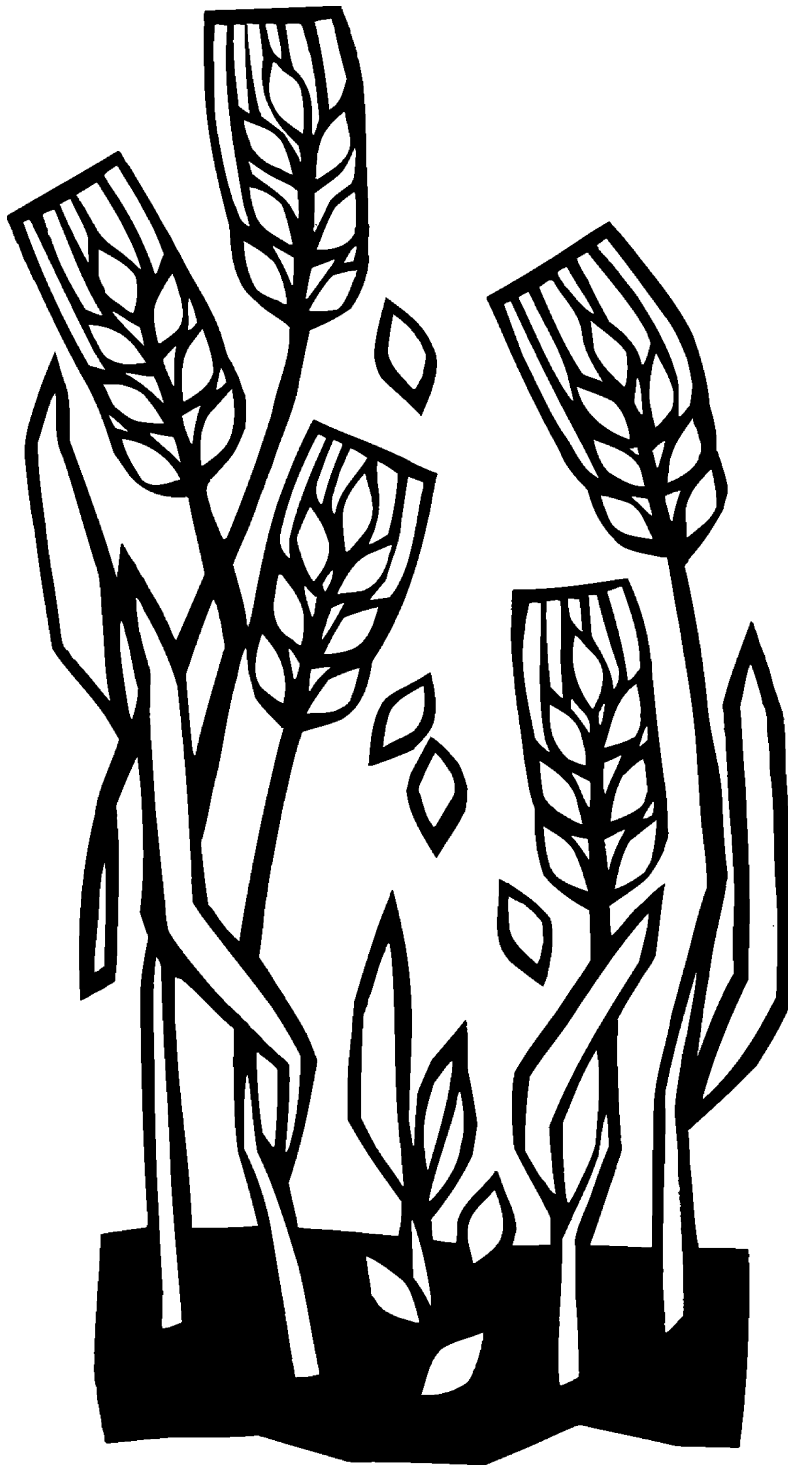


Peace Lutheran Church of Lake Zurich



**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024**

PRELUDE

Peace to all who enter here. You are welcome in the place.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please rise as you are able and face the font. You may make the sign of the cross as a way of remembering your baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings”* (ELW 885)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

GREETING (ELW p. 98)

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.

KYRIE

In peace in peace, let us pray to the

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

For your people here, who have come to give your praise,
for the strength to live your word let us pray to the

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Help save and defend us O God.

A men

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we acclaim you. You are god eternal;
all creation worships you. *Refrain*

All the angels in the heavens chant your praise in endless song! Holy, holy, holy,
God of power and might. *Refrain*

The apostles all praise you. All the prophets acclaim you. All the martyrs and your
faithful people worship you. *Refrain*

God, Creator, we praise you. Jesus the Christ, we adore you. Spirit of the Living
God, we worship you. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*ELW p. 102*)

Let us pray.

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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

You may be seated as the children are invited forward.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children from birth through Sunday School are invited forward for a special moment of preparation before the proclamation of God's word in the assembly.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (*pg. 643*)

A reading from Jeremiah.

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It 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. ³³But 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. ³⁴No 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-12 (pg. 452)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful
Spirit.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10 (pg. 973)

A reading from Hebrews.

Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.

⁵Christ 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"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Return to God with all your heart,
The Source of grace and mercy:
Come, seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33 (pg. 875)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.

²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip

went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very 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.

²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"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. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated.

MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel Morris

A moment of silence for reflection is kept after the message.

Please rise as you are able to proclaim the gospel in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY “*Now the Green Blade Rises*” (ELW 379)

1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

2 In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

3 Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children especially LSSI and Safe Families. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation especially the Prayer Circle and Caring Tree. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give every good gift to those we remember in prayer this week especially Mike, Wally, Chuck, Stephen, Tom, MaryKate & Ivy, Bruce & Anne, the family and friends of Bill, and the family and friends of Mike. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear now the prayers we offer aloud and in the silence of our hearts...(long pause.....). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us *especially Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today*. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

PEACE (*ELW p. 106*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with a handshake in the name of the Lord, saying Peace be with you. Afterwards, you may be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Your offering this morning supports the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING “As the Grains of Wheat” (ELW 465)

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. **Refrain**

Please rise as you are able when the offering is brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 107)

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.

PREFACE (*ELW p. 108*)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosana in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in your name. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,

together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,

and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,

who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection,

we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food

and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER (*ELW p. 112*)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

You may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you break the chains of hatred and fear; have mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you are the way of justice and peace; have mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you are the way of mercy and love; have mercy on us, mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to the table. He is truly present for you in the eating and drinking offering forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and salvation to all who trust his words. Children are welcome to commune, "for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Luke 18:16). The ushers will invite you forward to encircle the Lord's Table and receive the bread with wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten free wafers are available upon request. You may join hands to receive the blessing before returning to your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN "In the Singing" (ELW 466)

1 In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

2 In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, **Refrain**

Refrain: Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise as you are able for the blessing.

BLESSING

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 ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG "Restore in Us, O God" (ELW 328)

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

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

2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GRATITUDE

So much gratitude for everyone who has contributed to worship today.
Find all of this week's announcements in the Prints of Peace on the [PLC website](#).

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