

# ORDER FOR WORSHIP

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*  
*March 5, 2023*

## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to acknowledge this land on which St. Philip's Lutheran Church is located. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples. We are grateful to have the opportunity to meet, worship, and serve on this land.

### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✙ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

#### GATHERING SONG

"This Is the Spirit's Entry Now"

ELW 448

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | This is the Spirit's entry now:<br>the water and the word,<br>the cross of Jesus on your brow,<br>the seal both felt and heard.           | 3 | Let water be the sacred sign<br>that we must die each day<br>to rise again by his design<br>as foll'wers of his way.                   |
| 2 | This miracle of life reborn<br>comes from the Lord of breath;<br>the sinless one from life was torn;<br>our life comes through his death. | 4 | Renewing Spirit, hear our praise<br>for your baptismal pow'r<br>that washes us through all our days.<br>Come, cleanse again this hour. |

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933  
Text © Thomas E. Herbranson, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

#### 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.**

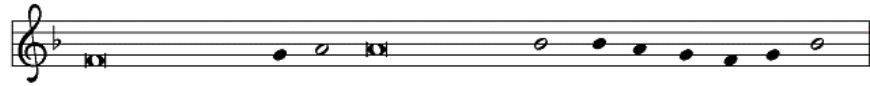
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



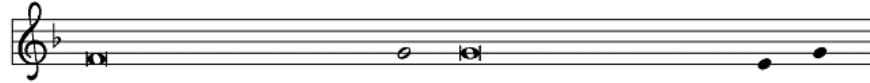
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, 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 uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



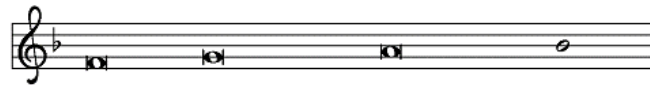
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Marcia Powers-Dunlop

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING

Confirmand

#### ***Genesis 12:1-4a***

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I 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."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

### MUSIC

"Joyful Noise" handbells ringing: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent", Arr. M. R. Tucker

### SECOND READING

Confirmand

#### ***Romans 4:1-5, 13-17***

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

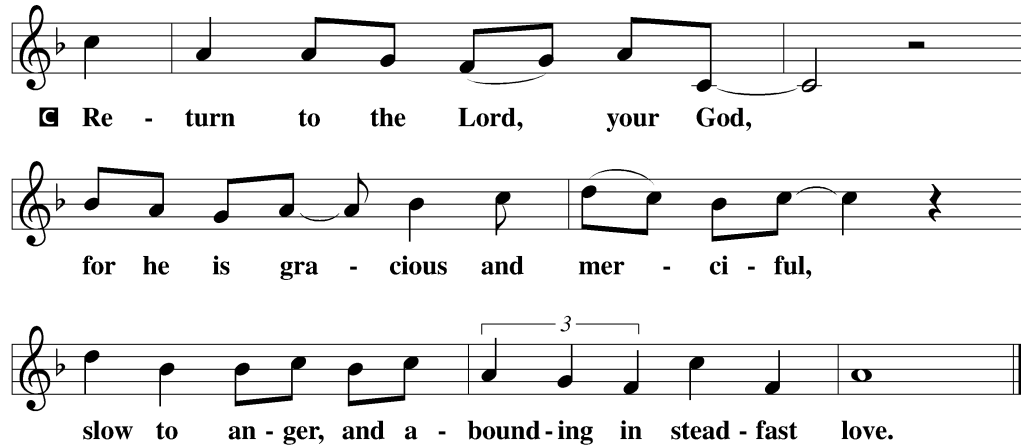
<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For 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, <sup>17</sup>as 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
Thanks be to God.

### 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.

### GOSPEL

#### John 3:1-17

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He 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.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus 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?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The 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.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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.

**SERMON**

Rev. Tuula Van Gaasbeek

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Waterlife”

ELW 457

1 Before I can remember  
the covenant was sealed  
with Father, Son, and Spirit,  
in water was revealed.  
The cleansing was for certain,  
with water and the Word;  
gentle words were spoken,  
in heaven they were heard.

a loving place to start:  
Christ began the singing  
that swells within my heart.  
his love became my calling,  
his life my ministry.  
His name is my adoption  
into his family. *Refrain*

**REFRAIN**

They were singing waterlife,  
beginning life,  
waterlife all my life,  
waterlife, Spirit life, waterlife.

3 My hope and expectation  
for true community  
begins with resurrection,  
his death and life in me.  
His Spirit fills the Body:  
his church through water sees  
promise for tomorrow,  
his waterlife in me. *Refrain*

2 A simple sweet beginning,

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition ends: Merciful God,  
Response: **receive our prayer.**

Janelle

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**SHARING OF PEACE**

**LENTEN 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.

## PRAYER

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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. Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

The earth is full of your glory.

**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and amen.

**Amen and amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## LAMB OF GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

**COMMUNION HYMN**  
 "As the Wind Song"

ACS943

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 As the wind song through the trees,<br/>         as the stirring of the breeze,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God,<br/>         as the heart made strangely warm,<br/>         as the voice within the storm,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God.<br/>         Never seen, ever known where this wind has<br/>         blown<br/>         bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,<br/>         as the dancing tongues of fire,<br/>         as the soul's most deep desire,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God.</p> | <p>2 As the rainbow after rain,<br/>         as the hope that's born again,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God,<br/>         as the green in the spring,<br/>         as a kite on a string,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God,<br/>         making worlds that are new,<br/>         making peace come true,<br/>         bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,<br/>         as the rising of the yeast,<br/>         as the wine at the feast,<br/>         so it is with the Spirit of God.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931–2020  
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### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbours and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

### SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### BLESSING

God, the giver of love, ✙ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

"How Firm a Foundation"

ELW 796

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,<br>is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!<br>What more can he say than to you he has said<br>who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?             | 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,<br>my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.<br>The flames shall not hurt you; I only design<br>your dross to consume and your gold to refine."              |
| 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,<br>for I am your God and will still give you aid;<br>I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to<br>stand,<br>upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand." | 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall<br>prove<br>my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;<br>and then, when gray hairs shall their temples<br>adorn,<br>like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne." |

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

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