

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 Two

February 25, 2024

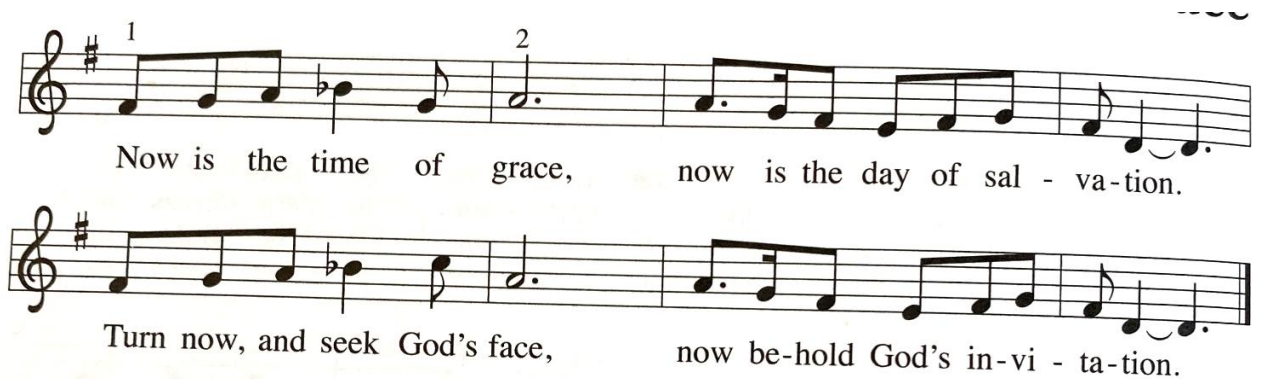
PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

ACS # 918 NOW IS THE TIME OF GRACE

Congregation



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.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you
and your beloved children.**

**We have turned our faces away from your glory
when it did not appear as we expected.**

We have rejected your word
when it made us confront ourselves.

**We have failed to show hospitality
to those you call us to welcome.**

**Accept our repentance for the things we have done
and the things we have left undone.**

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe
in the glory of your Son born among us,
and reflect your love for all creation.**

Amen.

Rejoice in this good news:

In + Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

You are descendants of the Most High,
adopted into the household of Christ,
and inheritors of eternal life.

Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 757 ALL MY HOPE ON GOD IS FOUNDED

All my hope on God is founded;

who will my trust renew.

Who through change and chance will guide me,

only good and only true.

God unknown, God alone

call my heart to be thine own.

Mortal pride and earthly glory,

sword and crown betray our trust;

what with care and toil we fashion,

tow'r and temple, fall to dust.

But thy power, hour by hour,

is my temple and my tower.

Great thy goodness e're enduring,

deep thy wisdom, passing thought:

splendour, light, and life attend thee,

beauty springing out of naught.

Evermore from thy store

new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from earth to God eternal

sacrifice of praise be done,

high above all praises praising

for the gift of God's own Son.

Christ doth call one and all:

ye who follow shall not fall.

PSALM 22:23-31

You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory;

stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel!

For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the Lord's face hidden from them;

But when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

Let those who seek the Lord give praise!. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

Who rules over the nations.

Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

**all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the Lord.**

Their descendants shall serve the Lord;

Whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.

They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

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

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GENESIS 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.....

I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

ROMANS 4:13-25

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.

Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARK 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 808 LORD JESUS, YOU SHALL BE MY SONG

**Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**

**Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**

**As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**

**I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

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 #1075 O GOD WE CALL

O God we call. **O God we call.**

From deep inside we yearn. **From deep inside we yearn.**

From deep inside we yearn for you.

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church,
the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts
of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the
church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons,
teachers, and leaders.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by
pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore
the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to
come may cherish your creation.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person,
especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender,
ability, sexual orientation, colour, ethnicity, or religion.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear our prayers for those in our thoughts and hearts this day....

pause

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

We turn to you for peace. We honour the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy.....**hear our prayer.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

SINGING INTO PEACE ACS #1075 O GOD WE CALL

O God we call. **O God we call.**

From deep inside we yearn. **From deep inside we yearn.**

From deep inside we yearn for you.

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

Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

O God triune, majestic is your name in all the earth.

Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home,
A fragile tree of life.

Here by your wisdom are both life and death,
Growth and decay, the nest and the hunt,
Sunshine and storm, darkness and light.

Sustained by these wonders,

We creatures of dust join in the ancient song:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.

In Christ you bring life from death;

We remember his cross, we laud his resurrection.

Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.

Out poured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.

Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus,

So filled with your love for this earth.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

Our Lord Jesus 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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this song:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you create the worlds,

You uphold the living, you embrace the dead.

Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.

Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,

The body and blood of Christ.

Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise
you again:

The earth is full of your glory. **The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, amen. **Amen, 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

Return to God with all your heart.

Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert. **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

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us
in our Lenten pilgrimage; may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms,
a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favour and give you + peace.

Amen.

HYMN ELW # 802 LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

**Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure,
through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in his footsteps treading, trav'lers here, our home above,
full of faith and hope and love,
let us do the Saviour's bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide.
I shall follow where you guide.**

**Let us suffer here with Jesus, and with patience bear our cross;
joy will follow all our sadness; where he is there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, we shall reap celestial joy,
all discomforts that annoy
shall give way to mirth hereafter Jesus, here I share your woe;
help me there, your joy to know.**

**Let us gladly die with Jesus; since by death he conquered death,
he will free us from destruction, gives to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion, that would lead us into into sin,
and the grave that shuts us in
shall but prove the gate of heaven. Jesus, here with you I die,
there to live with you on high.**

**Let us also live with Jesus; he has risen from the dead,
that to life we may awaken us. Jesus, you are now our head.
We are your own living members, where you live, there we shall be;
in your presence constantly,
living there with you forever. Jesus, let me faithful be;
life eternal grant to me.**

DISMISSAL

**Marked by the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE