

ELW Service of the Word Sunday, March 9, 2025

**WELCOME VIDEO**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people. We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.  
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever. Amen.

**GATHERING SONG** *The Glory of These Forty Days* (ELW 320)

1 The glory of these forty days  
we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, through whom all things were made,  
himself has fasted and has prayed.

2 Alone and fasting Moses saw  
the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came  
the steeds and chariots of flame.

3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,  
delivered from the lions' might;  
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became  
the herald of Messiah's name.

4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,  
return in fast and prayer to you.  
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,  
and give us joy to see your face.

### **GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word (ELW 517)***

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;  
curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son  
and bring to naught all he has done.

2 Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,  
for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy church, that we  
may sing your praise eternally.

3 O Comforter of priceless worth,  
send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife  
and lead us out of death to life.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

*A reading from Deuteronomy.*

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have

come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

- 1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
- 2 **you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 **no evil will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- 11 For God will give the angels charge over you,  
to guard you in all your ways.
- 12 **Upon their hands they will bear you up,**

**lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

13 You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

14 **I will deliver those who cling to me;**

**I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

15 They will call me, and I will answer them;

I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

16 **With long life will I satisfy them,**

**and show them my salvation. R**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

*A reading from Romans.*

“The word is near you,

on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 1For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind—  
slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

**GOSPEL (VISUALWORD): Luke 4:1-13****The holy gospel according to Luke.**

Glory to you, O Lord.

*1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2 where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.' "*

*5 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8 Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "*

*9 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written,*

*'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and*

*'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "*

*12 Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " 13 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.*

**The gospel of the Lord.**

Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* (ELW 504)**

1 A mighty fortress is our God,  
a sword and shield victorious;

he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
has sworn to work us woe!  
With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he!  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
in battle we'll engage!  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side  
with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
goods, honor, child, or spouse,

through life be wrenched away,  
they cannot win the day.  
The kingdom's ours forever!

## **A STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

READER 1     Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 2     Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**



READER 3 Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 4 Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

PASTOR Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*). God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 5 Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**VISUALWORD****THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

**BLESSING**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult* (ELW 696)**

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult  
of our life's wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding,  
saying, "Christian, follow me":

2 As of old Saint Andrew heard it  
by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred,  
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3 Jesus calls us from the worship  
of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us,  
saying, "Christian, love me more."

4 In our joys and in our sorrows,  
days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,  
"Christian, love me more than these."

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,  
Savior, may we hear your call,  
give our hearts to your obedience,  
serve and love you best of all.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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