

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16 & 17, 2024



Peace
Lutheran Church
NEENAH, WISCONSIN—LCMS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT COMMITMENT WEEKEND

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS 4: OVERALL THEME: FELLOW WORKERS ON GOD'S TEAM

"WORKING WHOLEHEARTEDLY FOR THE LORD"

AS WE GATHER

This is the fourth and final week of our stewardship emphasis, **Fellow Workers on God's Team**. Our theme for this week is "Working Wholeheartedly for the Lord." Approximately 20 years ago, the U.S. Army's slogan was "Be all you can be." There is Biblical truth in this slogan. God calls us to develop all the gifts and abilities He gives to us to our fullest potential so we can serve wholeheartedly. In so doing, God is honored. We know that God has given us His best and that we show our gratitude for His love and what He has done for us by doing our best to serve others and to extend His kingdom. With God's help, we can work wholeheartedly for the Lord.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

GREETING

P: Peace be with you,
C: **And also with you.**

OPENING HYMN

"Fruitful Trees, The Spirit's Sowing"

LSB 691 (Tune: LSB 427)



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, May we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing Gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, May we grow till



and in - crease, Fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; Till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



Rich in love and joy and peace.
Pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
Good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
Heav - en's love and joy and peace.

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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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray... Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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: “Take Up Your Cross” (*Sunday*)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 35:25-36:2

²⁵And every skillful woman spun with her hands, and they all brought what they had spun in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen. ²⁶All the women whose hearts stirred them to use their skill spun the goats' hair. ²⁷And the leaders brought onyx stones and stones to be set, for the ephod and for the breastpiece, ²⁸and spices and oil for the light, and for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the LORD had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the LORD.

³⁰Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; ³¹and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, ³²to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, ³³in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. ³⁴And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. ³⁵He has filled them with skill to do every sort of work done by an engraver or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue and purple and scarlet yarns and fine twined linen, or by a weaver—by any sort of workman or skilled designer.

¹“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the LORD has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded.”

²And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE LESSON

Colossians 3:18-25

¹⁸Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²²Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

E/P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

stand

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:33-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

sit

HYMN “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”

LSB 848



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–84, alt. Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia. Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744. Tune: Public domain

SERMON “Working Wholeheartedly For the Lord”

Mark 9:33-37

stand

PROFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

(Tune: LSB 770 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”)

I believe in God, the Father, Maker of the earth and sky;
 And His Only Son Christ Jesus, Who responded to man's cry.
 Made true man by God the Spirit, He was born of Mary pure.
 Suffered under Pontius Pilate, All the ills of man to cure.

Crucified and dead and buried, Off to hell He took away,
 But He rose again in vic'try On the morn of Easter Day.
 Now gone back once more to heaven, Reigns He on His Father's right,
 Til to judge the dead and living, He shall come in glory bright.

I believe in God the Spirit, In one Church here and beyond,
 Joining all the saints together, In one fellowship and bond,
 I believe in God's forgiveness, I believe my flesh shall rise,
 And I look for life unending, In my home in paradise.

sit

A WORD FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

stand

OFFERTORY "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

LSB 955

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
 sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
 hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we
 of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and
 give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80. Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923-2010. Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005744

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: We turn to our great priest Jesus in prayer, who has promised to hear us and intercede for us. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, be present with all those who are vulnerable and in need of advocacy, especially those in abusive relationships, the homeless, the disabled, and all children. Give us courage to be advocates and intercessors for those in need just as You are an advocate and intercessor for us. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us as we endure the temptations and assaults of the devil. Forge our shields of faith to be stronger in resistance of Satan and his fiery arrows. Forgive us when we fail. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life that You have won for all who believe in You. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, You learned obedience through suffering. Strengthen us when we face suffering to learn obedience to Your Word of truth. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, as a priest You serve and sacrifice. Teach all people in Your church to follow Your example of service and sacrifice for the sake of others. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

P: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. For what a priest we have in Jesus,

C: who became our sacrifice.

Special Prayers

P: Lord Jesus, we commend all of these people and situations into Your hands, for You have promised to hear our prayers and intercede for us, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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)

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“God Who Made the Earth and Heaven” LSB 877



1 God, who made the earth and heav - en, Dark - ness and light:
 2 And when morn a - gain shall call us To run life's way,
 3 Guard us wak - ing, guard us sleep - ing, And when we die,
 △ 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav - en, All - ho - ly Son,



You the day for work have giv - en, For rest the night. May Your
 May we still, what - e'er be - fall us, Your will o - bey. From the
 May we in Your might - y keep - ing All peace - ful lie. When the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, Blest Three in One: Grant us



an - gel guards de - fend us, Slum - ber sweet Your mer - cy send us,
 pow'r of e - vil hide us, In the nar - row path - way guide us,
 last dread call shall wake us, Then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
 grace, we now im - plore You, Till we lay our crowns be - fore You



Ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us All through the night.
 Nev - er be Your smile de - nied us All through the day.
 But to reign in glo - ry take us With You on high.
 And in wor - thier strains a - dore You While a - ges run.

Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt. Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

“Grace Alone” SGBK 23

“To God Be the Glory” SGBK 87

“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 “Serve the Lord With Gladness” *(Tune: LSB 662)*

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and Grace,
Will at last in glory Meet us face to face.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel Now in every land
So that fellow sinners, may, like us, be blest,
Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.

“Serve the Lord with gladness!” There’s no greater joy
Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner brought to hear His voice.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!” Glorify His name.

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

