

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA Reconciling in Christ and Rejoicing Spirits Congregation

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Unless a grain of *wheat* falls
into the earth and dies, it remains
just a single grain; but if it dies, it



bears much fruit.

John 12:24, NRSV

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 17, 2024
10:30 am

The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

We welcome all who worship with us today.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

Children are welcome and celebrated!

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

HOLY COMMUNION

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

GATHERING

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

Gathering Music

Chaconne on “Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed”

Matthew Corl

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Confession

Engraver of the human heart,
we long for your law of love to burst forth with every beat of our hearts.
Work within us this day, that the majesty of your love
may shine through us in everything we say and do.
Put a new and right spirit within us, O Lord,
that we may leave our failings behind
and embrace the glory of our salvation,
through Christ our Lord.

The One who engraves our hearts is faithful,
remembering our sins no more.
You are loved and accepted,
for it is written within by our gracious God.
Amen



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow,
love as near as every breath.

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray.

Our souls are troubled, Holy One, until they find their rest in you.

When we live in fear of our mortality, help us face the future unafraid.

Write the truth of Christ's words on our hearts:

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it can only be a single seed. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

In our living and in our dying, draw us together with all your people.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.

1st Reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Hope.

Thanks be to God!

A reading from Hebrews.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,
with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death,
and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered,
and having been made perfect,
he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,
having been designated by God
a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, Word of Hope.

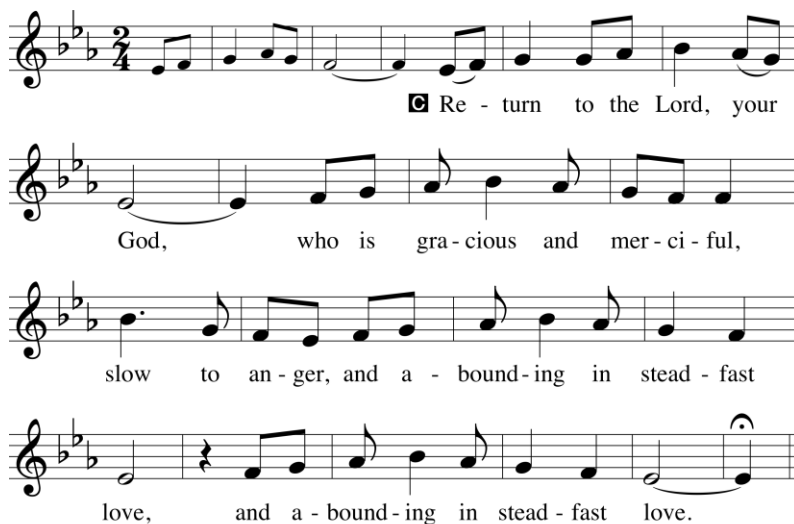
Thanks be to God!

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord

Tree of Life Setting



Re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast
love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel John 12:20-33

Translation: NRSV-UE

The holy gospel according to John.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust in your Word.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him,

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew,

then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,

it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it,

and those who hate their life in this world

will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there will my servant be also.

Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say:

'Father, save me from this hour'?

No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name."

Then a voice came from heaven,

"I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder.

Others said, "An angel has spoken to him."

Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine.

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,

will draw all people to myself."

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Inspired by your Word, we offer you our praise.

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Pastor Mark Wimmer

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW Hymn #817

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Apostles' Creed

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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**

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect
in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen

Prayers of the People

Invitation to prayer:

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things,
let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

After each petition:

God of renewal,
receive our prayer.

Pastor's closing prayer:

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace,
and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,
"Peace be with you."*

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Response to God's gifts

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

Blessing of Quilts

Please lay your hands on one of the quilts to bless them.

Let us pray. O Lord our God, maker of all things, you have blessed Stitch and Chat with so many gifts — a good eye for color, the ability to make fine stitches, the skills to develop ever-new and exciting patterns. Now we offer the fruits of their labor to you.

We dedicate these quilts to your service, trusting that your love will go to New Bethany Ministries, Cay Galgon Life House, and Laundry on Linden, making it more than just a piece of material, a collection of items — making each piece we have created an expression of love and care.

There is no way for us to imagine the power and effect an act of love can have on a person's life — how you can use something as small as a quilt to radiate your love from us to the world.

**May these be used in your service and become blessings for all who receive them.
Amen**

Musical Offering

Peace

Mock/Nichols

Please stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving

May the Lord of Lent be with you.

And also with you.

God's people, lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts to the One who has engraved them with love.

Offer thanks to the One who creates new life in you.

With our lips, and with our lives, we will praise the God who sustains our spirits.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Tree of Life Setting



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

Words of Institution

Word in Meal

Here at the Table of forgiveness and life,
we remember Jesus' life of humility and service,
even as we proclaim that mystery we call faith:
**The Word that spoke creation into being
has become the Voice which shattered death,
and will call us home at the end of time.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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 the table

This is bread for the journey.
This is a feast for hungry hearts.
Come and eat.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of communion

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Tree of Life Setting

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Communion Hymn

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW Hymn #465

Refrain

Congregation:

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.

Verses

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

to Refrain

Please stand as you are able.

Prayer after communion

Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

Amen

SENDING

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

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

Sending Hymn *Please see next page*

Dismissal

Go in peace.

Christ is with you on your journey.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to be seated for the solo.

Sending Solo

Irish Blessing

Allen Pote

Verses



1. By your hand you feed your peo - ple food of
2. In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for
3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the



an - gels, heav - en's bread. For these gifts we did not
hun - ger, wine of peace. Ho - ly word and Ho - ly
hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our



la - bor; by your grace have we been fed.
wis - dom, sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
dy - ing we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain



Christ's own bod - y, blest and bro - ken, Cup o'er -



flow - ing, life out - poured, giv - en as a liv - ing



to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: lchsemmaus.org.

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Hymn of the Day: Public Domain

Musical Offering: OneLicense

Communion Hymn: OneLicense

Sending Hymn: OneLicense

Sending Solo: OneLicense

Sanctus; Lamb of God: OneLicense

Musical Participants: Deb Stevens, soloist, and members of the adult choir



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor
Sharon B. MacCabe, Director of Music
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Minister

Vi Ballard

Reader

Ava Killingsworth

Communion Assistants

Jackie Leipter

Greeter

Victor Schmidt

Usher

Brenda Truhe

Production/Technology Team

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Jennifer Wetzel, Nancy Pfeffer, Julie Timmcke, Linda Letts, Deb Stevens, Lynn Snyder,
Barb Roba, Cindy Clark, Carol Osenbach, Terri Hinderliter, Robbie Flynn