

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lent Three

March 12, 2023

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN ACS # 918 NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE sung three times
Congregation

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Now is the Time of Grace'. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B4, and C5. A first ending bracket (marked '1') covers the notes G4, F#4, and E4. A second ending bracket (marked '2') covers the notes D4, C4, and B3. The second staff continues the melody with a quarter note on A3, followed by quarter notes on G3, F#3, and E3. A first ending bracket (marked '1') covers the notes D3, C3, and B2. A second ending bracket (marked '2') covers the notes A2, G2, and F#2. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

Leader:

*This is the fast that God would choose,
To loose the bonds of injustice,
To let the captives go free,
And to break the yoke of oppression*

1 2
 Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
 Turn now, and seek God's face, now be - hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Leader:

*Sharing your bread with the hungry
 and welcoming homeless in,
 offering hope and offering help,
 this is what God requires.*

1 2
 Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
 Turn now, and seek God's face, now be - hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

PSALM 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving;

And raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

In your hands are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.

The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture,
and the sheep of God's hand.

O that today you would hear God's voice!

Harden not your hearts,

as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the desert.

There your ancestors tested me,

they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

For forty years I loathed that generation and said,

"The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways."

Indeed I swore in my anger,

"They shall never come to my rest."

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash
away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that
flows with the beauty of your truth through your Son, Jesus Christ, our
Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL JOHN 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that
Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired
out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan
woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His
disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him,
"How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do
not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you
knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'
you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."
The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep.
Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob,
who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"
Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty.

The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to

the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

REFLECTION

HYMN ELW # 419 FOR ALL THE FAITHFUL WOMEN

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your pow'r to save.

Recall the outcast woman with whom our God conversed:
Christ gave her living water to quench her deepest thirst.
Like her, our hearts are yearning; Christ offers us his word.
Then may our lips be burning to witness to our Lord.

O God, for saints and servants, those named and those unknown,
in whom through all the ages your light of glory shone,
we offer glad thanksgiving and fervent prayer we raise
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

All praise to God Creator! All praise to Christ the Son!
All praise to God the Spirit, who binds the church as one!
With saints who went before us, with saints who witness still,
we sing glad songs of thanksgiving and strive to do your will.

THE CELTIC CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.
We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.
We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.
Amen.**

PRAYERS

SINGING INTO PRAYER ACS # 921 RETURN TO GOD

In all affliction. In all affliction..... return, return to God.

With great endurance

In every hardship

With humble spirit

A brief silence

God of the covenant, you call us to be fruitful servants within creation, and to offer our lives as the foundation of your reign. We lay before you the desires of our hearts, that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

A brief silence

O God, you so love your church. Raise us up to care for your people. Bless us as teachers and learners of your way and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the sky above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and the preservation of life. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Protect all enduring severe weather. As winter sleep continues here, nourish the earth to bring forth spring and summer growth.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this nation and very nation, O God. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbours. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Guide our leaders and decision makers with your wisdom and courage. Let your peace empower all in Ukraine and Russia, calm the spirits of those in Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Pakistan. Wherever your people serve in harm's way—protect and enable them to act justly and with compassion.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

Give your living water to exiles and accompany all refugees and immigrants. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness surround and refresh us with your steadfast love. Wherever relief workers work tirelessly to aid the homeless and hungry, the dispossessed and poor—give them strength to care. We pray for the people of Greece, Turkey, and Syria.

We pray for all who need care and healing in our community among our friends and families.....

Pause

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

Give us spiritual eyes open wide to your vision for us. Pour the living water of your blessing on those preparing for baptism. Deepen our love for you, for each other and for those who have yet to call you "Lord". Meet us on the road and change us as we learn more of your grace and love in our Lenten journey. Make our welcome your welcome to the study of scripture and times of worship and prayer.

Merciful God.....**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Amen.

SINGING INTO PEACE ACS # 921 RETURN TO GOD

By speech that's truthful. By speech that's truthful.....return, return to God.

To cease oppression

By loving justice

With gentle kindness

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
Together with rivers and seas, wells, and springs
We bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
And provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
Who joined us in our desert,
Pouring out his life for the world.

in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,
We await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out you Spirit on this holy food

And on all gathered for this feast:

Wash away our sin,

That we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honour is yours,

Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit,

In your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words

“the body of Christ given for you” “the blood of Christ shed for you”

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbours and touch the world with your love. **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.**

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Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams,
 1722-1796, alt.
 Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE