

*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 17, 2024

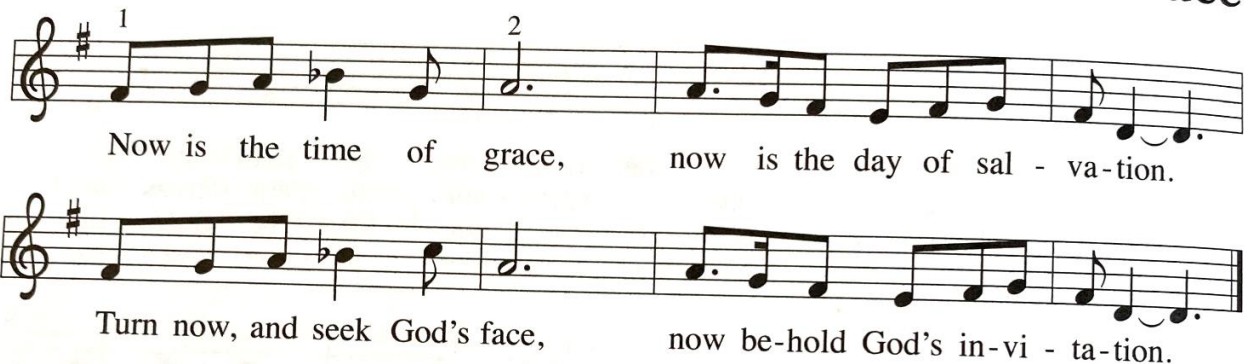
PRELUDE

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.

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 # 803 WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS**

**When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

**In your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness,

**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses,

**and my sin is ever before me.**

Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,

**so that you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

**a sinner from my mother's womb.**

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me

**and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

**wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

Let me hear joy and gladness;

**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,

**and blot out all my wickedness.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,

**and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### JEREMIAH 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

#### HEBREWS 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains a single grain.

**But if it dies, it bears much fruit.**

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

#### JOHN 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them,

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

SERMON

**HYMN ELW # 328 RESTORE IN US, O GOD**

**Restore in us, O God,  
the splendour of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts,  
and all our sins remove.**

**O Spirit, wake in us  
the wonder of your power;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives  
like springtime bud and flower.**

**Bring us, O Christ, to share  
the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life  
that death cannot destroy**

**Three-personed God, fulfill  
the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching end,  
may see you face to face.**

## 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 pray for the church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope and service. We pray for all who share, teach and preach the mercy of God's loving Spirit.

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

We pray for the earth. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soil and sufficient rain. For shepherds and ranchers, farm workers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards and citrus groves. Help us to walk gently into the awakening of Spring.

Make us good stewards of the earth.

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

We pray for the nations. We give thanks for those who courageously work for peace and strive for justice. We pray for countries and communities scarred by unrest and upheaval. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. In particular we pray for Haiti, South Sudan, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, and Palestine. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict.

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

We pray for all in need. For all who suffer in any way. Care tenderly and relieve all who live with addiction, chronic illness and pain. We pray for any who are sick, recovering, lonely, grieving, and hungry. Hear our prayers for the unemployed and the under-employed, for the unhoused those in our thoughts and hearts this day.....

*pause*

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

We pray for this assembly. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Fill us with hope and inspire our creativity and service to this community.

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

With thanksgiving for those who died in the faith. Today we remember St. Patrick and all who have been witnesses and examples for us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you.

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 # 339 CHRIST, THE LIFE OF ALL THE LIVING**

**Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe;  
Christ, yourself for me once giving  
to the darkest depths of woe,  
through your suffering, death and merit  
life eternal I inherit.**

**Thousand thousand thanks are due,  
Dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**You have suffered great affliction  
And have borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion  
Fully to atone for me;  
For you chose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand thousand thanks are due,  
Dearest Jesus, unto you.**

**Then for all that bought my pardon,  
for the sorrows deep and sore,  
for the anguish in the garden,  
I will thank you evermore,  
thank you for the groaning, sighing,  
for the bleeding and the dying,  
for the that last triumphant cry,  
praise you evermore on high.**

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE