

Sunday, March 23, 2025  
The Third Sunday of Lent



*A man had a fig tree planted in  
his vineyard; and he came  
looking for fruit on it ...*

LUKE 13:6, NRSV

**Holy Communion Lutheran Church**  
**A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve**  
**2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin**

*Special thanks to greeter Christine Monreal, assisting minister Lana Buhler, lector Joan Fergus, communion assistants Linda Godson and Jim Buhler, audio/visual technician Lynn Helmke, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, altar guild Grace Deibert, Lynn Sinclair, Sue DiPasquale Peterson and Katie Peterson, coffee fellowship Shelley Lussmyer, councilperson in charge Polly Timmerman, Gregory Berg and the Senior Choir, for sharing their time and talents with us today.*

**PRELUDE** (*A quiet time of reflection, to prepare for worship.*)

**OPENING HYMN**

**Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty**

777

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.  
 2 "Come to me, all trav - lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.  
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.  
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
 I would be your trusted friend.  
 Come and seek the gift I offer,  
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
 lonely ways no longer roam.  
 Come and take the gift I offer,  
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939  
 Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985  
 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN  
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

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

Assembly  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have  
For the reign of God, and for  
mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the  
Lord. For your  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your  
word, let us pray to the Lord.  
Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have  
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.  
mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen  
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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM "Justice and Joy" (Brian Wren) Senior Choir** (see the lyrics on the back of the bulletin)

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: PSALM 63:1-9**

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.
- <sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> **when I remember you up-on my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## **GOSPEL VERSE**

**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: Luke 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.<sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?<sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.<sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.<sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Laura Fladten**

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# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH RETURN TO WORSHIP

### APOSTLE'S 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.**

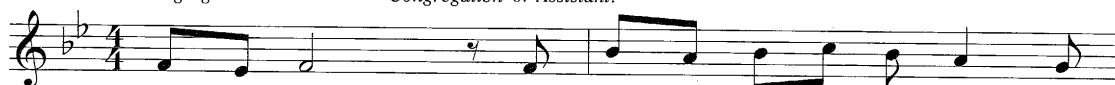
# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## 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.


## LAMB OF GOD

*Congregation:*                      *Congregation or Assistant:*



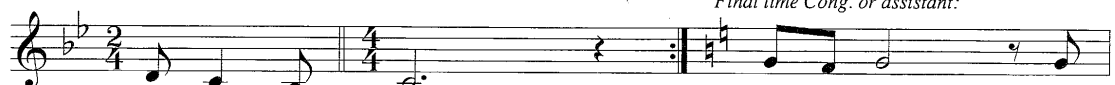
Lamb of God,                      you take a - way the sin of the  
\* you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*




world:  
fear:                      have mer - cy on us,                      mer - cy on us,  
peace:  
love:

*Final time Cong. or assistant:*




mer - cy on us.                      Lamb of God,                      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of the world:                      grant us peace,



grant us peace,                      grant us peace.



## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen,  
keep and unite us, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION HYMN



1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -  
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -  
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -



ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:  
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:



thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for - ev - er!  
thanks be to you for -



Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

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## PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN MAY GO TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

## OFFERING

## OFFERTORY

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen  
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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Creator God, You have given us an amazing world of beauty and bounty. Forgive us for treating it carelessly and selfishly, and bring us to a new understanding of how we can cherish the earth and restore what we have broken. And remind us that the gifts of the earth are meant to be shared. Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, You intend for all people everywhere to be treated justly, and to have their basic needs met. Forgive us for our indifference to the plight of the needy, and foster in us a sincere and deeper concern for anyone for whom life is a struggle. We pray for those agencies and ministries in our community that seek to make a difference in people's lives ... including our own food pantry, HALO, and the Racine Literacy Council. Bless their life-changing work, and inspire us to do what we can to be part of that work. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, You call us to walk with humility - and to regard one another through understanding eyes. Guard us from quick, angry judgmentalism, and teach us to see our common humanity even in those who seem very different from us. Expand our notion of who is our neighbor and of how you would have us treat one another. We also pray for greater understanding between nations - especially those nations that find themselves at odds with each other. In places racked by conflict, show the way to a just and lasting peace. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Restorative God, You promise to be with us in life's sternest challenges and to help us to bear life's harshest burdens. Extend your loving embrace to all who are hurting in any way ..... discouraged or despairing .... or struggling with hurts in body, mind, or spirit. Today we name..... Grant grace to all for whom we are feeling special concern - and grant grace as well to those who are entrusted with their care. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

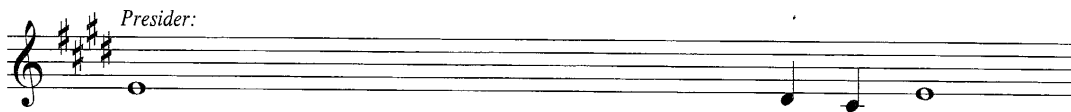
Illuminating God, it is Your will that we never stop growing .... never stop learning ..... and never stop striving to be more faithful. As we continue our Lenten journey, bless us with sincere humility - and guard us from the arrogance that would draw us away from You. Shake us free from our complacency and show us the way to the truly abundant life You intend for all of Your children. Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear all of our prayers - both spoken and unspoken - and grant us grace sufficient for all of our needs, through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING



May God bless us and keep us.  
May God's face shine on us and be gracious to us.  
May God look on us with favor and + give us peace.



A - men.

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-  
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in  
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.  
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the lounge.*

**Announcements**



**Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar this morning are in loving memory of Stan Reske, given by Joni Reske, and in memory of Cynthia Murphy and Michael Pierce, given with love by Jim & Sally Neitzel.

**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.

**Communion By Intinction**

All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into the chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available 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 feel more comfortable taking communion in your pew.

In-person attendance Sunday, March 16 - 127 Online attendance - 29  
 In-person attendance Wednesday, March 19 - Online attendance -

### **High School Youth Group**

The High School Youth Group will meet from 5:00 - 6:30 tonight. Depending on numbers we will either cook dinner together or dine out. Please let Pastor Laura know if you will be there!

### **Ketchup Club**

The Ketchup Club will gather for lunch at 11:30 on Tuesday, March 25th at The Red Onion, 555 Main St. These casual gatherings are a good way to catch up with old friends and make some new ones! Please let Pastor Laura or the office know if you will be there (pastorlaura.hclc@gmail.com, office.hclc@gmail.com) so we can be sure to have a big enough table. If you unexpectedly find yourself free, please come and join us and we will happily make room for you!

### **Cooking With Class, April 29th**

Stacy Joers will be here at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, April 29th for another cooking class! The menu this time is in honor of the Kentucky Derby. Stacy will make old fashioned pimento cheese with crackers, shrimp and grits, jalapeno cheddar cornbread with hot honey, and chocolate pecan pie with bourbon whipped cream. The cost is \$25.00 and must be paid before April 22nd. Get your reservation in to the office soon before the class sells out! Contact Marianne Jensen, marjen722@yahoo.com with any questions.

### **Holy Communion Honey Do List**

Are you looking to volunteer without having to attend meetings? Do you like to do things on your own time? Do you enjoy light painting, clean up and fixing things? If so, you are the perfect fit for tackling things on the Holy Communion Honey-Do list. We could use some help with the following:

- painting
- light wall repair
- general cleaning
- organizing

If you are interested, please contact Gregg Albright at 262-989-6432 or kygregg@mac.com. Thank you!

### **Diaper Ministry**

Thank you to Gregg and Kylee Albright for sponsoring this month's Diaper Depot delivery in celebration of Evelyn (Eevee) Albright's 2nd birthday. The Depot provides available diapers in varying sizes for \$30/month. Sponsorship is a huge help in providing diapers and wipes to serve families in need. If you would like to sponsor a specific month in honor or memory of someone, please let us know. Also, if you have children's books at home you no longer need, please bring them in for the diaper ministry. Our next distribution dates are March 26th from 4-6pm and April 9th from 11am-1pm. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with any questions. Thank you!

### **Prayer Requests**

Our prayer team wants to pray for you and all those you lift up in prayer. Do you ever think or say, "God please help me!" (Or help my mom, my child, a friend or the world.) Perhaps someone is weighing heavy on your mind, is ill or having surgery. Are you thankful or joyful for an occurrence in your life? Please share these thoughts using the wooden prayer box placed at the back of the church. You can also call or email the church office with prayer requests or email them to Amy Larsen, 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. **Prayer changes things!**

### **Food Pantry**

For the month of March the pantry is asking for donations of 1 lb. bags or boxes of rice, egg noodles, chicken noodle soup, jelly, spaghetti, and macaroni & cheese. We got a very small delivery from the government this month so are especially grateful to all who bring in food or give monetary gifts to the pantry, and extremely thankful to those who volunteer to work in the pantry! We could not continue this ministry without your help! We can use donations of lightly used plastic shopping bags and brown grocery bags. If you have greeting cards or pencils and pens at home that you will not use, our clients are very grateful to receive them. Thank you!

### **HCLC Quilters**

Our quilters meet on the second and fourth Tuesday at 1:00pm to work on quilts for Lutheran World Relief. These quilts are sent all around the world to provide warmth and comfort when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes. The quilters can use donations of lightly used, full, queen, or king size flat sheets as quilt backs and monetary donations to purchase quilt batting. Contact Linda Holmquist, 633-0032, or Evelyn Lajiness, 634-0527, for more information.

### **Noisy Offering Impact**

A total of \$519.22 which includes the January Noisy Offering collections (\$239.09) and February Noisy Offering collections (\$280.13) was sent to Lutheran World Relief for helping victims of the California wildfires.

### **Upcoming Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service Opportunities**

Sunday, March 23 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School  
5:00 High School Youth Group

Monday, March 24 - 10:00 Bible Study  
12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, March 25 - 11:30 Ketchup Club at the Red Onion  
1:00 Quilters

Wednesday, March 26 - 4:00 Diaper Ministry  
6:00 Lenten Supper  
7:00 Lenten Worship

Friday, March 28 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Sunday, March 30 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School

Monday, March 31 - 10:00 Bible Study  
12:30 Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 2 - 6:00 Lenten Supper  
7:00 Lenten Worship

Sunday, April 6 - 9:30 Worship/Sunday School  
11:00 Family First Communion Class

Monday, April 7 - 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study  
12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, April 8 - 1:00 HCLC Quilters

### **Finance Update**

February Finance Numbers	Year to Date Finance Numbers
Revenue: \$42,898.84	Revenue: \$ 99,796.50
Expense: \$44,134.23	Expense: \$103,945.99
Net Income: \$(1,295.39)	Net Income: \$(4,149.49)

## **"Justice and Joy" (Brian Wren)**

For everyone born, a place at the table.  
For everyone born, fresh water and bread.  
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing.  
For everyone born, a star over head.

REFRAIN: And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,  
revising their roles, deciding to share.  
With wisdom and grace dividing the power.  
For woman and man, a world that is fair. REF.

For young and for old, a place at the table.  
A voice to be heard- A part of the song.  
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled.  
For young and for old, the right to belong. REF.

For just and unjust, a place at the table.  
Rejected or wronged with need to forgive.  
In anger, in hurt, a gesture of mercy.  
For just and unjust, a new way to live. REF.

For everyone born, a place at the table.  
To live without fear, and simply to be.  
To work, to engage, to witness and worship.  
For everyone born, a right to be free. REF.