

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

... suffering produces

**endurance,**

and endurance produces

**character,**

and character produces

**hope,**

and

**HOPE**

does not disappoint us ...

ROMANS 5:3-5, NRSV

**Lent 3**

**March 12, 2023**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany     ◆ Immanuel     ◆ Lunder     ◆ Silver Lake     ◆ Winnebago

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**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 12, 2023**

## 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*

### ANTHEM

*“Jesus Loves Me”*

*Sunday School Choir & Bells*

*“He Has the Whole World in His Hands”*

*“Simple Gifts”*

*Chimes*

### \*CONFESSION

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

**Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;

**Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

We do come with hearts full of thanksgiving to praise you, O God.

**In times of old you satisfied your people’s thirst with water in the arid wilderness.**

You still satisfy our thirst, but in ways which have a far lasting effect than mere refreshment.

**You have quenched the thirst of our spirits with the gift of your Spirit.**

The gift which flows into our lives, cleansing and renewing us.

**The living water promised by Jesus and made available to us through his sacrificial life and death.**

Life-giving God, accept our prayers and praises for we offer them with hearts not only full, but overflowing with thanksgiving over the depth of your love for us.

**Love made eternally visible through the sacrificial love of Jesus, your Son and our Savior. This we pray in his name. Amen**

The people led by Moses questioned whether God was with them or not when they encountered a setback. They were all too ready to view the past with rose-colored glasses because of their uncertainty about the changes God was calling them to make in their lives. We, too, experience changes and setbacks in our lives, and find it all too easy to blame God instead of putting our trust in God to guide and lead us, even into uncertain or changed futures.

We confess, O God, that we find it difficult to cope with change and there are times when we, like those wanderers in the wilderness, choose to exercise selective memories about the past - remembering only the good things and forgetting the bad.

**Forgive us, O God, when we fail to trust your guidance in our lives.**

We confess that when we are confronted with crises in our lives, we hunger and thirst for immediate and a quick solutions and often blame you, O God, when this does not happen.

**Forgive us, O God, when we forget that you are with us in these crises, suffering with us and giving us the strength to cope.**

Jesus promised to satisfy our thirst through the gift of his life in us - as living water welling up within us providing a source of unending power and confidence

**Forgive us, O God, when we look to material and physical sources to satisfy our thirst for meaning in our lives.**

Remind us, O God, that your love has been poured as living water into our hearts through the sacrificial love of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. As rain replenishes and softens the dry, corroded soil of the outback, replenish and soften our hearts with the living water that only Christ can give.

**In his name we pray. Amen**

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

The proof of God's love is this: that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. And so I declare to you: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

*“Jesus Loves Me”*

**Blue # 205**

*Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.*

*Refrain Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. Refrain*

*Jesus loves me! he will stay  
close beside me all the way;  
Thou hast bled and died for me,  
I will hence-forth live for Thee. Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

### **\*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.**

## **WE BAPTIZE**

**Maari June Huber & Raife Joseph Huber**

### **PRESENTATION AND PROMISES**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have ***Maari June and Raife Joseph*** baptized into Christ?

***Parents/Sponsors: We do.***

Parents, as you bring them to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help them grow in the Christian faith and life?

***Parents: We do.***

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture them in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to them him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

***Sponsors: We do.***

People of God, do you promise to support ***Maari June and Raife Joseph*** and pray for them in his new life in Christ?

***We do.***

### **\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

***I renounce them.***

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

***I renounce them.***

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

***I renounce them.***

### **\*BAPTISMAL (APOSTLES') CREED**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

***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.***

Do you believe in God 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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God now and forever.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that those who are here baptized may be given new life. Wash away the sin of all those who are cleansed by this water and bring them forth as inheritors of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

*Maari June*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Raife Joseph*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain *Maari June and Raife Joseph* with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Maari June*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

*Raife Joseph*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

*(The pastor, after dipping his hand in the baptismal waters, makes the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.)*

## \*CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

*(A candle is lit from the Christ Candle and given to the parents as a symbol of Jesus Christ - the Light of the World, and as a reminder that they are responsible for sharing Jesus Christ with their child.)*

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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*

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Exodus 17:1-7

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the LORD among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

## SCRIPTURE READING

### Romans 5:1-11

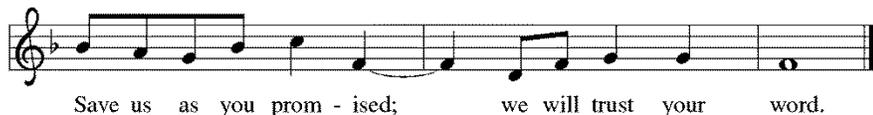
*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and 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.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*GOSPEL READING

**John 4:5-42**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

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

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

**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.

**\*PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

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

...Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY SONG**

*"Create in Me..."*  
*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**ELW # 186**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

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

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*“When Peace like a River”*

*It Is Well with My Soul*

**Blue # 315**

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Refrain        It is well (it is well)  
with my soul, (with my soul,)  
it is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control,  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain*

*My sins--oh, the bliss of this glorious tho't;  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain*

*Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trumpet shall resound and the Lord shall descend;  
even so it is well with my soul. Refrain*

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Walk with Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

✠   ✠   ✠   ✠   ✠   ✠   ✠

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## GUSHING WITH GRACE

The word *gush* has nuances of meaning. On the one hand, it can speak to large amounts of a liquid flowing forth. A geyser gushing water is quite different than a leaky faucet letting water through a drop at a time. On the other hand, *gush* can speak to our enthusiasm about a person, place, or experience. A person gushing about a new movie to a friend carries different energy than someone saying, “Eh, it was okay.”

In today’s gospel we get the first sense of this word as Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about the water he will give, which will become a spring that gushes up to eternal life. The word *gush* is not used again in the story, but the second part of the narrative gathers up the spirit of the other sense of *gush* as the woman goes back to the city and shares her experience of Jesus. Many in the city come to believe because of her witness; she must have been gushing forth energy and excitement about her encounter with Jesus.

As the church takes on the ministry of Jesus after the resurrection, we find other people springing forth in the same way Jesus talks about water gushing. Peter heals someone in Acts 3:8 who jumps up and leaps (gushes) in praise. Paul also heals someone in Acts 14:10 who springs up (gushes) and walks.

The water in your baptismal font may be still, or it may be moving; it may be more reminiscent of a trickle than a gush. Yet we know that it is God’s word that gives the plain water the power to shape us as God’s people. Baptism is never a trickle; it is always a gush of grace poured out for us with the endless love and mercy of God. May we be blessed to gush along with the Samaritan woman about our experiences of Jesus among us.