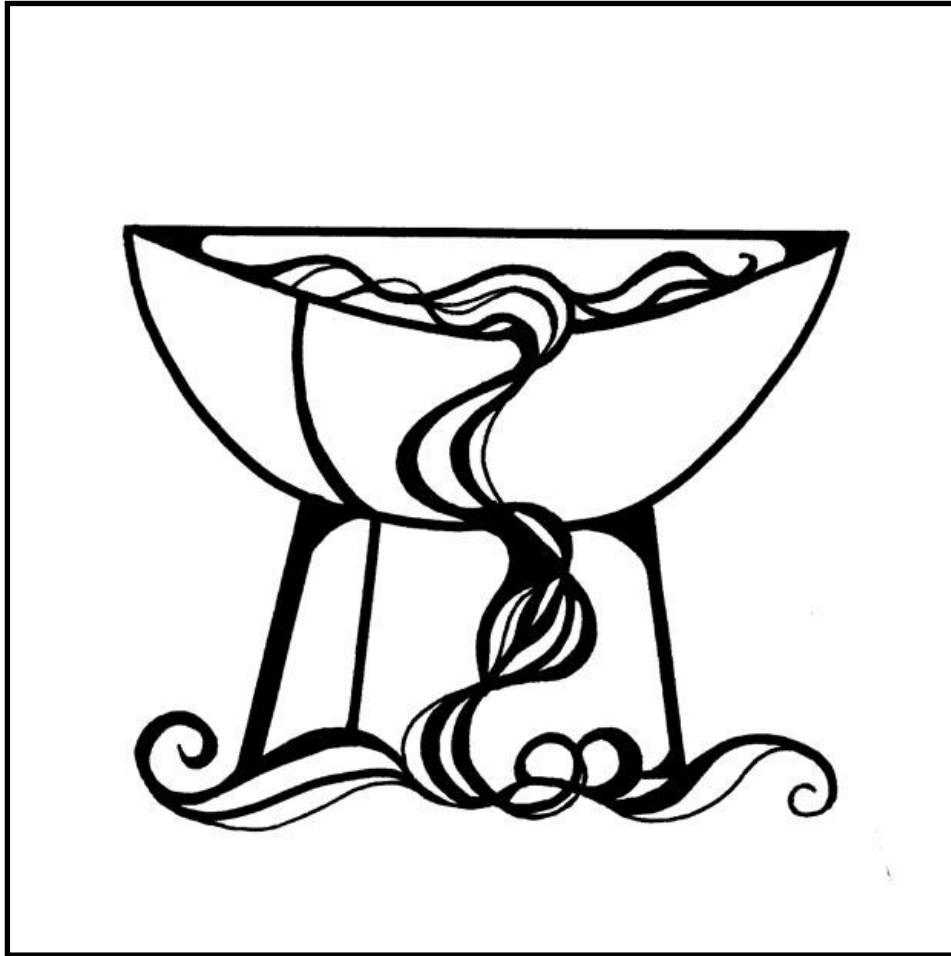


Ebenezer Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023
8:30am & 10:30am

+ GATHERING +

Preservice Music

Recollection
Handbells

Sandra Eithum

Welcome and Announcements

We stand as able.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

All stand and face the processional cross.

Gathering Hymn ELW 673 God, Whose Almighty Word

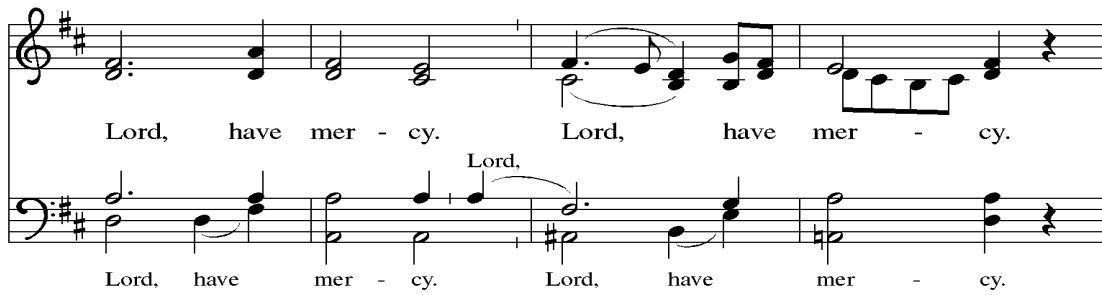
ITALIAN HYMN

Greeting

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

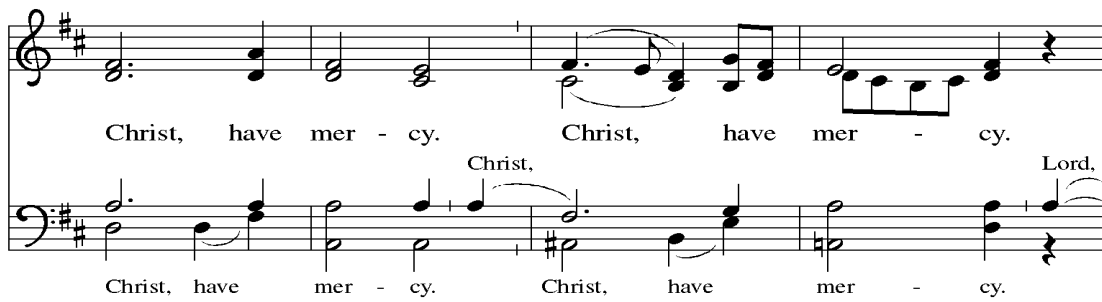
And also with you.

Kyrie



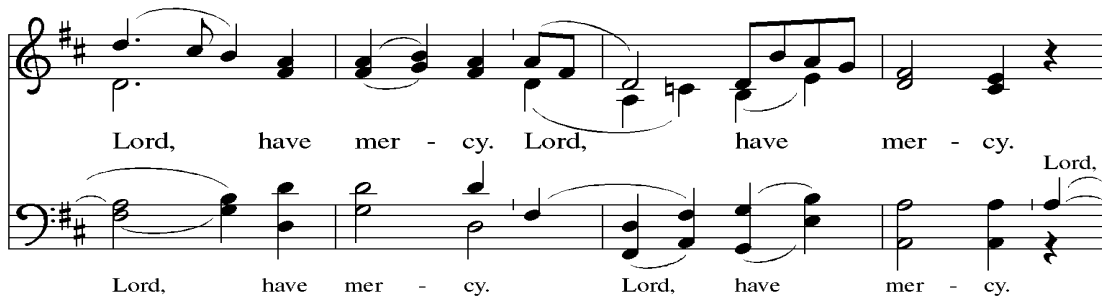
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

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



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

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



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

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



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

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

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Message (10:30 am)

First Reading

1 Samuel 16: 1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(10:30 only)

**I've Got Peace like a River
Handbells**

Sandra Eithum

Second Reading

Ephesians 5: 8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Gospel

John 9: 1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John.
 Glory to you, O Lord.

*This morning's Gospel text is the entirety of John, chapter 9.
 We invite you to be seated for the reading of the Gospel,
 and to follow the text on p. 978 of your pew Bible.*

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**
We sit.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Aebischer

(8:30) Hymn ELW 779 **Amazing Grace, how Sweet the Sound**

NEW BRITAIN

(10:30) **I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger**
 Handbells

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.

Prayers of the People

After the assisting minister introduces the prayers, we stand or kneel as able

Each petition concludes: *Lord, in your mercy. we respond: hear our prayer.*

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Amen.

We sit.

Anthem (10:30) Amazing Grace

Offertory Hymn

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise, God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offering 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

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Great Thanksgiving

(8:30 spoken, 10:30 chant)

Preface

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

The musical score is written in a single system with six staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Thanksgiving at the Table The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

The musical score is written in a single system with nine staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

We sit.

Communion

Please wait for the Usher's invitation to come forward to receive communion via the center aisle. We will commune one side of the church at a time. After receiving communion, please return to your seat via the side aisle.

Communion Music

ELW 779 Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound

ELW 781 Come to the Table

ELW 793 Be thou My Vision

When all have returned to their places, we stand or kneel.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Holy 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 neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

All stand.

+ SENDING +

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 Hymn ELW 452 Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death

AZMON

Dismissal

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

Postlude

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Website: <http://www.ebenezerlutheran.org>



Leading in Worship Today

Worship Assistant, Susan Peeples

Lector, Gaye Betcher

Communion Assistant, Gaye Betcher

The Rev. Paul E Aebischer

The Rev. Joanna C. Gragg

David E. Turner, Director of Music

Diane M. Oliver, Administrative Associate

Philip A Bingenheimer, Financial Assistant

Lyranda R. Marsh, Facilities Associate

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