

ELW Service of the Word Sunday, March 23, 2025

## **WELCOME VIDEO**

## **PRELUDE**

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **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 *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (ELW 319)**

1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.

2 You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.

3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.

4 Be with us through this season, Lord,  
and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns,  
we join in heaven's praise.

**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 (ELW p. 203)**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

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

*Let us pray.*

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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 (VISUALWORD): Isaiah 55:1-9**

*1 Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!*

*Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.*

*2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

*3 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.*

*I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.*

*4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.*

*5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.*

*6 Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;*

*7 let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.*

*9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

**1** O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary  
land where there is no water.

**2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

**3** For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

**4 So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

**5** My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

**6 when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

**7** For you have been my helper,

and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

**8 My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*A reading from 1 Corinthians.*

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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 13:1-9**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty* (ELW 777)**

1 "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;  
drink the water I will give.

If you knew what gift I offer,

you would come to me and live."

### Refrain

Jesus, ever flowing fountain,  
give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer  
there is joy no tongue can tell.

2 "Come to me, all trav'lers weary;  
come that I may give you rest.  
Drink the cup of life I offer;  
at this table be my guest." Refrain

3 "Come to me, believers burdened;  
find refreshment in this place.  
Come, receive the gift I offer,  
turn to me and seek my face." Refrain

4 "Come to me, repentant sinners;  
leave behind your guilt and shame.  
Come and know divine compassion,  
turn to me, I call your name." Refrain

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
come, your open hands extend." Refrain

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
let me make in you my home." Refrain

## **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 We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 2 We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 3 We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,



**receive our prayer.**

PASTOR We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 4 We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

READER 5 We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. 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**

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 *O Living Bread from Heaven* (ELW 542)**

1 O living Bread from heaven,  
how well you feed your guest!  
The gifts that you have given  
have filled my heart with rest.  
O wondrous food of blessing!  
O cup that heals our woes!  
My heart, this gift possessing,  
in thankful song o'er flows.

2 My Savior, you have led me  
within your holiest place,  
and here yourself have fed me  
with treasures of your grace;  
for you have freely given  
what earth could never buy,  
the bread of life from heaven,  
that now I shall not die.

3 You gave me all I wanted;  
this food can death destroy.  
And you have freely granted  
the cup of endless joy.  
My Lord, I do not merit  
the favor you have shown;  
and all my soul and spirit  
bow down before your throne.

4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened

with heav'nly food, while here  
my course on earth is lengthened,  
to serve you, free from fear;  
and bring me home to praise you  
where none can peace destroy,  
where I will ever raise you  
glad songs in endless joy.

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 222)**

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

**CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:**

God be with you 'til we meet again, By his counsel's guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you 'til we meet again.  
Amen.

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