

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago



She bought it so  
that she might keep  
it for the day of  
my burial.

John 12:7



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

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Every member of the Parish

Bill Peters

Randy Baldwin

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**April 3, 2022**

## REPENT AND BELIEVE

We welcome all who gather here this morning as we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross. . A special welcome to all guests and visitors. God so loved the world, that He sent Jesus to bear the burden of our sin on the cross, so that we could receive forgiveness, salvation, and life everlasting.

## CHRIST DIED FOR YOU!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \*CONFESSION

God liberates those who are captives, bringing dreams to reality.

**You have done great things for us, O God, we sing aloud for joy.**

You fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues declare your praise

**You have done great things for us, O God, we sing aloud for joy.**

Our lives overflow with your goodness, as dry river beds are transformed with abundant rain

**You have done great things for us, O God, we sing aloud for joy.**

Those who go out weeping, will come home with shouts of joy.

**You have done great things for us, O God, we sing aloud for joy.**

We praise and adore you, O God, for giving us reason to sing aloud with joy. The Psalmist wrote about a joyous future and the prophet Isaiah beseeches us not to dwell on things past, but to concentrate on the new thing that you have planned for us. A new thing greater than any could imagine, when you entered our history in the person of Jesus Christ. A costly act which transformed the future forever. As we draw nearer to the events which led up to the death of Jesus, we marvel that through even that dreadful act you turn our weeping into shouts of joy and point us toward a new future through the glory of the resurrection. Accept our prayers and praises we pray, for we utter them in joyful thanksgiving for all the great things you have done for us - especially for the great gift of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior,

**In whose name we pray. Amen**

God of all righteousness, we know how the apostle Paul counted himself as a righteous person when zealously carrying out the law as a Pharisee. He considered himself to be blameless, but counted all that as loss when he came to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. From that time on, righteousness took on a new meaning. Paul knew that he no longer needed to perform exemplary deeds in order to earn your love. All he had to do was to accept your gracious and unconditional love.

**Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior is all that is needed to secure your love for we know that we can neither earn nor deserve all that you have done for us. Help us to surrender our worldly attitudes and values so that, like Paul, we can celebrate anew lives centered in Jesus Christ.**

Paul acknowledges a desire to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ so that he can die and rise also. He urges others to do likewise.

**Forgive us, O God, when we lose sight of the goal of our lives as Christians - that of following Jesus;**

Even when that means, and perhaps, especially when that means taking up our cross, and sharing in the suffering and struggle that Jesus shares with us.

Merciful God, in the agony of the crucifixion, we see the lengths you were prepared to go, to 'do great things for us'. Whatever gains we may have experienced in our lives, like Paul may we regard them as loss, compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord.

**This we pray in his name. Amen**

### **EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

The Lord has indeed done great things for us, as 'our righteousness is one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.' (Phil.3: 9) The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"*

**# 107**

*Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;  
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,  
a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.*

*Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see  
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.  
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:  
the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.*

*I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.*

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869

### **\*APOSTOLIC 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.**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**\*KYRIE**



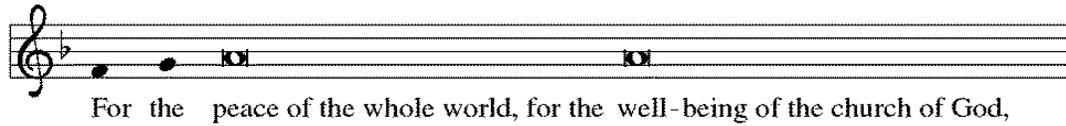
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



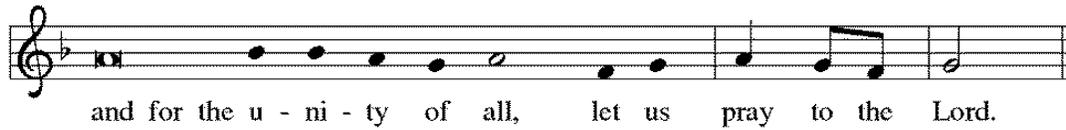
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



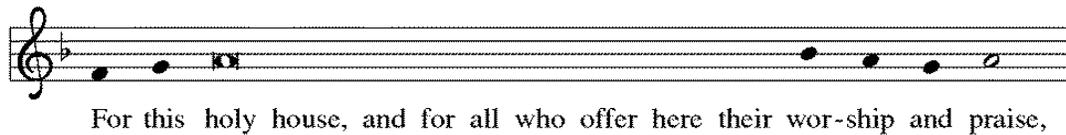
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy 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, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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.**

## **✠ WORD ✠**

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

*Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Isaiah 43:16-21**

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD,  
who makes a way in the sea,  
a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse,  
army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

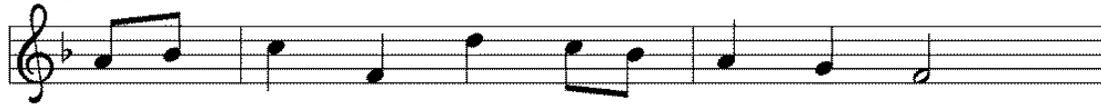
[Paul writes:] <sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. <sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

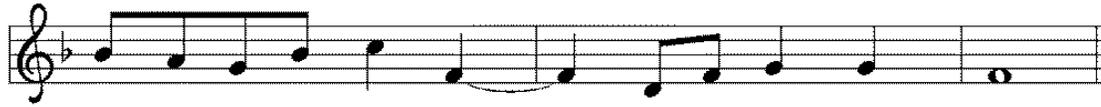
## \*Gospel Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

## \*GOSPEL READING

John 12:1-8

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

## \*SONG OF THE DAY

*"Christ, the Life of All the Living"*

# 97

*Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:  
through your suff'ring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.*

*You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently,  
even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me;  
for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.*

*Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore;  
thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,  
for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.*

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

## **\*NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **\*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

...Merciful God, receive our prayer.

✠ **MEAL** ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.

**\*PREFACE**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

**\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**\*BLESSING**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

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

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
your Redeemer's conflict see.  
Watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.*

*Follow to the judgment hall,  
view the Lord of life arraigned;  
oh, the wormwood and the gall!  
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss;  
learn from him to bear the cross.*

*Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn from Jesus Christ to die.*

*Early hasten to the tomb,  
where they laid his breathless clay;  
all is solitude and gloom.  
Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.  
Savior, teach us so to rise.*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).*

**BLESSING OF SEEDS AND SOIL**

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

*Weather permitting, we will re-gather outside*

**LITANY OF DEDICATION**

Let us give thanks to God: For the beauty of your world, the glory of starlit skies, the wonder of the changing seasons, the ever new miracle of stirring life in field and forest

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the privilege of sharing with you in the act of creating the good things of earth for your children and for your nearness in all the processes of agricultural life.

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For the Christ of the country road, who walked and served in the pleasant land of Galilee, and who today walks the country roads of the world in partnership with all who till the soil,

**We give you thanks, O God.**

For widening horizons of rural life, the open doors in which entering we may serve the rural peoples of the world, and walk the byways with Christ,

**We give you thanks, O God.**

That it may please you speedily to grant a just and lasting peace in all the earth, that all peoples may again beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, that they may all live together in fellowship and tranquility in the lands you have given them

**We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.**

To the recreation of the beloved community bound together by ties of love in every countryside, in which all people shall share with joy in sowing the seed and reaping the harvest of the Kingdom of God,

**We dedicate our hands and minds, O Lord**

To a renewed appreciation of the Holy Earth and its resources, material and human.

**We dedicate our hands and minds, O Lord.**

**Accept our thanksgiving, hear our prayers and intercessions, graciously use the gifts of mind, body, and life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **LITANY OF BLESSING**

Brothers and sisters in Christ; Today we seek God's blessing as we gather with thankfulness for his wondrous creation. We especially seek God's blessing at this time of planting and so we have brought with us signs of this season.

**We dedicate our equipment, our seed, our time, and our selves to the glory of God.**

All your works praise you. O Lord.

**and your faithful servants bless you.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You

make the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth. of things, seen and unseen. You stretched out the heavens like a curtain; you divided the day from night; you appointed times and seasons for work and rest, for tearing down and for building up. Be with us now and bless the work of those who labor in the fields. Grant us faith to know your gracious purpose in all things and continue your blessings to us through the bounty of your creation.

**Amen.**

Let the people praise you, O God:

**let all the peoples praise you**

The earth has brought forth her increase;

**may God, our own God, give us his blessing.**

May God give us his blessing,

**and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.**

## **BLESSING OF THE SEED**

God you have given us these seeds

**They have a past. They are the fruit of the past. They have a present. They are to be planted into your soil. They have a future. They are to bear fruit for the harvest. May the miracle of life within these seeds burst forth yielding a bountiful harvest. Bless these seeds and those who plant them.**

## **BLESSING OF EQUIPMENT**

God you have provided us with this equipment and technology

**These machines and this technology empower us to work the land, sow the seed, and harvest its abundance many times one hundredfold. Gracious Lord, be with us now**

**and bless us as we set apart this equipment to your glory and praise. Grant us diligence in maintenance, safety and caution in use, and patience during breakdowns. Give us the faith to know your gracious purpose in all things, give us joy in them, and lead us to the building up of your kingdom. Bless this equipment and those who use these tools and technology.**

## **BLESSING OF THE SOIL**

God you have created and given us this soil.

**The soil serves as the medium for the seed to grow, it cleans water, it regulates climate, it provides warmth, nourishment and support so that new life may emerge. Bless this soil that it may feed and nourish the seed. Bless those who work this soil and harvest the produce.**

## **BLESSING OF THE WATER**

God, this water is your creation.

**Water gives sustenance and nourishment to the soil and the seed. Bless the soil and the seed with gentle rain. Bless this water. Let it come as rain at the right time, in the proper amount so that the seed may flourish and grow. In your mercy send us favorable weather so that the harvest will be bountiful.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

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

## **BLESSING**

May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless the pastures and meadows, all growing grass and green fields. May the soil be wholesome and the crops good. May the weather be favorable and the workers of good heart. And may God who gives breath and life to the sower, multiply the seed sown and increase its fruits. May God be with us and among us and around us now and forevermore.

**Amen**

## **\*THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



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Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 2022

# **OPEN YOUR HAND**

“You always have the poor with you,” Jesus told the disciple who complained about the extravagance of Mary’s anointing (John 12:8). It’s not a callous dismissal. In fact, he is likely quoting Deuteronomy 15:11, which continues: “I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’”

No one has ever lived in a world that has solved the crisis of poverty. It can be disheartening to see the same social problems we have addressed for years continuing to grow.

Throughout Jesus’ life and teaching, he repeatedly offered examples of our ongoing responsibility to care for each other. “You will always have the poor with you” may feel deflating when we focus on *always*, but what if we put the emphasis on *with*? How are we *with* people who are poor, in diverse communities of various experiences, incomes, needs, and insights?

We live in a time and place of considerable financial instability without much room for error. One health crisis or job loss can sink us into poverty, so we need each other. Mary’s extravagant generosity shows us we are not on our own. As members of the body of Christ, we are in this together. We can let generosity flow through us because God pours life into us, fragrant and overflowing, bursting with possibility.

We pray not for “*my* daily bread” but for “*our* daily bread” (Matthew 6:11), so we must be *with* each other, to share, to give and receive, to love and be loved. We are children of a God who, like Mary with her perfume, does not hold back but lets love flow. This love flows richly through us, through the body of Christ that gathers together and cares for each other and for others. Together we have enough.