



A Service of the Word



for the Southeast Michigan Synod, during Lent 2021
provided by Living Water Ministries
and Lord of Light Lutheran Church/Lutheran Campus Ministry
at the University of Michigan

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY

You prepare a table for me
In the presence of my enemies
You anoint my head with oil
And my cup, it overflows
With love, peace, and joy
With love, peace, and joy

Surely goodness and mercy
Shall follow me
All the days of my life
All the days of my life
And I will dwell
In the house of the Lord
Forever and ever and ever, amen
Forever and ever and ever, amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Creator,
And of the ✙ Redeemer,
and of the Holy Spirit, whom we invite into this space.
Amen.

Silence for reflection.

As a church, we believe all are welcome.
Let us name the ways we have fallen short
of striving for justice for our LGBTQIA+ siblings;
our Black and indigenous siblings;
our siblings who are people of color;
our siblings who are immigrants, elderly, differently abled;
and our siblings who do not have access to what they need
for the abundant life promised to each of us by God.
We accept the challenges that stand before us.
We confess that we have not always extended Christ's welcome;
and as a result, we have pushed away God's beloveds,
named and claimed and called good,
from our spaces.

From those who have been excluded by the church because of who they are and who
they love

We ask forgiveness and welcome you.

From those who experience systems of oppression due to the color of their skin

We ask forgiveness and welcome you.

From those who do not have equal access to resources because of the way our
government is structured

We ask forgiveness and welcome you.

From those who do not see their identities represented in this church

We ask forgiveness and welcome you.

From those whom we, the church, have called 'those people'

We ask forgiveness and welcome you.

**The church is a place where we boldly proclaim and model welcome
for each and every child of God.**

We share today, proudly,

**that people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions
matter;**

that Black, indigenous, and people of color matter;

**and that we as a church stand firmly
against racism, homophobia, and transphobia.**

We seek forgiveness and commit

**to actions that will bring justice, equity, and healing
to those who have been harmed.**

We do all these things through God's guidance and grace.

How vast is God's grace!
Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
Indeed, we are forgiven.
In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Grace and love to each and every one of us from God our Creator, our Shepherd, and our Holy Wisdom.

Let us pray:

Jesus, our Shepherd, thank you for walking beside us
throughout every moment of life.
Help us to listen to and watch for where you are leading and guiding us.
May we find hope in your presence.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 57:14-19

Rosemary, LCM

¹⁴ It shall be said,
'Build up, build up, prepare the way,
remove every obstruction from my people's way.'
¹⁵ For thus says the high and lofty one
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
I dwell in the high and holy place,
and also with those who are contrite and humble in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the humble,
and to revive the heart of the contrite.
¹⁶ For I will not continually accuse,
nor will I always be angry;

for then the spirits would grow faint before me,
even the souls that I have made.
¹⁷ Because of their wicked covetousness I was angry;
I struck them, I hid and was angry;
but they kept turning back to their own ways.
¹⁸ I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;
I will lead them and repay them with comfort,
creating for their mourners the fruit of the lips.
¹⁹ Peace, peace, to the far and the near, says the Lord;
and I will heal them.

PSALM 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

SECOND READING *Romans 5:1-5*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-7*

The Holy Gospel, according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."

⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Knowing that Christ accompanies us through the valley of shadow, let us offer our prayers for all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, especially our bishops, pastors, deacons, musicians, tech support, lay leaders, and servers, that God's Spirit empower all the baptized with wisdom to follow Christ's call.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for our ministries for youth and young adults: for Sunday schools, camping ministries, and campus ministries; for Young Adults in Global Mission, LuMin, Lutheran Student Movement, and the Youth Gathering, that God form the faithful even when we cannot regularly meet in person.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for the earth, its seas, lakes, and rivers, for their myriad creatures, and for those whose livelihood depends upon them, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide an ecological care for creation.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for the nations, for our elected and appointed leaders, for racial concord in our cities, and for those who have been considered our enemies, that God lead the world into commonwealths of justice and peace.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for our nation facing the evil of white supremacy, homophobia, sexism, and transphobia; for those lured by hatred and violence; for all dealing with new and lasting

trauma; for prophets who proclaim uncomfortable truths: that as your beloved creation, God inspire all people to work for the harmonious well-being of others.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for relief from COVID-19, for the fearful, the sick, and the dying, for medical workers, for all who await the vaccine, for the unemployed and the quarantined, that God uphold the world's people through this time of affliction.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray for all who are sick, distressed, or grieving, especially for all those we name now, aloud or in our hearts, that God sustain, guide, and comfort those who suffer.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We pray finally for ourselves, that as we pour out our hearts to God, our faith in divine mercy be renewed.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

We join in thanksgiving for all your people from ancient times until today who have lived and died in faith, and we pray that at our end God unite us with them in everlasting peace.

O God of steadfast love, receive our prayer:

Our hope is in you.

Merciful God, receive the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity,
water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile,
wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God;
rekindle your gifts within us:
renew our faith,
increase our hope,
and deepen our love,
for the sake of a world in need.
Faithful to your Word, O God,
draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

THE 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.

BENEDICTION AND DISMISSAL

Siblings in Christ, let us go out into the world in peace;

love boldly;

proclaim loudly;

welcome, include, and celebrate our siblings

of every color and origin and age

of every sexuality and gender and class

and know that while we worship apart, and when we gather again,

our priority is to extend God's welcome to all.

Stand strong against injustices of this world;

and let our faith communities and ministries be places of care and renewal

for as people of God

we are called to action.

Beloved, go in peace.

Work for justice

Encounter God in all you see

And know you are loved.

Thanks be to God.