

**Peace Lutheran Church + ELCA  
Menomonie, WI**

**The First Sunday of Lent**  
Worship with Holy Communion  
9 a.m. Sunday, February 26, 2023

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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**INVOCATION**

All you looking for comfort,

**Find here the arms of a loving God.**

All you looking for direction,

**Find here the hand of God to guide you.**

All you hoping to end loneliness,

**Find here the embrace of God and new  
friends.**

All you searching for meaning in life,

**Find here the Lord of Life and the Revealer of Truth.**

All you seeking happiness,

**Find here the hope of our Lord Jesus and the lasting peace of forgiveness.**

All of us come this morning,

**To worship God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

I invite us now to turn to our Lord in a confession of our sin.

Before we confess as a family of faith, we turn quietly to you in a time of reflection and self examination.

Lord,

**...we come before You in prayer today, asking for forgiveness. We have not loved as we ought to love, we have not given as we ought to give, and we have fallen short of the mark of truly being Your obedient sons and daughters. We recognize our sin and in this moment of silence, we privately remember our shortcomings in love and life. Amen.**

God, our heavenly Father, hears the prayers of His children and answers those prayers. Our prayer for forgiveness is answered in the person of Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for our sin that we might have new life in Him. The distance between God and ourselves has been brought together by His love made perfect in the sacrifice of His Son. To those who believe His word of truth He gives power to be His people of God. Praise God for His gift of love to us.

**Amen.**



**GATHERING SONG:**

**"God Is Here"**

**ELW 526**

**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:** pg 203

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.**

**We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.**

**Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.**

**Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts !**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Let us pray. **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**



**THE FIRST READING** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

<sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

<sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent,

"We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

<sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' "

<sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman,

"You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**TODAY**

**Thank you to Pastor Jon Becker for leading our worship today!**

**Thank you to our organist, Kittrick Singerhouse**

**Thank you to our volunteers today:**

Reader: Court Sand

Ushers: Nathan Thompson

Josh Forster



## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is 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.**

## **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.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**

Visitors and guests, all who believe in the Lord Jesus are invited to come forward and join this family in receiving this gift of life.

### **BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, O God...

**that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Be the light for our path, that we may live peace, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

...Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG:**    "

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live and share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**



<sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate;

and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

<sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened,

and they knew that they were naked;

and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

### **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY: PSALM 32**

*Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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



## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:1-11

*The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*

**Glory to you, O Lord**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."*

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

<sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

<sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,  
'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him,

"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,  
'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor;

<sup>9</sup>and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,  
'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup>Then the dev

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** "MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS" ELW 597

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in a great God who created the world in power and love, and whose character is reflected in all of creation.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man. His life, His teachings, His miracles, His death and His resurrection combine to provide true forgiveness of sin and life for all eternity. His strength bolsters my weakness, His love covers my failures, and His sacrifice forgives my sin. I trust Him as a friend and brother, a Savior and Lord.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, God at work in and among us. I believe that God is present and active in today's world and that I can know some of the joy of heaven right now. I believe that the church of Christ is the people of God, and that in prayer, the sacraments, and the fellowship of the church we can experience true meaning and everlasting love in our lives. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love especially those we name silently... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

