

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023

Order of Worship: Holy Communion, Setting Four

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Congregational responses are printed in bold type.

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PRELUDE & BELLS *We observe a moment of silence for prayer and meditation.*

WELCOME *congregation responds and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

We stand OPENING HYMN

#323

“God Loved the World”

✠BRIEF RITE FOR CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS✠

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept for reflection and personal confession.

O God, our heavenly Father, **we confess that we have grievously sinned against you in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which we cannot fully understand, but which are known to you. We repent and are sorry for our offenses, and we ask of your great goodness to have mercy upon us, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive our sins, and graciously to help our infirmities. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on you, and has given his only son to die for you, and for his sake ✠ forgives you all your sins. To all who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on you his Holy Spirit. On the other hand, I declare to the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as you continue in your impenitence, God has not forgiven your sins, and will surely visit your iniquities upon you if you do not turn from your sinful ways and come to repentance and faith in Christ before the day of grace is ended.¹ **Amen.**

¹ Reclaim: Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, Introductory Edition (Minneapolis: Bronze Bow Publishing, 2006)

✠HOLY COMMUNION✠

APOSTOLIC 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.**

LITANY *Kyrie Eleison* Lord, Have Mercy!



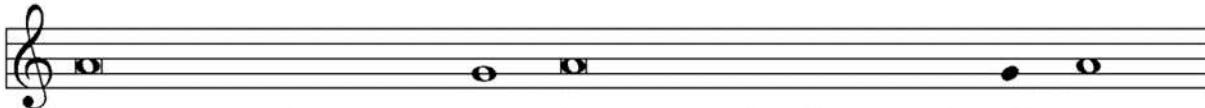
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



G Lord, have mer - cy.



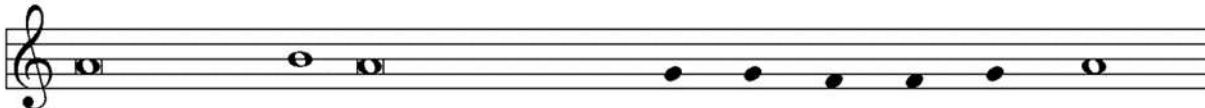
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

Next Steps Weekly Memory Verse: JOHN 3:14-15

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

We sit FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-54A

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE & MEDITATION: PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

**²My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

**⁴Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD himself watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

**⁶so that the sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

**⁸The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

We stand. GOSPEL VERSE: JOEL 2:13

P151

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.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 3:1-17

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

insert

“Wind, Wind”

We sit. SERMON

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Death & Resurrection

Wind Blown

We stand. PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

*means whole, entire Christian

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us lift our hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer, that he would be merciful to his people.

A brief silence

Dearest heavenly Father, we know John 3:16 by heart. Thank you for its truth. You so loved the world! You gave your only Son! We may have everlasting life, not death! Thank you for your love. By your Spirit, let our lives reflect that love – to you, and to people who don't yet know your love or believe your Word.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let the wind of your Spirit blow through your Church. Breathe your life and love through it, to revive everyone who is wounded and dying from the assaults of the sin, death, and the devil. Make the Church your “wounded healer,” able to draw broken and sinful people close to Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Keep watch over our persecuted brothers and sisters around the world when they cry to you for help. Preserve them from every evil. Grant repentance, forgiveness, and new life to their tormentors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nicodemus, a teacher in Israel, needed the challenge, wisdom, and words of life that only Jesus could give. Grant that all who seek to be pastors, teachers, and theologians should always sit at Jesus' feet. Fill them with his Spirit. Make them truth-filled teachers and trustworthy guides to everyone in their care.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill this congregation with the Holy Spirit, so that day by day, our hearts, minds, words, and works are reborn as instruments of your will. We pray for our mission to develop fully devoted followers of Jesus, to support Solid Rock our mission in action, & that you send us adults for baptism. Use us to bring your redeeming love to those who need it most.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for travelers, immigrants, and refugees. Protect them from cruel traffickers, false promises, and deadly dangers. Help our country find and enact wise, effective, safe, and charitable ways to welcome and assimilate those seeking a better life here.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach and guide the leaders of all nations, especially our own. Help them prefer integrity and wisdom to the allure of power or popularity. Make them watchful and protective toward those entrusted to their care. Guide them in paths of justice and righteousness, and help us all to walk in those paths.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be the shield and strength of those who risk their lives on our behalf. Do not let their foot be moved. Deliver them from evil. Use them to bring safety and help in dangerous situations . Restore them to their loved ones when their task is done. Grant honor to the fallen, healing to the wounded; and peace to all.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Watch over everyone who endures pain, sorrow, fear, doubt, loneliness, or despair, especially: {List}. Be their shade and shelter. Give hope to their hearts, health to their bodies, confidence to their minds, and faith to their souls.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank you for embracing our beloved dead in your everlasting arms. We pray for the families of {List}. Keep us steadfast in the faith. Guide us through this “barren land.” Feed us with the Bread of Heaven. Be our strength and shield. When we tread the verge of Jordan, bid our anxious fears subside. By the Cross of Jesus, land us safe on Canaan’s side. Fill us with songs and praises that, with all the redeemed, we sing to you forever.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also, with you.**

We briefly greet those in our row with the words “Peace be with you.”

We sit. OFFERING, OFFERTORY SONG & PRAYER- *Giving back to God*



First- and second-time guests are not expected to give a monetary offering; your Connection Card and your presence this morning are your gifts. Safe, secure & easy electronic giving is available on our website stpeterhallettsville.org/giving or by scanning this code.

We stand #186

“Create in Me”



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



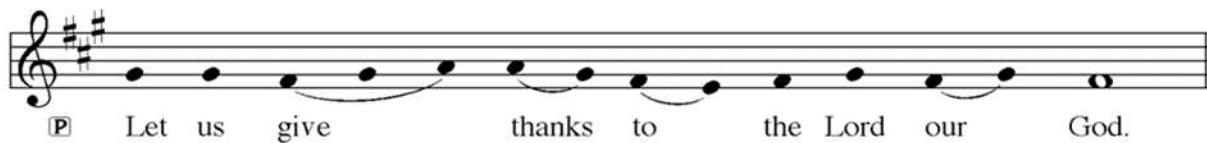
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, king of the universe. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary . . . and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

You are indeed holy . . .

In the night in which he was betrayed, . . . Do this for the remembrance of me.

All honor and glory are yours . . . now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

We sit. INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who have received Trinitarian baptism, trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Communion administration occurs by row at the railing, standing, or kneeling. To receive the host, extend your hand, palm up; the assisting minister will follow with the individual cups. For those unable to consume either bread or wine, the Church affirms the Lord's full presence in each element alone. Once you have received the elements, return to your seat by the side aisles. If you do not desire to receive Holy Communion, you may remain seated.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

p154 John 1:29



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.

We stand POST-COMMUNION BLESSING, SONG, & PRAYER

May the body and blood...keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

“Lord Now You Let Your Servant”

Luke 2:29-32



☩ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray... Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

#543

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Our mission is Christ's mission – "I will build my church"
by developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Opening Hymn; "God Loved the World" (#323)

Text by August Crull; Music by Edward Miller

**1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.**

**2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**3 If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.**

**4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.**

**5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!**

Hymn of the Day: "Wind, Wind" (OSB #255)

Text & Music by Jane & Betsy Clowe

Refrain

Wind, wind, blow on me

Wind, wind, set me free

Wind, wind, my father sent the blessed Holy Spirit.

1) Jesus told us all about you.

how we could not live without you,

with his blood the power bought to help us

live the life he taught. *Refrain*

2) When we're weary you console us;

when we're lonely you enfold us;

when in danger you uphold us,

blessed Holy Spirit. *Refrain*

3) When unto the Church you came;

it was not in your own but Jesus' name.

Jesus Christ is still the same.

He sends the Holy Spirit. *Refrain*

4) Set us free to love our brothers;

set us free to live for others

that the world the Son might see

and Jesus' name exalted be. *Refrain*

Closing Hymn: "Go, My Children, with My Blessing" (#543)

Text by Jaroslav. J. Vajda; Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams

**1 "Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.**

**Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.**

**In my love's baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.**

**Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own."**

**2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.**

**Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.**

**Here you heard my dear Son's story,
here you touched him, saw his glory.**

**Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure."**

**3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me.**

**Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.**

**Here my Spirit's power filled you,
here my tender comfort stilled you.**

**Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free."**