

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates you may rise or stand*

Prelude

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Give Me Jesus*

ELW #759

ELW #770

Welcome

*Gathering Hymn

Jesus Shall Reign

ELW #434

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

*Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *(Silence is kept for reflection).*

Compassionate One,

All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

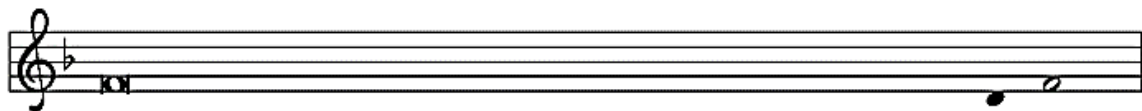
Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

*Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



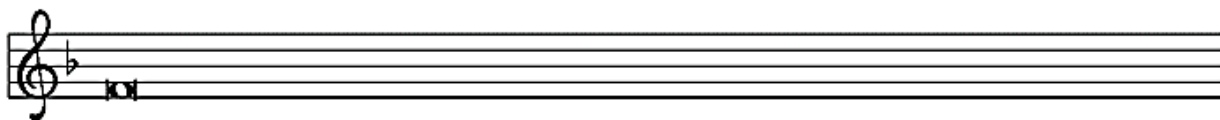
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



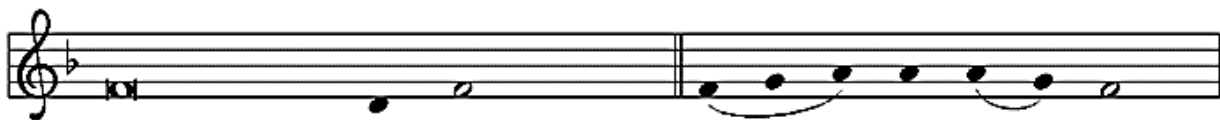
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

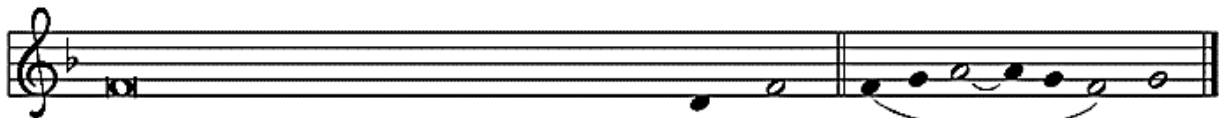


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. God of the covenant,

All: in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message

Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

TFF #234

First Reading - Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and

the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”⁸ But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”⁹ He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”¹⁰ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.¹⁸ On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – **Philippians 3:17-4:1**

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 13:31-35

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 13th chapter,

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Joe Glymph



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
 grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."



*Apostles' Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession

Leader Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(brief silence)*

Leader: Holy God, *(After each prayer petition...)* God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Leader: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Gathering of Offerings

Thank you for giving today! Whether you put offering in the plate this morning, have already given online, or give your time to the church, we are incredibly grateful. Your generosity helps us continue God's mission in the world!

Offertory

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Renew #167

*Offertory Response

Take, Oh Take Me as I Am

ELW #814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Gracious provider,

All: you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Words of Institution

Pastor: 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."

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*Invitation to Communion

Pastor: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

All: Amen

Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion of bread and wine. Please let a worship leader know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail.

For those worshiping virtually, now is the time to receive your previously blessed elements.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

*Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. Generous Host,

All: you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen..

*Blessing

Pastor: God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

*Sending

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are the Way



AMF- Let's Mingle!

You are invited to join us Sunday March 30th at 9:15-9:45 for morning fellowship in the Book room and Lyerly classroom.
 Snacks and Drinks will be available for all.
 Bring a friend and let's have some conversation and fellowship.

We welcome back Pastor Joe Glymph with us today as our supply pastor.



YOU ARE INVITED

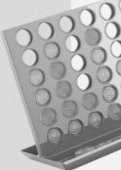
AMF Game Night



APRIL

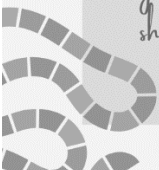
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6:30-
8:30 PM



AMF FELLOWSHIP HALL

*Bring your neighbors and friends,
your favorite game, and a snack to
share to Family Game Night!*



*You may send prayer requests or changes for the prayer list to
admin@amflc.org.*

Prayer List

Members: David Bass, Lynda Booth, Jr. Bryant and family, Charles Burton, Penny Damron, Chris Dukes, Pastor Mary Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Linda Meyer, Pastor John and Nancy Merck, Harry Sheldon, and Carol Stroup.

Loved Ones: Students and staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Russell and Tammy Bridges, Jonathan Davis (family of Mia Strong), friends of Grant and Esther Fulghum, Carol Howell (friend of the church), Anthony Long and his sister's family (friends of the church), Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop), Isabel and Elmer Sundlie, and Ronnie Thomas (Father-in-law to Alyssa McGee Thomas).

Worship Leadership

Pastor - Joe Glymph

Worship Assistant -Chris Garn

Organist/Music Director - Penny Damron

Pianist- Patti Skinner

Guitarist -Timothy Gentsch

Acolyte- Jason Crucifer- Auggie

Ushers- Jim McGee and Lynda Booth

Soundboard Operator- Junior Bryant

Livestream Operator- Ron Cartier

**Scan the QR code
to give online**

