

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
COMMITMENT SUNDAY
STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS: GOD'S LOVE COMPELS US
"BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE, WE CAN LOVE"
March 18 & 19, 2023



Peace
Lutheran Church
NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

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PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee" LSB 750



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -
3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be -
ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -
hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's
need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
vail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and
plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our
sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.
thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

5 Nor think amid the fiery trial That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring And sets a bound to ev'rything.

- 6 All are alike before the Highest; Tis easy for our God, we know,
To raise thee up, though low thou liest, To make the rich man poor and low.
True wonders still by Him are wrought Who setteth up and brings to
naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving, Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Georg Neumark, 1621–81 Text and tune: Public domain

stand

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION

P: In the presence of Almighty God, Whose Word shines the light of grace
into our sin-darkened lives, let us confess our sins.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and
unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have
not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our
neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and
eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have
mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may
delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy
name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His
sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the
Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and
of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

LITANY

P: Heavenly Father, You have called us to be stewards of the Gospel so
others will hear the Good News. Help us, Lord, by word and action to be
faithful to our calling as we acquaint those around us of Your love and the
redeeming power of Your Son's death on the Cross.

C: **Lord, may we be motivated by Your love to lead others to You.**

P: Lord God, we ask that You would bless us with a zeal to be Your stewards as we serve You through serving others.

C: Help us, Lord, to share Your love with those around us.

P: Lord God, we thank You for Your grace which enables us to understand that we were created for Your purpose, not ours. Change our mindset from what we want to do to what You want us to do.

C: Lord, help us to realize that all we have belongs to You.

P: Dear Lord, as Your Holy Spirit works in us through Word and Sacraments, You teach us to become givers rather than takers. You change us into people who understand stewardship to be a joy rather than a duty.

C: Lord, may we be motivated by Your love to use our time, talents, and treasures in ways that honor You.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

sit

CHOIR - Sunday "Ceaseless Praise" (You are Holy)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 30:1-20 ESV p.203

¹"And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, ²and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather

you, and from there he will take you. ⁵And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. ⁶And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. ⁷And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. ⁸And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all his commandments that I command you today. ⁹The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, ¹⁰when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹“For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE LESSON

1 John 3:16-18

ESV p.1212

¹⁶By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

stand

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 6:27-36

ESV p. 1025

²⁷“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

sit

HYMN "All Depends on Our Possessing" LSB 732



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

5 If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of
faith.

△ 6 Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessèd Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "Because God is Love, We Can Love"

I John 3:16-18

stand

PROFESSION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the

Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

sit

A WORD FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

stand

PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Give Thanks"

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the
Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en___ Je - sus
Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give
thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en___
Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am

strong,” Let the poor say “I am rich,” _____ Be-cause of
 what the Lord has done for us. And now let the
 weak say “I am strong,” Let the poor say “I am
 rich,” _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.
 Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952 Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, so that we be renewed as Your sons and daughters. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD (spoken by the pastor)

THE PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Grace Alone"	SGBK 23
"Revive Us Again"	SGBK 63
"They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love"	SGBK 86
"Just A Closer Walk With Thee"	SGBK 45

stand

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the Day of His coming, we may, together, with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: May God go before you to lead you, behind you to protect you, beneath you to uphold you. May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; go with you to bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN OF DEPARTURE "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bid - e; I shall fol - low where You guide.
here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744
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THE SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE(S)

Welcome to Peace in the name of the Risen Savior!

We request that visitors register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. We ask that you share your name and address so that we can recognize your visit with us. All members are requested to register by using the Communication cards found in the pew card holders. Members, please indicate all family members present and those who took communion, so that the Pastor and Elders can be spiritually accountable for you and your family.

Are your cell phones turned off? Cell phones are indeed a great convenience in life these days. However, please, out of courtesy, silence cell phones during the worship service.

Thank you!

Hearing assist devices and large print bulletins are available for those who may need them. Please see an Usher or the Elder who will be happy to assist you.

A Mother's Room is available for parents of young children if the need arises. The Mother's Room in the west hallway. The worship service is able to be heard in the Mother's Room.



Today we celebrate the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion

Scripture teaches that Holy Communion is a sacred act, established by Christ Himself and is given to His Church. As members of **The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod**, we hold the doctrine of the Real Presence, in with and under; meaning that Jesus gives His Body and Blood with the bread and wine, as He Himself says, *"This is my body... This is my blood... for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26ff)

The Holy Scriptures also teach us to receive this meal in a way that is responsible and healthy. As overseer, St. Paul wrote- *"let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 11:28-29). Out of genuine care for God's people we ask that those (1) who have not been baptized and instructed in the faith or (2) who come from another church body, not in altar or pulpit fellowship with us, refrain from receiving Holy Communion.

For those preparing to receive Holy Communion, Luther encourages us to ask ourselves these questions:

Do **I repent** of my sins, desiring to turn away from them, back to the Lord?

Do **I believe** Jesus died and rose for me and gives me His Body and Blood this day "for the forgiveness of sins"?

Do **I intend** to use this means of grace to change my life, following His will and way?

We ask that all who receive the Lord's Supper fill out a "Care Card" and place it in the offering plate. Please note that reduced-alcoholic white wine is available in the center cups of the communion tray.

Peace Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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WORSHIP SERVICES:

Holy Communion Celebrated at all Services
Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00a.m.

Sunday Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Sept. –May) 10:30 a.m.

Website: www.peaceneenah.com

Youtube: Peace Neenah

