

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 Five March 26, 2023

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN ACS # 918 NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE

Congregation:

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:

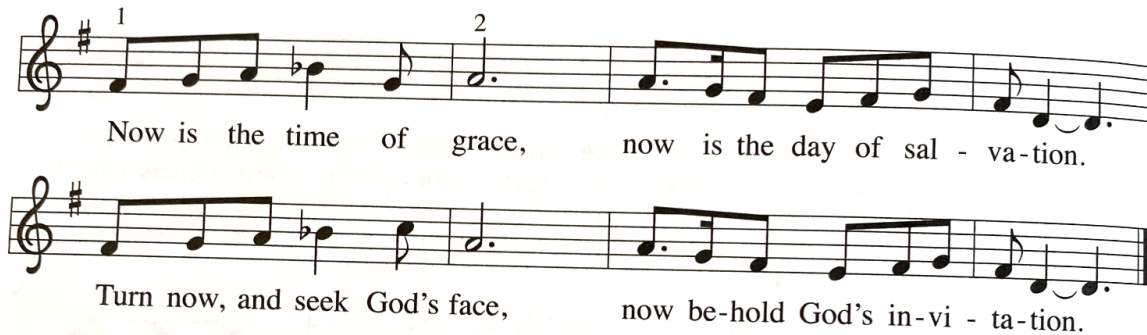
*This is the fast that God would choose,
To loose the bonds of injustice,
To let the captives go free,
And to break the yoke of oppression*

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.*

Congregation:

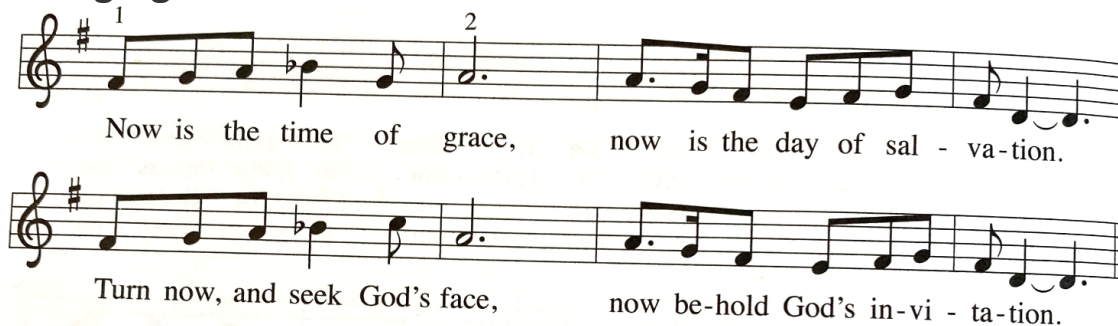


Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be - hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Leader:

*Then shall your light break forth as dawn,
And healing shall come to you quickly;
Then you shall call and God shall answer,
God's love shall go before you.*

Congregation:



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.

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

Almighty God, your son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

JOHN 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to

the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus,

again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

REFLECTION

HYMN ELW # 666 WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing his love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

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

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven us. Deepen our partnerships bless us all as missionaries of your life-giving love.

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

Your spirit gives life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Protect all enduring severe weather. Nourish the earth to bring forth spring and summer growth.

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

You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism and homophobia. Raise up leaders who work to promote the dignity of every human life. 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.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve, especially the family and friends of Sylvia Limpert, and all who are troubled by illness, despair or worry. Give hope to exiles and accompany all refugees and immigrants. Give strength to relief workers to aid the homeless and hungry, the dispossessed and poor. We pray for the people of 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.**

Your spirit of life dwells in this assembly. Deepen our love for you, for each other. 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.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.**

You Are the Way

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro -
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant

3
 sin and death we flee; all those who search for
 wis - dom can im - part; you on - ly can in -
 claims your con - qu'ring arm; and those who put their
 us that way to know, that truth to keep, that

6
 God, you find and by your grace set free.
 form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE