



**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

Introduction

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” arr. John Helgen

GATHERING

Greeting

Luke 15:18

P: I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you.

All: **Amen**

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: **Amen.**

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.

All: **Amen**

P: Gracious God,

All: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we**

have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

All: Amen.

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn

Gathering Hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” ELW# 807

Verses 1, 2, and 3 – Large print words found on page 20



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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

All: **And also, with you.**

Please be seated

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Prayer of the Day

P: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading:

Joshua 5:9-12

Assisting Minister

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 32

Read responsively by whole verse

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

AM: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

All: ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

AM: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

All: ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

AM: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

All: ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

AM: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

All: ⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

AM: ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

All: ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

AM: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ’s resurrection. This is Paul’s strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he

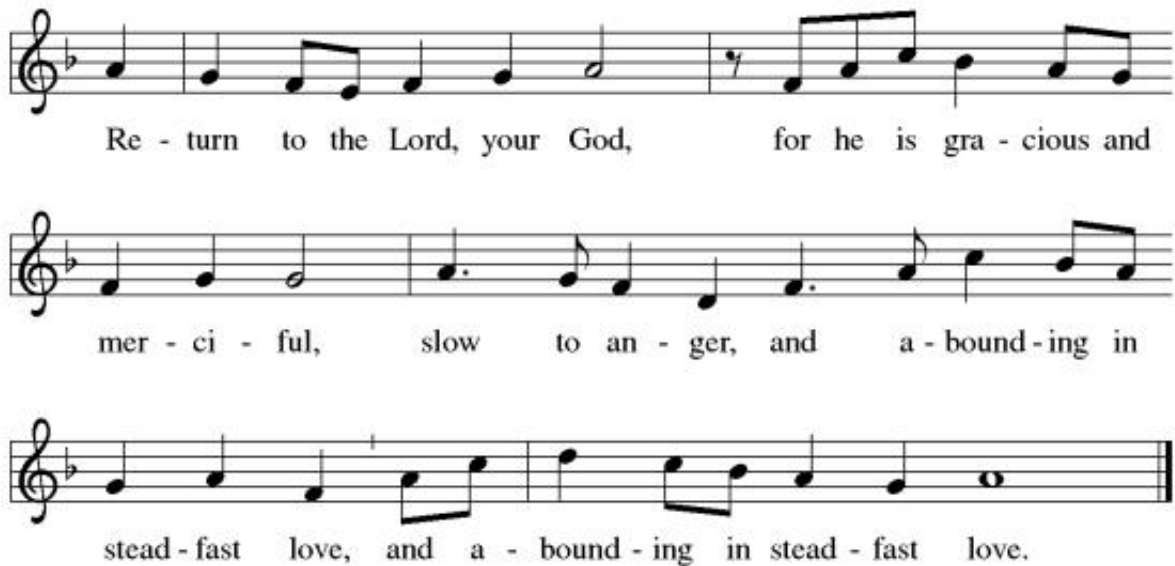
made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gospel reading

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 Luke the 13th chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: **Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} “There was a man who had two sons.
¹² The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them.
¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the

fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

The Prodigal Family

Pastor Mitch

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Hymn of the Day



Hymn of the Day “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW # 608

Verses 1, 2, and 3 - Large print words found on page 21



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Apostles 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.

Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of Intercession

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

AM: *Each prayer will end with:* God in your mercy,

All: **Receive our prayer.**

Please stand for the Sharing of the Peace

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

MEAL

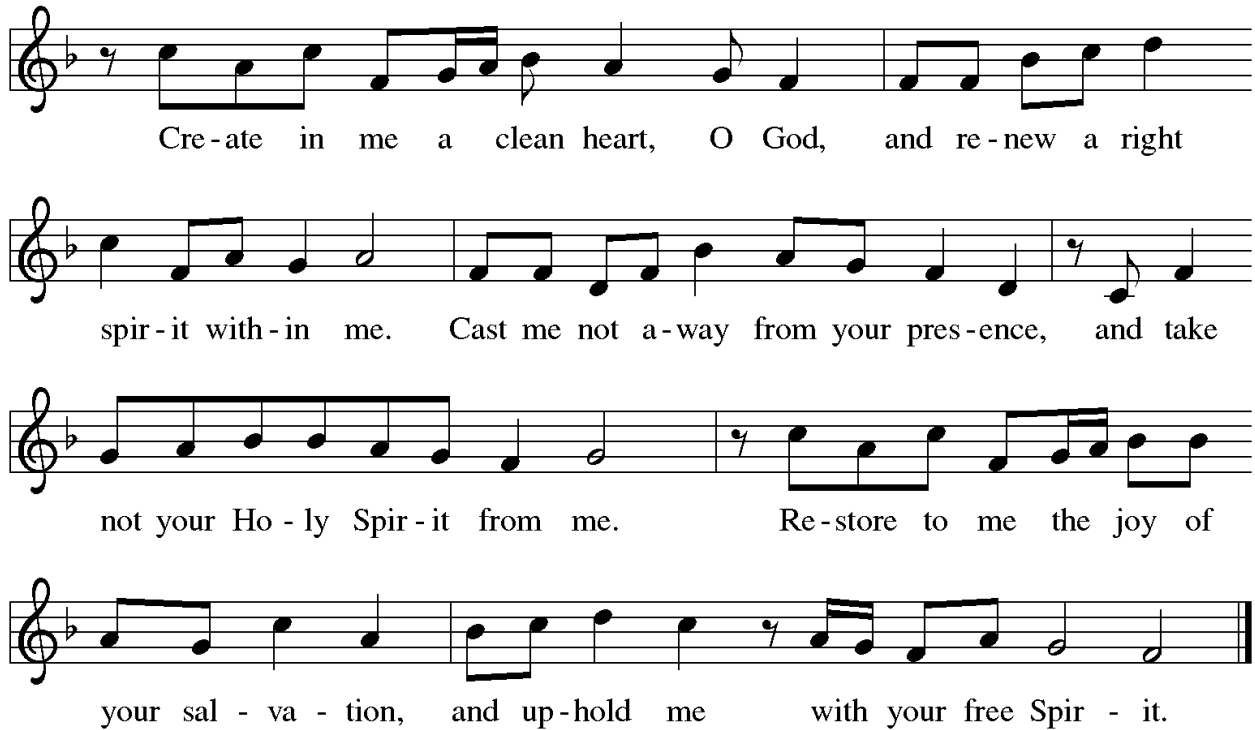
Offering Music

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

arr. John Carter

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Offering Song

Offering Song – Create in Me a Clean Heart



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 to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offertory Prayer

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You 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:

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

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

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

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

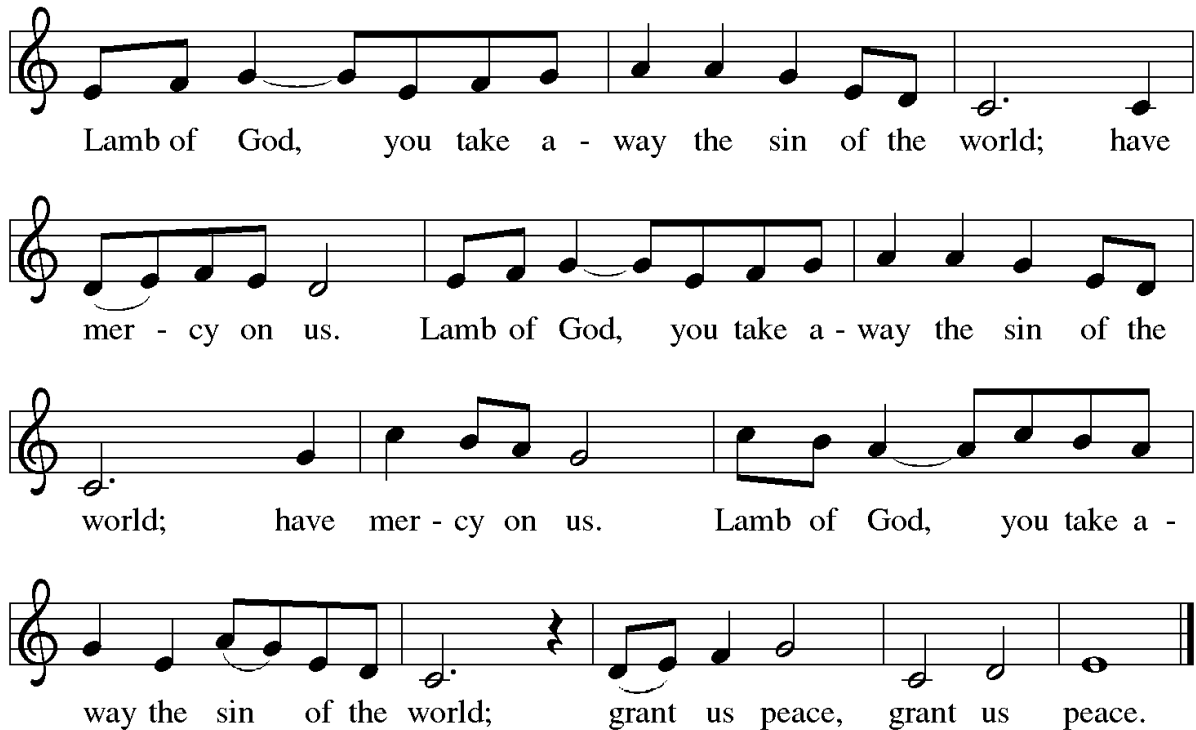
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

P: Come for all things are now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

Communion

*As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward.
Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to
receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the
communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to
receive the wine.*

*If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we
will bring communion to you.*

Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.

Communion Anthem "Jesus, the Very Thought of You" arr. Christina Shehi

Table Blessing

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

All: **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sending

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.

Sending Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

ELW# 631

Verses 1, 2 and 4 - Large printed words found on page 22



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

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. "May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short; Grace to risk something big for something good; and Grace to remember the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love."

William Sloan Coffin

All: Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude

"Allegro in G minor"

F. Walczynski

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mitch Kinsinger

Organ/Piano: Barbara Rossow

Assisting Ministers: Jon Helgason and Cheryl Hollman

Communion Assistants: Janine Almquist and Dana Nelson

Ushers: David Almquist and Elaine & Charles Rohrbach

Hospitality: Mary Kowitz and Janine Almquist

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic, Jim Persoon or Mary Kowitz

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Dave Balfanz, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Velta Krauze, Roxanne Larsen, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

April Birthdays:

Charles Rohrbach	April 4
Cynthia Young	April 6
Kenneth Wagner	April 9
John Ibach	April 15
Alyssa Ebert	April 15
Gary Clark	April 19
Cindie Peterson	April 20
Florence Rasmusson	April 24
Becky Grace	April 24
Michael Daley	April 28

April Anniversaries

Koreen and Richard Pedginski	April 4
Charles and Elaine Rorhbach	April 5
Marion and Sven Anderson	April 10
Mark and Amy Adams-Westin	April 22
Pat and Tom Schaber	April 26
David and Vicki O'Connor	April 29
Julie and Richard Anderson	April 30

Prayer Prompts for the Upcoming Week. Let us pray together for....

March 30	For what He knows we need
March 31	Blessing for the new month ahead
April 1	For April Birthdays
April 2	April Showers
April 3	Rainbows
April 4	America
April 5	Fun and Fellowship
April 6	Hope and Renewal

Today is our Congregation Gathering following the service – Please join us in the reception room following the service to talk about “What’s Next” with Pastor Mitch’s departure.

Soup and Scriptures – Wednesday, April 2

Soup and Scriptures - Wednesday, in the Reception Room. Soup at 11:30 and Scriptures starting at noon – 12:45. If you are unable to attend in person a Zoom Link is available.

Gathering Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fether
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Hymn of the Day

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain

"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

- 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

The Christ Flower



**Do you see the face of
Christ in this picture?
See the April Newsletter for more
on this story.**

Barbara Blake
Rt. 2, Box 166
Delano, MN 55328
612/972-3580

THE CHRIST FLOWER is a unique photograph that came about in a very simple way.

As an avid gardener and amateur photographer, I took many pictures of blooming flowers in my garden. When the prints were developed, my husband was showing them to a friend who dutifully looked through them. When he came upon this particular picture he said, "I didn't know you had a statue of Christ in your garden."

This simple statement has resulted in the sale of over 1,000 prints in 29 states and five foreign countries that I know of - Canada, England, Germany, Israel and the Phillipines.

Since an individual iris bloom may last two days in cool weather, I consider myself very fortunate to have been in the right spot at the right time. If I had taken this picture one hour later, stood a little to the left or right instead of kneeling, we would not be able to wonder at this evidence of God's presence.

Custom Picture Framing
Greg Rotter - 823-5597
3653 Colfax Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Arlington Hills Lutheran Church

1115 Greenbrier Street

St. Paul, MN 55106