anything we need.
Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to ask and pray:

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**

If you wonder whether God really wants you at this table, Jesus answers yes.

Know that your unanswered questions are welcome here,

because the Spirit unquestionably beckons you to come and taste the truth of God's love.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized people are welcome to come and experience the real presence of Christ in the elements. Those who do not receive the elements are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought to those unable to come forward.


COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

The musical notation is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with some slurs. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the music. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men."

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (ELW 611)



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;

lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

*BLESSING OF COMMUNION OUTREACH

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we are sent forth. Bless those who carry your heavenly food to those unable to be with us this day. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. **Amen.**

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Fed and nourished at your table, open our hearts to your promises, and give us courage to ask what our neighbors need and how we might serve you and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW 545)



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

*DISMISSAL

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’”
(John 20:21)

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff

Acolyte: Nathan Kramer

Ushers: John Tully

Greeter: Denise Hager

Offering: Jules Knauff and Abigail Cardinal

Attendance last week: 52 + 6 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

Today's Music

As the Deer Runs to the River. Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923, Music: David Hurd, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc..

We've Come This Far by Faith. Text: Albert A. Goodson, 1933-2003, Music: Albert A. Goodson. Manna Music, Inc.

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross. Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, Music: William H. Doane, 1832–1915. Public Domain.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say. Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889, Music: English folk tune. Public Domain/Augsburg Fortress.

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing. Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt., Music: Sicilian, 18th cent. Public Domain.

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