



Sunday, February 18, 2024 9:00 am



Mid-week Lenten Gatherings

- 5:00 to 6:00 pm- Light supper
- 5:30 to 6:15 pm- Wednesday Church School
- 6:15 pm- Guided conversation and worship around the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

Calendar and focus for the mid-week Lenten services:

- February 21 Rejection Response (Luke 9:51-62)
- February 28 Wanting to See Again (Luke 18:35-43)
- March 6 The Man with No Friends (Luke 19:1-10)
- March 13 Unbinding and Letting Go (John 11:17-44)
- March 20 The Anointing (John 12:1-19)

The supper on February 21 will be served by the Stewardship Committee and members of the Women's Joanna Circle. On the menu will be several kinds of soup, breads and sandwiches, and bars. Freewill donation.

Deb Quesnell has decided to retire in a few months! Information on a farewell reception will be communicated at a later date.



Zion's Personnel Committee is accepting applications for a part-time Administrative Assistant.

- This position requires 15-18 hours/week.
- Applications may be picked up and returned to the church office.

Please view additional details in the Messenger or e-Messenger.



Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW #631

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887. Public Domain.

1.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.



2. Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.



3.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.



4.

Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Thanksgiving For Baptism

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: People of God, in the baptismal waters we travel with Christ from death to life. Our past, our sin, our failure, our doubt, and our shame are drowned and gone here.

C: You, O God, wash us clean.

- L: Our fear, our confusion, our self-righteousness, our despair -- ALL are washed away by grace.
- C: You, O God, wash us clean.
- L: Our pride, our hypocrisy, and other people's opinions of us no longer have the power to define us.
- C: You, O God, give us new life.

L: The Spirit lives and moves through us now, a great and joyful mystery, so we may bring love and mercy into the world as the body of Christ.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

L: Rejoice that God has claimed us in this baptismal grace, not by our own doing or believing but by God's mercy alone.

C: You, O God, give us new life.

And so, as we begin worship, we give thanks to God for the gracious gift of baptism that joins us together in Christ by the Spirit's power. Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. We praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer. We come to hear your living word: it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin. Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

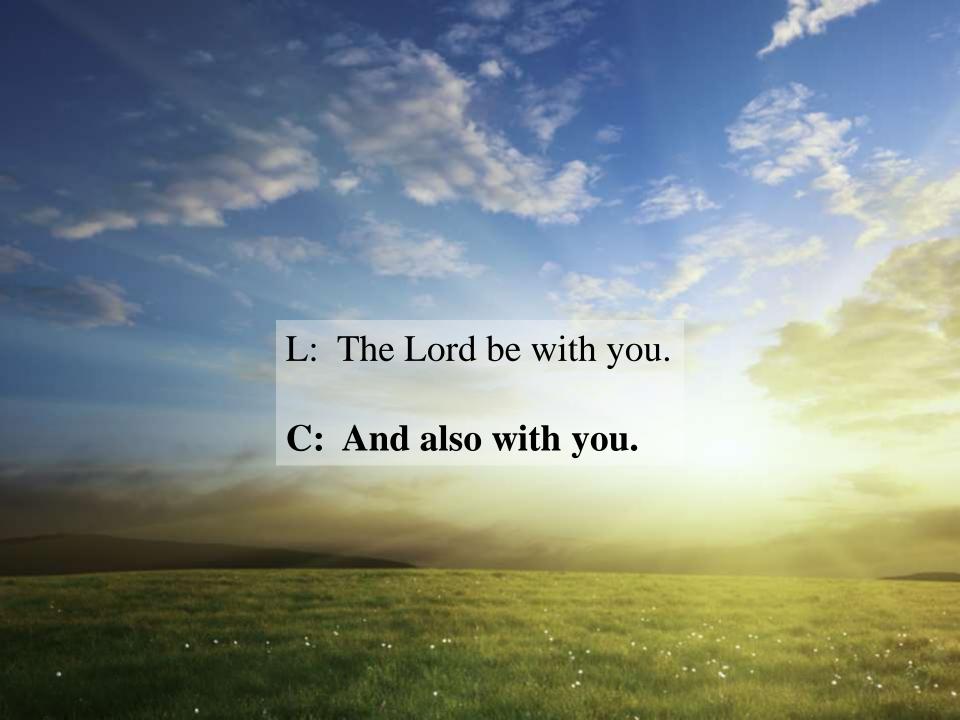
Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth; we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever,
Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior,
you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us;
now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us;
in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call. Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!



Prayer of the Day

L: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.





First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Today's reading is the conclusion to the flood story. Because of human sin, God destroys the earth by flood, saving only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark. Yet divine destruction gives way to divine commitment. As in the first creation, God blesses humanity and establishes a covenant with all creatures.

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰ and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations:

¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." ¹⁷God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 25:1-10

- L: ¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
- C: ²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- L: ³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
- C: ⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

- L: ⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- C: ⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.
- L: ⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- C: 8You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Lord and Savior:
open now your saving word.
Let it burn like fire within us;
speak until our hearts are stirred.
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the
good news that you bring.

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

L: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

"Renunciation"

Thy Holy Wings

ELW #613

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3, Gradia Grindal, b. 1943. st. 2; tr. Composite. Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. Hymnal version. Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co. Inc. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A and CCLI #1943036. All rights reserved.

1.

Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.

Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.

Oh, let me nestle near thee,
within thy downy breast
where I will find sweet comfort
and peace within thy nest.
Oh, close thy wings around me
and keep me safely there,
for I am but a newborn
and need thy tender care.

3.

Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood.
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.
Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

Apostles' Creed

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 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.



Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#184

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Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

L: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

C: Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

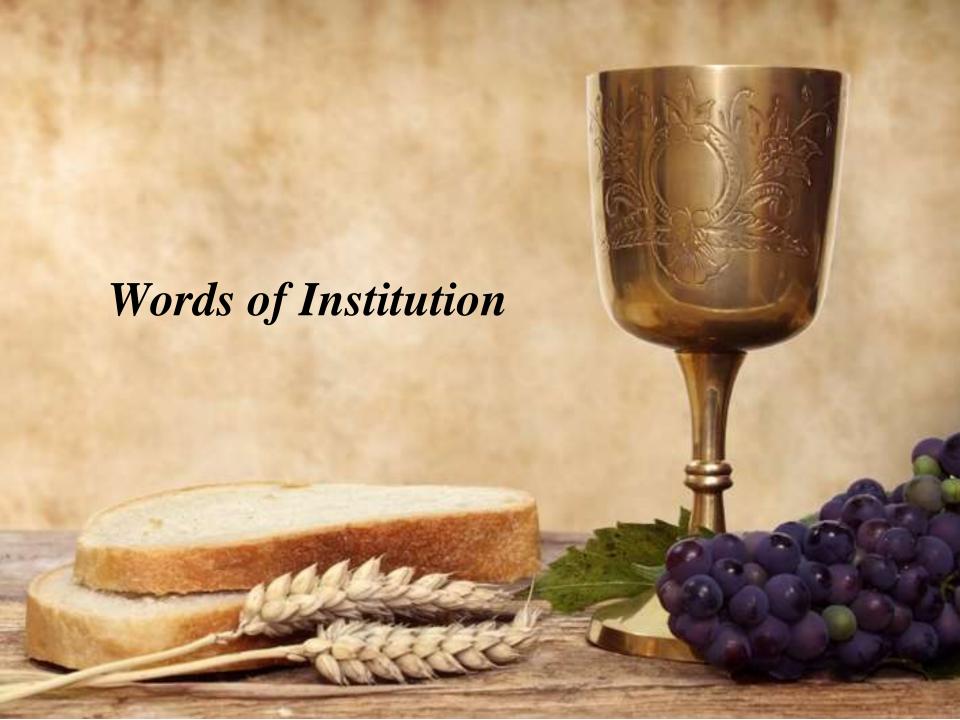
Response after each petition:

L: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.



The 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, and 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Meal

Together

These gifts of grace are open to all who believe and will be given to everyone who extends an open hand to receive them.



Christ, Be Our Light

#715

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Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us Your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

#325

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I want Jesus to walk with me;

I want Jesus to walk with me;

all along my pilgrim journey,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.







Prayer after Communion

L: Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your
immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into
one bread, now make us one loaf to
feed the world; in the name of Jesus,
the Bread of life.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: Beloved,
we are God's own people,
holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and 中 give you peace.

C: Amen.

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW #504

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A mighty fortress is our God, A sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us. Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail; God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide, 4. no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Amen.

