



**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**March 16, 2025**

**PRELUDE**

*Fugue in F Major* (J. S. Bach/arr. Palmer-Hughes)  
Connie Kisling, accordion

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

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

**INVOCATION**

*The minister leads the congregation in the invocation. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*In honesty before God and one another, we acknowledge our sin and recall the cleansing and renewing power of God's promises in baptism.*

**P** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Kneel or sit as you are comfortable. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P St. John writes, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). And so we gather to confess our sin, not because we fear God thinks us unworthy, but because we trust God's promise to receive us always in mercy and grace. Let us therefore pray together with confidence...

P Most merciful God,

**C 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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Please stand and turn to face the processional cross.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (ELW 596)*

**1 My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
no merit of my own I claim,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

*Refrain*

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand,  
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**2 When darkness veils his lovely face,**

**I rest on his unchanging grace;  
in ev'ry high and stormy gale  
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain***

**3 His oath, his covenant, his blood  
sustain me in the raging flood;  
when all supports are washed away,  
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain***

**4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,  
oh, may I then in him be found,  
clothed in his righteousness alone,  
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain***

**GREETING**

*With Saint Paul and generations of Christians, we greet one another in the name of God (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

**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.**

**KYRIE**

**Cantor:** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Refrain All**

Ky-ri - e e - lei - - - son,  
Chris-te e - lei - - - son,  
Lord, have mer - cy up-on us.  
Christ have mer - cy up-on us.

**Cantor:** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **R**

**Cantor:** 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. **R**

Cantor: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray  
to the Lord. **R**

Cantor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

**C God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share 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.**

*Sit*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to

know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

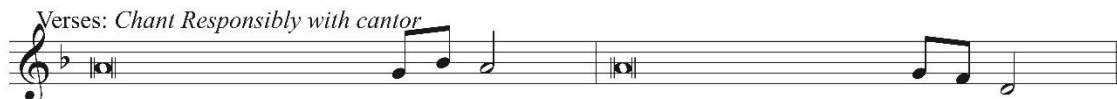
R Word of God, Word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalm 27

Refrain: cantor R, congregation R, vss 1-4 , R, vss 5-8 , R, vss 9-14 , R



<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the Lord; one | thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon  
the beauty of the Lord and to seek God | in the temple. R**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O Lord, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

**<sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O Lord, | I will seek. R**

<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

**<sup>10</sup>Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,**

**the Lord will | take me in.**

<sup>11</sup>Teach me your | way, O Lord;

lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

**<sup>12</sup>Subject me not to the will | of my foes,**

**for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the Lord

in the land | of the living!

**<sup>14</sup>Wait for the Lord | and be strong.**

**Take heart and wait | for the Lord! R**

## SECOND READING

Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

R Word of God, Word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**KIDS' MESSAGE**

*Stand (In preparation for the Gospel reading, we stand to honor and receive the story and the words of Jesus Christ.)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger,



and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love, and a - bound-ing in stead - fast love.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Erin Heidelberger

*Stand*

*The Word of God and the theme of the day are repeated in song.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*As a Mother Comforts Her Child (ACS 1015)*

Sing twice

**As a mother comforts her child,  
so God will comfort you.  
As a hen gathers her brood,  
so Christ will gather you.  
As a wise one counsels her friend,  
so the Spirit will counsel you.  
The Trinity of love will be with you.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 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**

**P** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(After each petition, respond with, "receive our prayer.")*

*In our prayers with recent concerns:* Doris Bushard, Fred Ohles, Michael Dalton, Julius Swen and Shari Peters. *Those with ongoing concerns:* Elaine Kruse, Pastor Bill Peterson, Mary Brass, Vern Westberg, Richard Bouma, Gloria Van Ackeren, and Tracy Troutman. *Those who are*



part of our homebound community: Sylvia Kempf, M. Joyce Hansen, Donna Nelson, Cindy Schuster, Betty Miller, Jeanette Metteer, Dennis Schuster, Ralph Hayden, Rod Price and Margrett Wehland.

**P** Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C Amen.**

### THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS SHARED

*In an act of unity; blessing, and reconciliation, we greet one another with the Peace of Christ (Matthew 5:23-24)*

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*Sit*

### MUSICAL OFFERING

*Lead Me Lord (Samuel Sebastian Wesley)*

Adult Choir

*Stand*

### OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart. O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C **Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

*In our table prayer we offer thanks and praise for God's act of salvation and for the meal we are about to share.*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

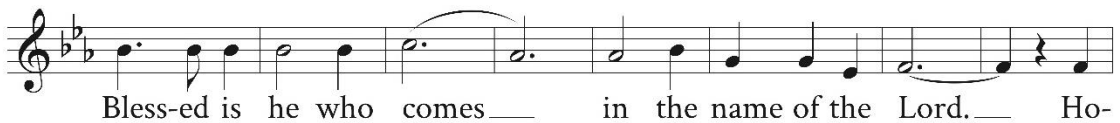
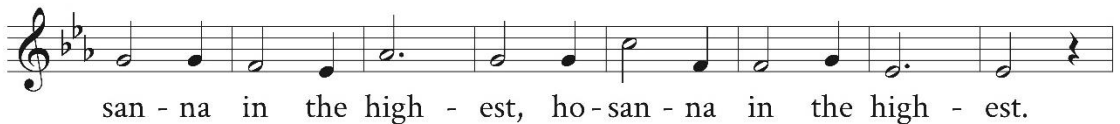
P Lift up your hearts.

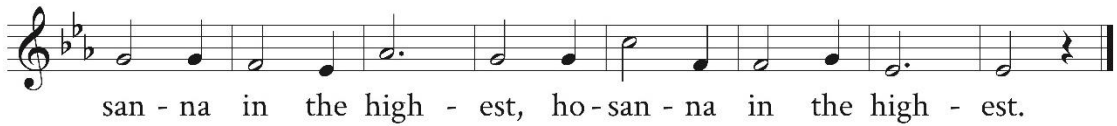
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed... *(here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
- C **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.**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

*Adapted from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in Life Together.*

- P As the grains of wheat have been gathered together in this bread, so the members of the community of faith are united in body and blood at the table of the Lord, so we will be together in eternity. Here joy in Christ and Christ's community is complete. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

**LAMB OF GOD**



Have                  mer - cy                  on                  us. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world. \_\_\_\_

Grant    us                  peace. \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*The Night in Which Christ Was Betrayed* (arr. Kisling)  
*Sincerely I Desire* (arr. Kisling)  
 Connie Kisling, accordion

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken* (ELW 494)

- 1 For the bread which you have broken,  
 for the wine which you have poured,  
 for the words which you have spoken,  
 now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us,  
 by your gift of peace restored,  
 by your call to heav'n above us,  
 hallow all our lives, O Lord.
- 3 With the saints who now adore you,  
 seated at the heav'nly board,  
 may the church still waiting for you  
 keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.
- 4 In your service, Lord, defend us;  
 in our hearts keep watch and ward;  
 in the world to which you send us

let your kingdom come, O Lord.

*Lord of Hopefulness (ELW 765)*

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
  
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
  
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
  
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*Stand*

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

C **Amen.**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray.

C **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

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Lead Me, Guide Me (ELW 768)*

#### *Refrain*

**Lead me, guide me, along the way;  
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.**

**1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
To help me over my weakest hour.  
Help me through the darkness thy face to see  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,  
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.  
I am putting all my trust in thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. *Refrain***

**3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
I am blind without thy light to see.  
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. Refrain**

**DISMISSAL**

**P** Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee* (Behnke)  
Brian Niebuhr, Organ

Lead Pastor: Erin Heidelberger  
Associate Pastor: Andrew Kitzing  
Cantor: Martha Tanner  
Livestream: Jim Overcash

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