

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 5, 2023

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MINNEAPOLIS

Welcome to worship at Holy Cross! We are glad that you are here.

*We practice open communion, welcoming all to Christ's table
to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.*

*Child care is available in the nursery for young children.
Talk to an usher if you would like to make use of the nursery.*

*Hearing assist devices and large-print bulletins are available.
Ask an usher if you are interested.*

*If you are seeking pastoral care, please speak to the pastor today, or call or email
Pastor Jay at 612-722-1083 or pastorjay@holycrossmpls.org*

Hymnals: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW, the red cover hymnal),
The Lutheran Hymnal, (TLH, blue hardcover hymnal), and With One Voice
(WOV, blue paperback cover)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess to you our faults and failings.
Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
we spoil rather than steward your creation;
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
we choose fear over compassion.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
as we seek to follow in your way of life.
Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

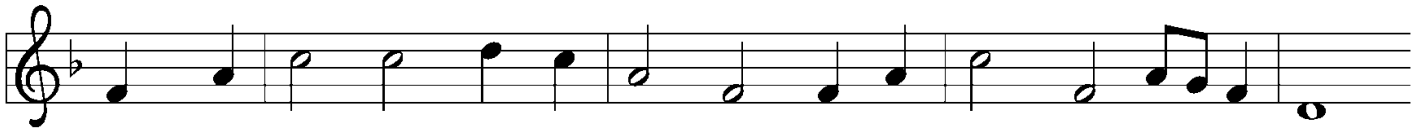
Amen.



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
 Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
 To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
 God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
 We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
 one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
 By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

P: The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Lord, have mer- cy up- on us, Christ, have mer- cy up-

on us, Lord, have mer- cy up- on us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM**FIRST READING** Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses

you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All Creation Sings



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL John 3:1-7

P: The gospel according to John, the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The mission of Christ: to save the world

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to

what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW p. 105

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Living Breath of God

ELW 407



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



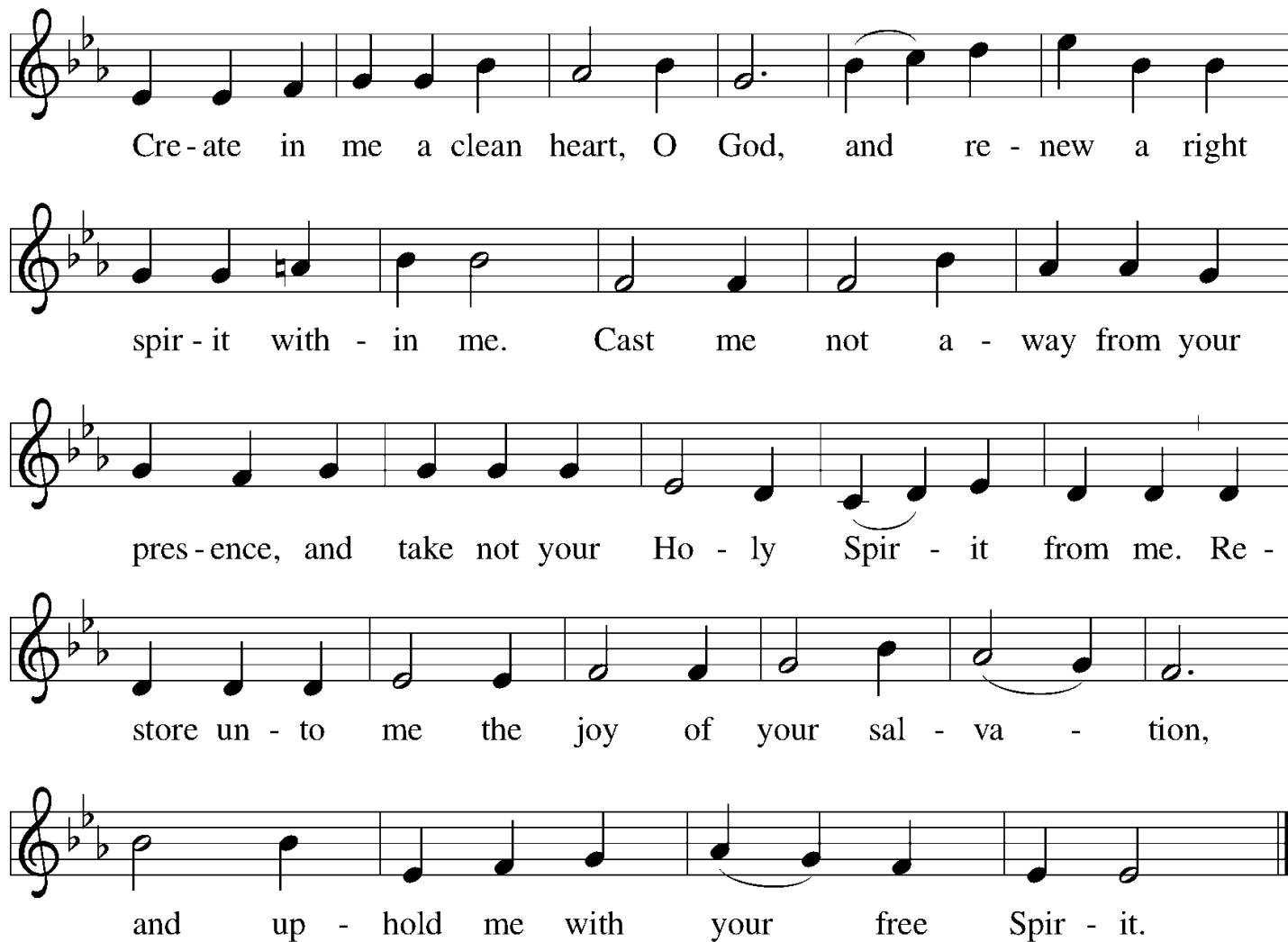
O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir - it, breathe in us as we pray.

SERMON

How Can These Things Be?

OFFERTORY*Create in Me*

ELW 188



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p. 208

**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.**

BENEDICTION

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statistics

The attendance on Sunday, February 26, was 49, including 13 visitors. The total offering was \$1,592.50 including \$35 for the Building Fund, \$29 for Synod and \$25 for Trinity First School. Additionally, \$300 was received electronically.

Worship and Soup Suppers in Lent

A service of evening prayer will be held each Wednesday in Lent at 7:00 pm: March 8, 15, 22, and 29. Come early for a soup and sandwich supper each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Sign up in the narthex if you are able to help provide soup.

Study on Worship

Join Pastor Jay for a study on worship on Sundays during Lent, 11:00-11:45. We will discuss the following and other topics.

Today: What's a Kyrie? The various parts of the Sunday liturgy

March 12: NRSV, NIV, KJV: What's the difference?

March 19: Serving Communion

March 26: Baptism preparation and remembrance

April 2: Making funeral plans

Nametags

Nametags are available in the narthex, if you would like to wear one. It's a great way for us to put names to faces and introduce ourselves to visitors!

SERVING TODAY

Sunday, March 5

March Altar Guild: Sally Gorski

March Elder: Jim Likely

Choir Director: David Hinrichs

Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot

Counters: Lynn Oolman and Sandi Likely

Lector: Kim Blomberg

Organist: Julie Wright

Pastor: Rev. Jay Carlson

Recorder: James Blomberg

Treats: Donna Bristol

Usher: Tim Phelon

Next Sunday, March 12

March Altar Guild: Sally Gorski

March Elder: Jim Likely

Choir Director: David Hinrichs

Choir Accompanist: Wendy Kofoot

Counters: Adam Horrmann and Gail Klatt

Lector: Linda Scanlon

Organist: Julie Wright

Pastor: Rev. Jay Carlson

Recorder: James Blomberg

Treats: Kim Blomberg

Usher: Steve Blomberg

Copyright Acknowledgments

- From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
- Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under One License A-740955. All rights reserved.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH | 1720 E MINNEHAHA PKWY | MINNEAPOLIS 55407
www.holycrossmpls.org | (612) 722-1083 | Office Hours: T, W, Th 9am-2pm
admin@holycrossmpls.org | pastorjay@holycrossmpls.org