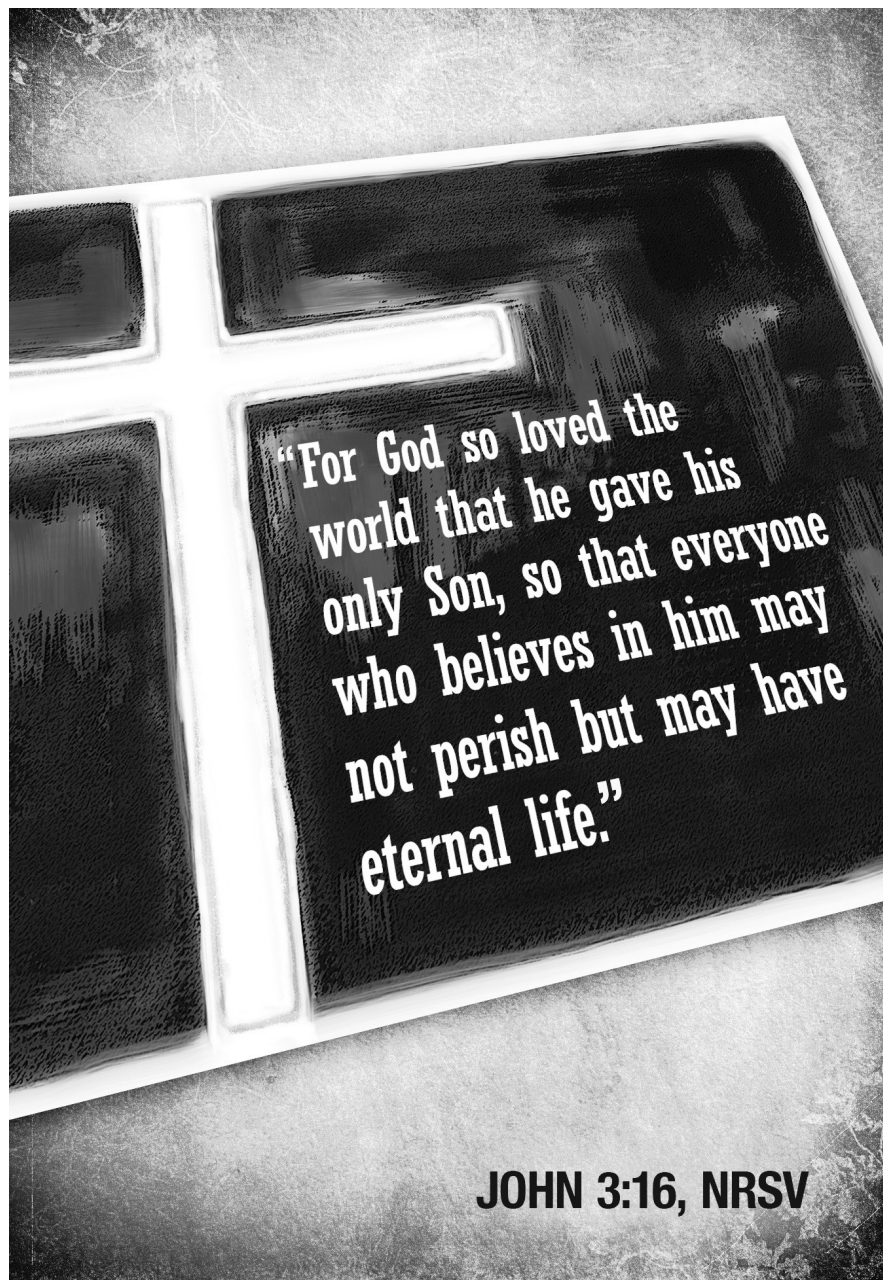


Sunday, March 10, 2024
The Fourth Sunday of Lent



Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West 6th St. Racine, WI

Special thanks to greeters Sally Nietzel and Thom Bodenbach, assisting minister Kathy Berg, lector Kylee Albright, communion assistants Kylee Albright and John Lehman, audio-visual technician Lynn Helmke, ushers Dave Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, altar guild Grace Deibert, Lynn Sinclair, Susan DiPasquale-Peterson, Katie Peterson, coffee/fellowship Jo Nissen, councilperson in charge David Knudson, and the Senior Choir, Gregory Berg and musicians Ann Heide, Elaine Lewis, and Betty Petersen for sharing their time and talent with us today.

GATHERING SONG

O the Joy

Gregory Berg



O the Joy! O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re-
ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn - ing dawn. O the
Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like
show-ers in the Spring-time as sure - ly as the morn - ing dawn. God does not de-sire burnt
of-fer-ings. God does not de-sire our sac-ri-fice. God most de-sires our hearts and lives so
that is what we bring, and that is why we sing: "O the Joy!" O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus.
Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as
sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn. O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the
Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

Amen

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.

KYRIE

Leader: Let us join as - one as we pray to the Lord, *Lord have mer - cy.* For the

peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion, *Lord have mer -*

cy. For this ho - ly house and for all who in faith gath - er to wor - ship in this place, that

we may be - hold a - glimpse of your face, *Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy,*

Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy. That all of the world may

know your peace, *Lord have mer - cy.* That the poor be re - stored and the

bound re - leased, *Lord have mer - cy.* That the life of the church may be

strong and se - cure anchored and cen - tered - sole - ly on you, and for guid - ance and grace in all that we do,

Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM “*John 3:16*” (GB) Senior Choir

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

³gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Congregation sings the refrain*)

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“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. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

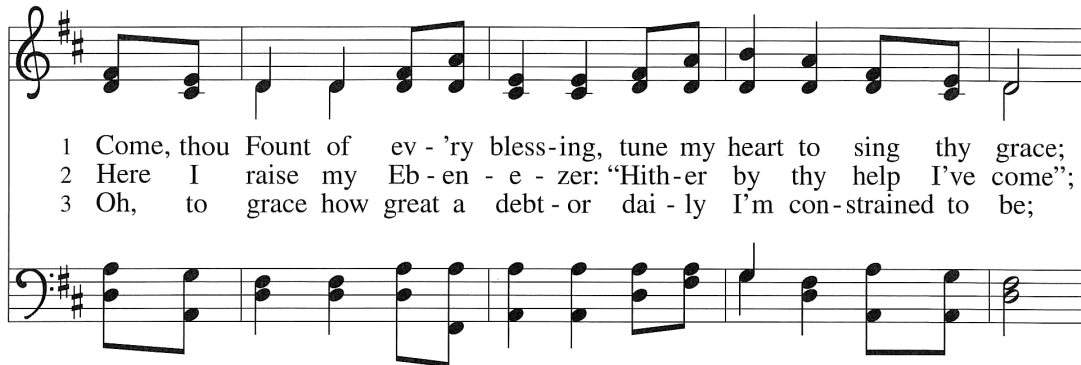
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.


SERMON Pastor Laura Fladen

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

807



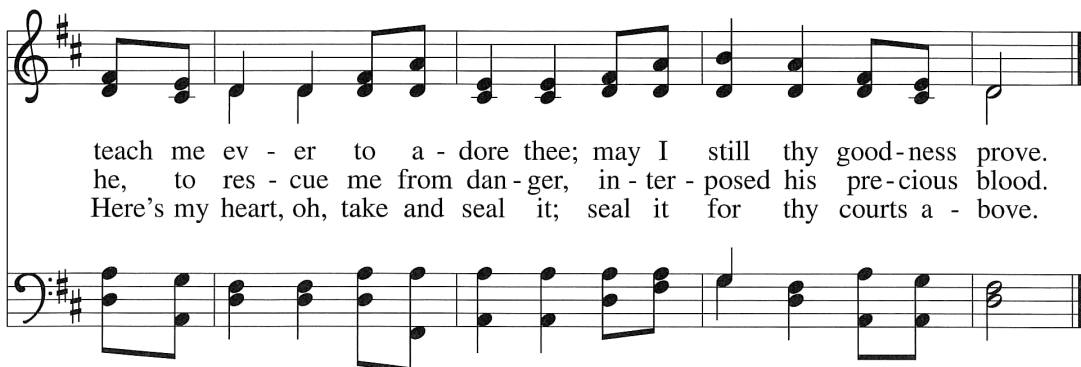
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



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

NETTLETON
 8787D

INSTALLATION OF NEW MEMBERS

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

COMMUNION

INVITATION SONG

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the Lord to the ta - ble of the...

Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

Leader: 1.Wine is poured and bread is bro - ken,
2.Have no fear or hes - i - ta - tion,

Words of Institution are spoken here

Hear the gos - pel pro - mise spo - ken.
Come with hope and ex - pec - ta - tion.

All: Come as fam - 'ly friends and neigh - bors. Come en - count - er Christ the Sa - vior.

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the

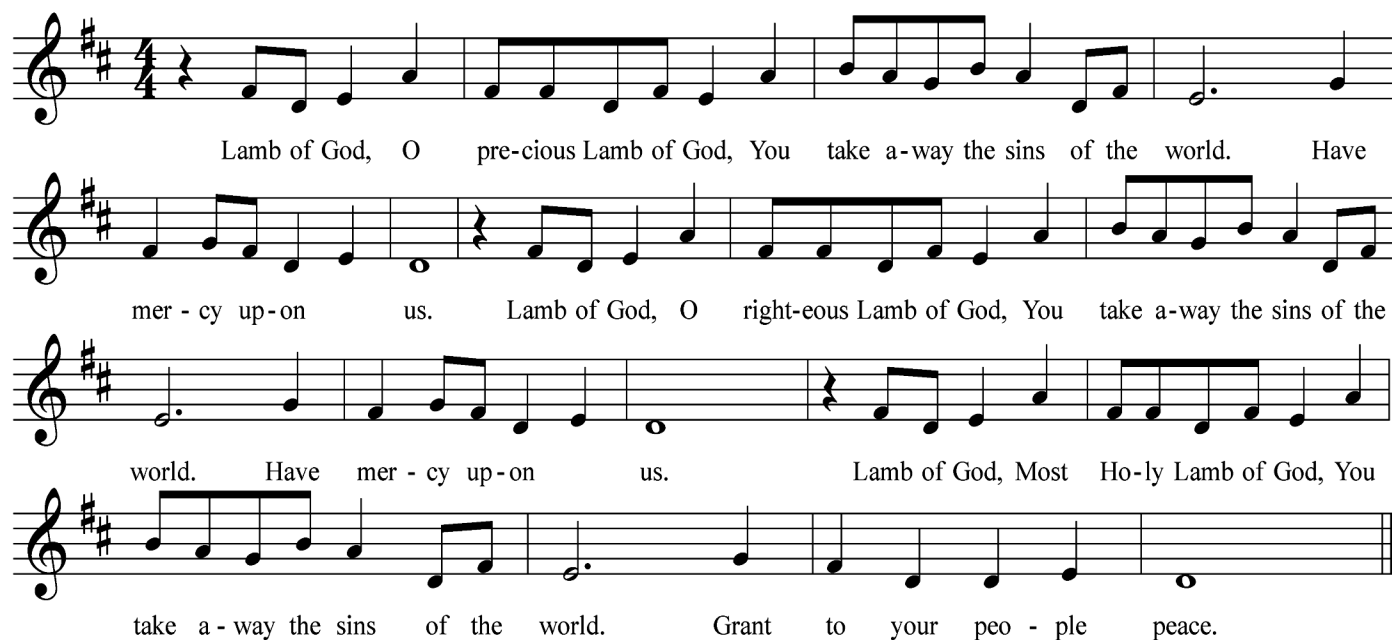
Lord. to the ta - ble of the... Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, O pre-cious Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world. Have
mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, O right-eous Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the
world. Have mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, Most Ho-ly Lamb of God, You
take a - way the sins of the world. Grant to your peo - ple peace.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



Thanks we bring to God a-bove for the bles-sings of His love, shown to us in count-less ways.

That is why we give our praise. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

Bles-sings sim-ple, bles-sings grand come from God's al-might-y hand, far be-yond what we de-serve.

Let our thanks and praise be heard. Let us bless the Lord. Let us bless the Lord.

All we are and all we own comes from God and God a-lone!

All the bles-sings we re-ceive, far more than we can con-ceive, lead us then to give and share

with the need-y ev'-ry-where. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray (brief silence)

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever, and You walk with us through every chapter of life. Wherever we are in life's journey - childhood, middle age, or in our later years - help us to know Your abiding presence and guiding hand. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and extends to all people of all faiths. Deepen our understanding and appreciation of religious traditions other than our own, that we might more peacefully coexist with each other and together build a more just and peaceful world. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and inspires us to live more kindly and compassionately. Keep us from turning our eyes away from the poor, the hungry, or the homeless. Give us open eyes and open hearts to truly see the needs of others and to understand how we can be instruments of Your grace. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and in You we find true abundance. Foster in us an appreciation of life's simplest and most fundamental blessings. Help us to relinquish everything in our lives that draws us away from You, and replace our envy with sincere gratitude for all we have been given. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and embraces the whole world and all creatures who live upon it. Guide us to wiser choices in every facet of our daily lives, that the fragile beauty of the earth may be restored for the generations who come after us. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and enlivens the work of your holy church. Guide and bless this congregation that we may be attentive to one another and to the needs of the wider community. Help each of us to prayerfully consider how we might contribute to our collective ministry, in gratitude for all we have been given. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving God, Your mercy endures forever and sustains us through whatever heartache we experience in our lives. Draw near to those who are ill, injured, exhausted, discouraged, lonely, or in the grips of addiction or chronic pain. Today we name before you..... Walk with them - and help all of us to be patient, wise and sensitive caregivers to each other. Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Hold us close, Loving God, and continue to shower us with your tender mercies and grace, made perfect in Christ Jesus our Lord,
Amen.

BLESSING

Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

God Be with You Till We Meet Again 536

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet a - gain,
 meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we
 meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

GOD BE WITH YOU
 98 89 and refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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Announcements

Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar today were given by Jo Nissen in memory of Vallery Peterson.

Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge for coffee, a treat and conversation after the service.

Communion By Intinction

All are welcome to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into chalice of wine). There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available also in the center. We understand that not everyone will be comfortable with this practice yet, so the individual wafer/juice cups are still available on the tables at the back of the sanctuary if you prefer to take communion in your pew.

Receiving New Members Today

We are delighted to welcome these new members to the HCLC family this morning:

Eunice Carlson, , Laura Kozenski, Christine Monreal, Lyndsey & Kevin Newton, and James, Sally Neitzel, Mark & Lorrie Peterson, Alyssa & James Ricchio, Luke & Vincent, Angela & David Singley, and Joanne Steeves.

Youth Ministry Zone

Youth Gathering Participants

We'll be gathering together on **Sunday, March 10th from 11:00 - 12:00** in the youth room!

We're hoping you're all able to join us, but please let Pastor Laura know if you're not able to attend.

6th- 8th Grade Youth Group

All of our 6th – 8th Graders are invited to join Pastor Laura and Pastor Mark on **Sunday, March 17th, from 11:00-12:00** for an awesome and amazing time of fun, fellowship and learning. Snacks will be provided.

Lenten Suppers and Midweek Worship

During Lent we get together on Wednesday evenings for a meal at 6:00 p.m. This Wednesday the meal will be burgers and brats. A freewill offering is collected to support the youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. After the meal, we have a Lenten worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The focus of Pastor Mark's sermons is "Where Is God When It Hurts?".

Palm Sunday Brunch

On Sunday, March 24th we will gather for brunch after worship. Last year we had a Palm Sunday brunch instead of Easter brunch, and it worked very well, especially for many who had Easter plans with their families. The brunch menu will include egg bakes, sausage, pancakes, and fruit. There is a sign up sheet in the lounge if you are able to contribute an egg bake, some fruit, or a gallon of milk or orange juice. A free will offering will be collected to help support the youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Come for a delicious meal and some great fellowship.

Attendance March 3, 2024 - 117

Food Pantry

There is a continuing need for help with groceries in our community and our pantry is serving large numbers. In March the pantry is asking for donations of peanut butter, egg noodles, chicken noodle soup, side dishes, instant mashed potatoes, cereal, and jelly. They can always use brown paper grocery bags and clean, lightly used plastic shopping bags. We received a large number of Bibles from the Gideons, but continue to look for children's Bible storybooks and inspirational books, and faith-based adult books.

We weigh all donations that come in. If you bring items down to the pantry, please look for the white basket with the red bow and put your items in the basket. We are extremely grateful to all of you who pick up an extra item or two when you shop, make monetary donations, or volunteer to come in and work with our clients or pack groceries. Your contributions are what make this ministry possible!

HCLC Scholarship

We are so pleased to be announcing the establishment of a scholarship for Holy Communion students moving on to higher education after high school! To qualify, you must be a Holy Communion member, accepted and attending an undergraduate university, college, or technical school for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a one-time scholarship (\$500) for youth who have been active in the life of faith (Sunday School, Confirmation, Volunteering) at Holy Communion. There is a short application requirement. Applications should be returned to the church office at hclc.office@gmail.com by April 30. Applications will be reviewed, and we will require a class schedule to be submitted before funds will be released. Any questions? Please contact Lynn Helmke at lynnhelmke226@gmail.com.

Looking For a Lift Recliner

Is there anyone in the congregation who has a lift recliner they are not using that a cancer patient could borrow for several months? Please contact the office or Amy Larsen at amylarsen2406@att.net if you can help.

Prayer Team

The HCLC Prayer Team wants to pray for you! Share your joys, sorrows and concerns and your brothers and sisters in Christ will hold you in prayer. There is power and blessing in praying for each other. Send your prayer requests to amylarsen2406@att.net.

If you would like to become part of the prayer team and receive the prayer request emails once or twice a week, please contact the office or Amy Larsen. And of course, you can always call or email the office to have a name added to the prayers on Sunday morning. For confidentiality reasons we only use first names for our prayer emails and the prayers on Sunday mornings. **Prayer changes things!**

Book Club

For March the book club is reading, The Five Wounds, by Kirstin Valdez Quade. This stunning debut novel is about a New Mexican family's extraordinary year of love and sacrifice. Amadeo Padilla is about to be Jesus in the Good Friday procession. When his 15-year-old daughter shows up on his doorstep, and she is pregnant. Vivid, tender, funny, and beautifully rendered, the novel spans the baby's first year as five generations of the Padilla family converge. The author conjures characters that will linger long after the final page.

We will meet on March 13th at 10:00 on Zoom. To get the Zoom link, please contact Julie Burton at jaburton5914@gmail.com. If you have any questions, call Karen Larson at 262-989-5171. We will read Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley for April.

March Birthday Club

Everyone with a March birthday is invited to join us in the lounge this **Thursday, March 14th** at 10:00 a.m. for a cup of coffee, a birthday donut, a cup of coffee, and some fun conversation as we celebrate you! Hope to see you there!

Third Tuesday Bible Study

Since February was cancelled, the study of the Gospel of Mark will again focus on Mark 9:41 to Mark 9:50. It begins with the promise that any assistance given to others is rewarded. But the next sentence says that any “stumbling block” put before a child should be severely punished (pages 265-267). The next verses (9:43-48) are also very severe. If your hand, or foot, or eye proves to be a “stumbling block” cut it off! Wow!

Then a more positive message comes in Mark 9:49-50 (pages 271-274). “Have salt in yourselves, and so live at peace with each other.” Barclay tells us that Christianity came into “a bored and weary world” (page 273). It was also a very corrupt world (page 274). Mark is telling new Christians to live at peace adding “the thrill and the purity of the Christian life” (page 274). What a challenging and stimulating study ahead of us.

March 19th the Third Tuesday Bible Study will meet by zoom from 10:00 to 11:30. Contact Julie Burton for the zoom link - jaburton5914@gmail.com

Finance Update

<u>January 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date 2024</u>	
Revenue:	\$67,532.80	Revenue:	\$67,532.80
Expenses:	\$49,090.16	Expenses:	\$49,090.19
Net Income:	\$18,442.64	Net Income:	\$18,442.64

Upcoming Worship, Fellowship and Education Opportunities

March 10 - 9:30 Worship & Sunday School

11:00 Youth Gathering Meeting

11:00 First Communion Class

March 11 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study

1:00 Food Pantry

March 12 - 1:00 Quilters

March 13 - 10:00 Book Club (Zoom)

6:00 Lenten Meal (burgers and brats)

7:00 Lenten Worship

March 14 - 10:00 Birthday Club

March 15 - April Chalice Deadline

1:00 Food Pantry

March 17 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School

11:00 6th - 8th Grade Youth Group

March 18 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study

1:00 Food Pantry

March 19 - 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study (zoom)

March 20 - 6:00 Lenten Meal (soup)

7:00 Lenten Worship

March 22 - 1:00 Food Pantry

These are the lyrics of the anthem the choir is singing this morning.

John 3:16 Gregory Berg

Shifting sands beneath our feet.

Simple truths in sad retreat.

So little to be certain of
beyond our Savior's gracious love.

REFRAIN:

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM

SHALL NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

Winds of hatred in the air.

Sorrows more than we can bear.

Bewildered we might always be
except for one true certainty - REFRAIN

So we stand upon this Rock,

safe within the Shepherd's flock.

Dismayed and shaken, yet secure.

Bewildered, yet completely sure - REFRAIN