

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 3, 2024

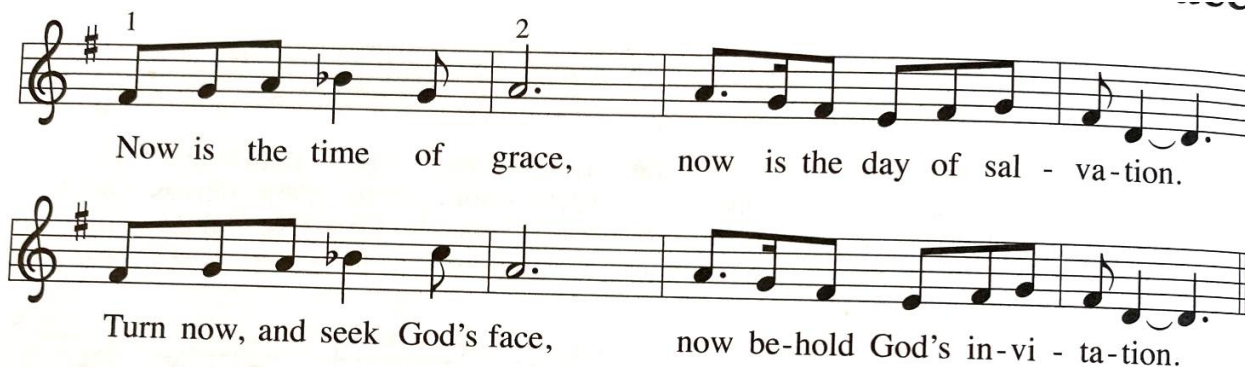
PRELUDE

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:

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

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 # 772 OH, THAT THE LORD WOULD GUIDE MY WAYS

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways

To keep his statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace

To know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your word

And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord,

But keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,

A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget your way,

Restore your wand'ring sheep.

**Make me to walk in your commands--
'Tis a delightful road;
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God.**

PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another.
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language;

And their voices are not heard;

yet their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.

Where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

It rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens,
and runs about to the end of it again;

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The teaching of the Lord is perfect, and revives the soul;

the testimony of the Lord is sure, and gives wisdom to the simple;

the statutes of the Lord are just, and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is clear, and gives light to the eyes;

the fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;

The judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold;

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

by them also is your servant enlightened;

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one's own offenses?

Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, Keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion over me;

then I shall be whole and sound and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

EXODUS 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

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

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim Christ crucified,

The power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

JOHN 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

SERMON

HYMN ELW # 793 BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought both by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r:
Raise thou me heav'nward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of Sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance.

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

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

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

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. In particular we pray for 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.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick, recovering, lonely, and hungry.

Hear our prayers for those in our thoughts and hearts this day....

pause

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

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism.

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

You fill us with 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.**

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 # 723 CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Marked by the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE