



... “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

Third Sunday in Lent – March 8, 2026

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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 this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*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. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*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.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by 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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

Friends in Christ,
today we continue our journey through the forty days of Lent,
a journey that continues until the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.
This journey is marked by the discipline of Lent—
self-examination and repentance,
prayer and fasting,
sacrificial giving and works of love—
strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

***GATHERING SONG *For All the Faithful Women* (ELW 419)**

- 1 For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your pow'r to save.
- 2 Recall the outcast woman with whom our Lord conversed:
Christ gave her living water to quench her deepest thirst.
Like hers, our hearts are yearning; Christ offers us his word.
Then may our lips be burning to witness to our Lord.
- 3 O God, for saints and servants, those named and those unknown,
in whom through all the ages your light of glory shone,
we offer glad thanksgiving and fervent prayer we raise
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



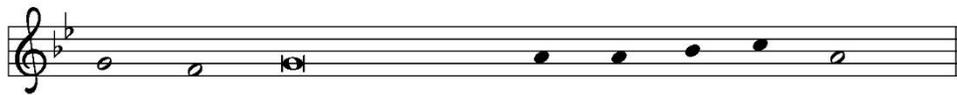
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

***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 Exodus.

¹ From 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.

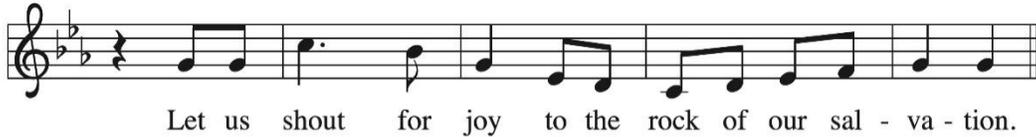
² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The 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. ⁶ I 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. ⁷ He 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: Psalm 95

The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with “R”.



- ¹ Come, 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.**
- ³ For 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.**
- ⁵ The 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. R**
- ⁷ For 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.**
- ⁹ There 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.’**
- ¹¹ Indeed I swore | in my anger,
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’” **R**

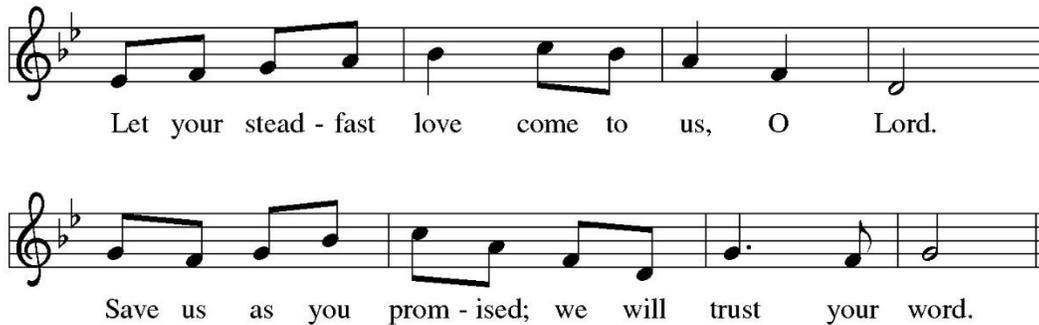
SECOND READING: Romans 5:8, 10

A reading from Romans.

- ⁸ God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.
- ¹⁰ For 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL READING: John 4:1-42 (CEB)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was making more disciples and baptizing more than John (² although Jesus' disciples were baptizing, not Jesus himself). ³ Therefore, he left Judea and went back to Galilee.

⁴ Jesus had to go through Samaria. ⁵ He came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, which was near the land Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there. Jesus was tired from his journey, so he sat down at the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." ⁸ His disciples had gone into the city to buy him some food.

⁹ The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (Jews and Samaritans didn't associate with each other.)

¹⁰ Jesus responded, "If you recognized God's gift and who is saying to you, 'Give me some water to drink,' you would be asking him and he would give you living water."

¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this living water? ¹² You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave this well to us, and he drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock."

¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will never be thirsty and will never need to come here to draw water!"

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, get your husband, and come back here."

¹⁷ The woman replied, "I don't have a husband."

"You are right to say, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus answered. ¹⁸ "You've had five husbands, and the man you are with now isn't your husband. You've spoken the truth."

¹⁹ The woman said, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem."

(continued)

²¹ Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴ God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

²⁵ The woman said, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one who is called the Christ. When he comes, he will teach everything to us.”

²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I Am—the one who speaks with you.”^[a]

²⁷ Just then, Jesus’ disciples arrived and were shocked that he was talking with a woman. But no one asked, “What do you want?” or “Why are you talking with her?” ²⁸ The woman put down her water jar and went into the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who has told me everything I’ve done! Could this man be the Christ?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to see Jesus.

³¹ In the meantime the disciples spoke to Jesus, saying, “Rabbi, eat.”

³² Jesus said to them, “I have food to eat that you don’t know about.”

³³ The disciples asked each other, “Has someone brought him food?”

³⁴ Jesus said to them, “I am fed by doing the will of the one who sent me and by completing his work. ³⁵ Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four more months and then it’s time for harvest’? Look, I tell you: open your eyes and notice that the fields are already ripe for the harvest. ³⁶ Those who harvest are receiving their pay and gathering fruit for eternal life so that those who sow and those who harvest can celebrate together. ³⁷ This is a true saying, that one sows and another harvests. ³⁸ I have sent you to harvest what you didn’t work hard for; others worked hard, and you will share in their hard work.”

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Questions for Reflection:

- Imagine you are the woman, disrupted in her daily round: How do you respond to this bold, even dangerous stranger?
- Imagine you are the woman, now curious: What is your deepest thirst, one that only God can satisfy?
- Imagine you are Jesus, eager to quench her thirst: How are you a source of living water?

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *Come to the Water of Life* (ACS 955)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)

1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for

love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,

come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

***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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *A brief silence.*

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, especially Geneva, Cherry, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the wilderness, we give you thanks for your overflowing, abundant mercy and your steadfast presence. Receive the prayers of your people. (*blue prayer cards are read*) Draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

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

**Rise on verse 4*



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.

Refrain



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

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

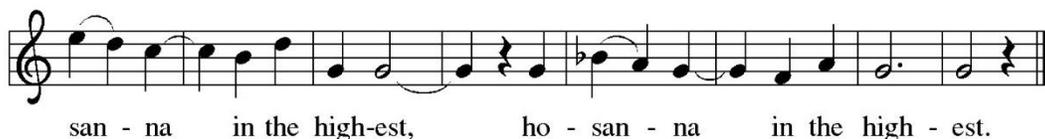
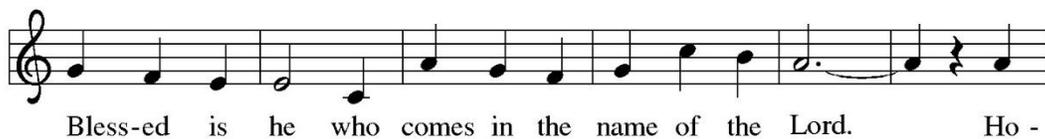
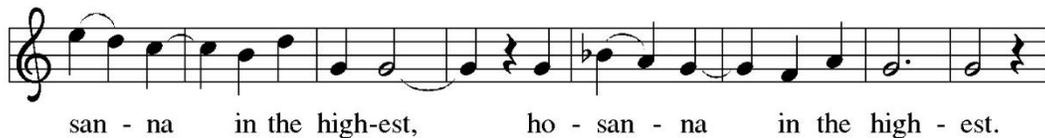
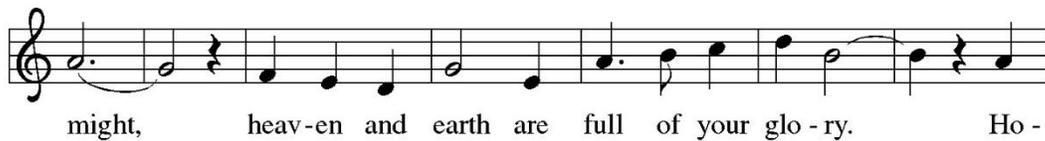
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the blessing through Abram,
the offering of water in the wilderness,
the abiding Spirit who inspires and leads us,
the words of the prophets,
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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**

Come to the table.
 Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

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

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God (Your Only Son)* (ELW 336)



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMN *As the Sun with Longer Journey* (ELW 329)



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it— Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Guide Me, Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW 618)



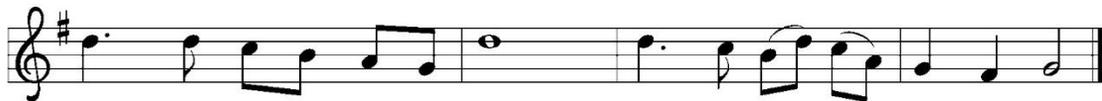
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

*DISMISSAL

“So then, with endurance, let us run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let us ... fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter.”

(Hebrews 12:1a, 2a)

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Keith C

Acolyte: Cate S

Offering: Josie W and Henry W

Greeter: Ruth Ann Tully

Attendance Last Week: 56 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

The woman at the well is a familiar text for many people. This image of Jesus standing at a well talking with a Samaritan woman is emblazoned in our visual and theological imaginations, but as with all Bible stories that we *think* we know, we might do well to take another look! Perhaps relegating this text to the simple moralism “be nice to people who are different” causes us to miss how deeply radical and difficult the message really is. We may assume this gospel simply urges us to stand with the marginalized, especially women. Yet while standing with marginalized women is a commendable action it can lead us, after doing so, to congratulate ourselves for being just like Jesus. A more critical and searching look at this text calls us to the reality that Jesus doesn't just stand with *the other*, Jesus stands with *your* other; *your church's* other. Your church's “Samaritans” may be LGBTQ+ people, evangelicals, urban people, rural people, conservatives, liberals, the poor, the rich, the dying, or single parents. Your church's Samaritans could very well be the key to this text. Because, like it or not, when we draw lines between ourselves and other people, Jesus is always on the *other* side of that line. So communities and individuals who thirst for the living water would do well to look to who our own Samaritans might be. And when we find them we should perhaps not be surprised to also find Jesus; a Jesus we thought was all our own but who, in reality, is the living water who comes to us in the strange and the stranger.

Today's Music

For All the Faithful Women. Text: Herman Stuempfle Jr. 1923–2007, Music: Finnish Folk Tune. Public Domain / GIA Publications, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress

Psalm 95. Text: *The New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776, Public Domain.

Come to the Water of Life. Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943, Music: Ray Makeever. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Lamb of God. Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958, Music: Twila Paris. Capitol CMG Publishing.

As the Sun with Longer Journey. Text: John Patrick Earls, OSB, b. 1935, Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021. Order of Saint Benedict, admin. by Liturgical Press, / Augsburg Fortress.

Guide Me, Ever, Great Redeemer. Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt., Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

1 Samuel 16:1-13 *David is chosen and anointed*

Psalm 23 *You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)*

Ephesians 5:8-14 *Awake from sleep, live as children of light*

John 9:1-41 *Baptismal image: the man born blind*