



**You Shall Be a  
Watered Garden**

# First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

## Holy Communion

### Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

#### Prelude

*Excavations on Oh, Love, How Deep*

#### Entrance Hymn

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

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*Stand.*

*All are welcome in the many ways we inhabit bodies, minds, and spirits. Throughout the liturgy, the assembly is encouraged to participate as needed in gesture, posture, and movement. Children are, of course, invited to be children, bringing their own joy, sound, and movement to worship.*

#### Greeting

*The assembly greets the presiding minister in response. And also with you.*

#### Prayer of the Day

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.**

#### Let the Children Come

*Sit.*

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## Prayer for Hearing God's Word

*We read texts passed down to us from our ancestors, a record of their experience of God, and we trust that their writing still speaks to us today. Lutherans consider Scripture to be one of the primary ways we experience the living voice of Jesus. Throughout Lent, we take a moment to quiet the racing mind, and the anxiety within. We breathe deeply and center ourselves in God's loving care. After singing a chant, with words from the Wendell Berry poem, The Wild Geese, we pray for the reader, the preacher, and for ourselves as listeners. **What we need is here.***

## First Lesson

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks.*

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, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> 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; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

*The cantor/choir sings the refrain; the assembly repeats the refrain.*

God will give the an - gels  
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

- <sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup> **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**  
<sup>9</sup> Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your | habitation,  
<sup>10</sup> **no evil | will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**  
<sup>11</sup> For God will give the angels charge | over you,  
to guard you in | all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup> **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**  
<sup>13</sup> You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.  
<sup>14</sup> **I will deliver those who | cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**  
<sup>15</sup> They will call me, and I will | answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.  
<sup>16</sup> **With long life will I | satisfy them,  
and show them | my salvation. R**

## Second Lesson

Romans 10:8b-13

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

- <sup>8b</sup> “The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”  
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same

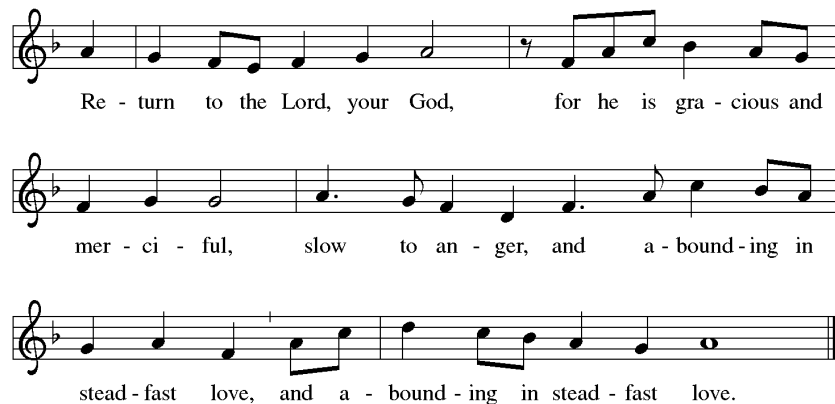
Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Stand.*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Gospel

Luke 4:1-13

*After the Gospel is announced the assembly responds: Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,  
to protect you,’

<sup>11</sup> and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

*After the Gospel has been read the assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ*

## Sermon

*Sit.*

## Hymn of the Day

*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

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*Stand.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*The assembly faces the cross as it moves to the baptismal font, with the prayer response:*

**We pray: May your mercy be like cleansing water.**

*In the prayers for intercession, we pray for all those who cry out for healing and justice. During Lent, these prayers include confession for the ways we have not lived into the baptismal life of love for God, others, and self. Placed before the sharing of the peace and the offering of gifts, we are reminded of Jesus’ words to reconcile with one another first before coming to the table of grace.*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Peace

*The assembly may greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.*

*We practice living a life that offers its hand in healing peace. People may say, “Peace be with you,” as well as shake hands, or place two hands together over the heart, or bow, or by sitting and praying for peace. We recognize that the people of God carry different stories about touch, medical risk, or mental and physical vulnerability. This one, holy body has many gestures. Take care of one another.*

## Offering

*Sit.*

*The offering is an act of worship, responding with our gifts of talent, time, and money in thanksgiving for God’s love made known in Christ. All have gifts that build up the body of Christ. Passing the plate is a sign of sharing in ministry together. The green papers in the bulletin are a way of participating if you give electronically.*

Website

Text

Venmo

833-608-0559



8:15

*As the Winter Days Grow Longer*

10:45

*Forty Days and Forty Nights*  
Schola Cantorum

Becky Mayo and Paul Adams

## Setting the Table

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

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*The assembly stands as gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought forward.*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God,

Creator of clean water and abundant life,

You led your people through the sea,

over the Jordan,  
and beside still waters.

We praise you for Christ, the Living Water,  
nourishing us in the wilderness of fear and suffering.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**  
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized assembled in these forty days.  
Nourish us to be a community of witness,  
embodying the peace, mercy, and compassion of Christ.

In the Crucified One, we glimpse your glory,  
glory that is in, with, and under all things.  
With praise and thanksgiving, let the church say,  
**Amen**

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

**Our Mother,  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation

At this table of mercy, all are welcome.

Come, taste the forgiveness of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Sit.*

## Communion

*Lutherans trust that the love of Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of holy communion. Welcome.*

*To receive communion:*

*Receive a cup from the usher.*

*Come first to the bread station. If you need gluten free bread, please tell the server.*

*Receive the wine from the silver chalice or juice from the pottery chalice.*

*Place the cup in the basket and return to your seat.*

*If you are unable to come forward to for communion, please inform an usher. Communion may be brought to your seat.*





Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Choir 10:45

*A Lenten Walk*  
Chancel Choir

Hal Hopson

Hymn

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

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Hymn

*O Bread of Life from Heaven*

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Prayer after Communion

*Stand.*

## Sending

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

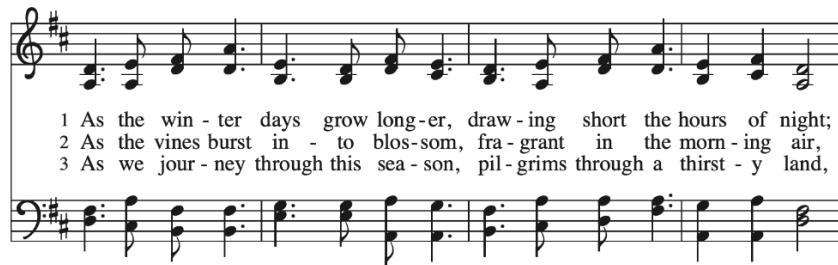
Blessing

# Sending Hymn

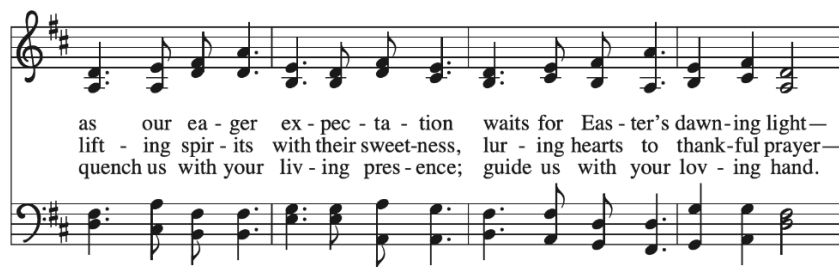
*As the Winter Days Grow Longer*

ACS 924

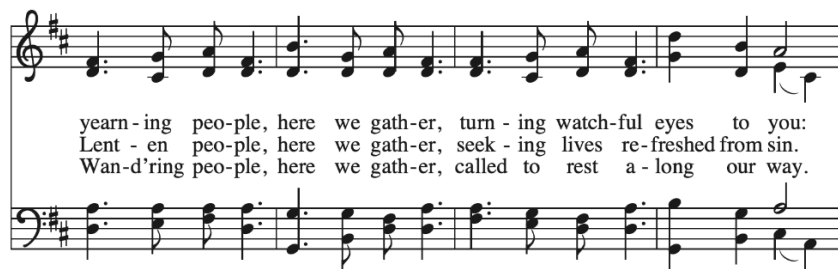
*The assembly faces the cross as it is sent into the world.*



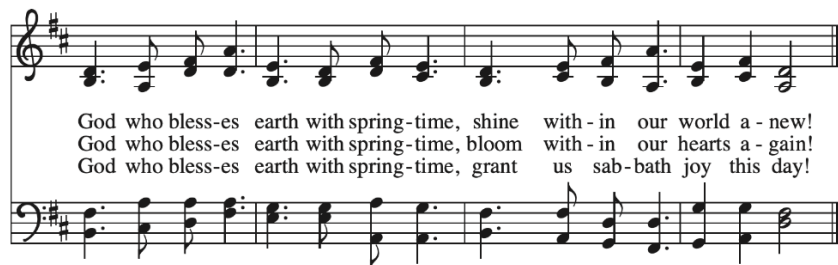
1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;  
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,  
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—  
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—  
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:  
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.  
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!  
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

## Dismissal

*A few announcements for serving the church and our neighbors precede the dismissal.*

Go in peace. Christ joins you in the wilderness.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Improvisation on Bring Many Names*

## In Worship Today

	<b>8:15 a.m. Service</b>	<b>10:45 a.m. Service</b>
Presiding Minister	Pastor Lois Pallmeyer	Pastor Lois Pallmeyer
Preacher	Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling	Pastor Bradley E. Schmeling
Assisting Minister	Laura Schurhamer	Kate Ostrem
Lector	Maria Conley	Peggy Summers
Communion Assistants	Stephanie Allyn, Madeline Bowring, Diane Burk, Shirley Maier, Gregg Micholic, Kathryn Ostlie	Julie Marcotte, Kris Nygaard, Jenni Raeder-Devens, Erika Taibl, Hazel Thrasher, Jon Young
Acolytes	Edward Farwell, Madelyn Ronneberg	Charlie Brantsner, Eddie Branstner
Hospitality Team	Steven Peterson, Avery Karl, Lila McNellis, Charlotte Russell, Katie Russell	Chuck Warnert, Rob Hauser, Dorothy Satre, Roy Satre, Annika Wilkowske
Sacristan	Peter Hinrichs	Peter Hinrichs
Altar Service	Leif Carlson, Barbara Salava	Mark Christianson, Laurie Possin
Audio/Visual -Video		Thor Carlson
Audio/Visual-Audio	John Teipel	Peter Ostrem
Audio/Visual-Titles		Nathan Masuda
Organist	Anita Young	Anita Young
Pianist	Jon Young, Dennis Friesen-Carper	Jon Young, Dennis Friesen-Carper
Alb Washing		Carla Gillespie
Library	Connie Anderson, Becky Foro	Connie Anderson, Becky Foro

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