



In Community with all the Saints



2nd Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

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Huxley, IA 50124

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The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds
ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Ring of the Bell and Prelude

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

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, by what we have done and by what we have**

left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW 423 (vs. 1, 2)

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899; Music: Robert Lowry; Public domain.

Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day,
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

***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.

Week 2 - In community with all the saints

Mark 9:2-8 *Jesus is in conversation with those who have gone before him*

The Sunday readings for Lent 2, year B highlight God's promise to many generations; the passage from Romans reminds us that our faith is intertwined with those who have gone before us. The understanding of community expressed in our creeds extends beyond the present time to include those whose faith has influenced our own and those we influence after us. We hear this connection to what has been established before us echoed in Mark 9:2-8, the account of the transfiguration.

Active engagement together

Tell about a person whose life and faith have influenced your own. Next tell about yourself and the ways you hope to shape and influence the faith of future generations.

At the sound of the bell, we will gather together, pray and light the second candle.

Let us pray.

**Timeless One, you renew your promises in every generation. Deepen our awareness of the communion of saints who have gone before us, the saints in our own time, and the saints who will carry on your message of grace after us. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.**

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

¹⁵God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ²³Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

The holy Gospel according to Mark the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

³¹[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

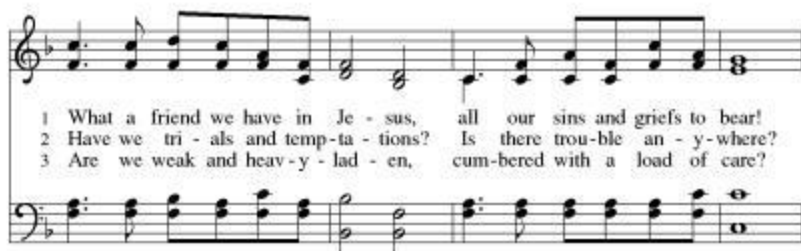
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *Please stay in your pews*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "What A Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW 742

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886; Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918; public domain.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression (*especially*):

Prayer Requests:	Tyler Anderson	Anita Brendeland
Joan Carson	Alisha Cox	Bev Echtenkamp
Jackie Greene	Dolores Hauge	Christa Hartsook
Phyl Hughes	Warren Johnson	Kevin Klingbeil
Alvina Larson	Ardell Lundgren	Merlin Lyon
Loree Ness	Roy Paradise	Deidre Qual
Karen Rew	Harold Rittgers	Shannon Tope
Joyce Volz	Sarah JoAnn Young	Phil Zeller

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.
(*Especially*):

Family & friends of: Angie Claude, Arlene Wee, Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Sue Ihle, Ralph Kalsem, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Jimmy Young, Darrell Rout, John Maier, Travis Ellis, John Johnson, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness, Nathan Stupka, Bart Mason, Lowell Elliott, Kaytie Anderson, Harold Long, Debbie Bollmeyer, Linda Lantz, Hannah Tjernagel

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***OFFERING**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

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

***BLESSING**

The Creator who fashions us together with all things,
the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community,
the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints,
one God, ☩ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423 (vs. 3,4)

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899; Music: Robert Lowry; Public domain.

Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day,
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er,



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

COUNCIL RETREAT DISCUSSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Ringling of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Austin Klimpel

This Week at Palestine

Today, Today, February 28, 2021 *Second Sunday of Lent*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2021

6:30 p.m. ZOOM Bible study

Wednesday, February 24th, 2021

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

12:00 noon ZOOM Prayer time

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten service

Sunday, March 7, 2021 *Third Sunday of Lent*

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion (*Live streamed*)

Lectionary texts: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;
John 2:13-22

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support as we strive to reach our average weekly offering goal of \$4,825 for current expenses and \$68 for benevolence.

Southeastern Iowa Synod E-News Prayer: We cannot fully comprehend God's ways or what Jesus has accomplished for our sake and salvation. Pray daily to be alert and receptive to what God is revealing to us and to how the Spirit stirs in us faith, wisdom and understanding.



Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**

Go to our website www.plchuxley.com and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING tab on the right located above our "Reaching out in Christian love to all" statement.

Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry at Ballard Creek in Huxley.

Open:

Sundays 1-3 p.m., Wednesdays 4-6 p.m.,
Saturdays 10-noon

When you sign up, include your phone number in addition to your name, and check to see who has the shift before and after yours. If the previous person hasn't arranged to give you the key, call him/her. Likewise, when you are done with your shift, arrange to pass the key to the next person. The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

Please consider this important opportunity to serve our community. See Deb Moore for more information. (515-460-1037)

The sign-up sheet is in Fellowship Hall.
Please consider staffing at least one shift.



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

All rostered ministers and members of congregations are invited to a discussion of the anti-racism statement approved by the synod council this summer.

Go to their website @ <https://seiasynod.org/> to [Read the statement](#)

This will be a two-part discussion. The second part is Sunday, March 7th @ 4:00 PM. [Register online](#)



3001 Riverside Rd, Story City, IA 50248

1-800-373-7748

rlbc@riverside.org

www.RiversideLBC.org

“To Know Christ and make Christ known to all.”

Upcoming Events

March 5-7 Marriage Retreat

April 10 Junior’s Spring Blast

March 27 Riverside Gala & Auction

April 17 Spring Volunteer Work Day

April 23-25 Men’s Retreat

Relaunching VBS in 2021

Join us on a journey to Mars and Beyond as we explore where God’s power can take us!

- Our mission will take place June 13th-17th, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Palestine Lutheran Church.



- Registration details will be provided in April.
- Seeking volunteers – many different roles to fill.

Contact Candi Engler

(volley_602@hotmail.com) if you are interested.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS



This Lent, we're putting God's love in action by making Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. The loss and uncertainty of COVID-19 hit our poorest neighbors around the world even harder. We, ourselves, are restless after a year of wandering in the wilderness of a pandemic. We want to be the hands and feet of Christ for our siblings. We're ready to DO something, and are excited to engage in this project as a community during our Lenten journey this year.

We will be assembling these kits at home during the 5 weeks of Lent. Here's what you will need:

1. 2 Bars of soap (4 to 5 oz. any brand in original wrapping)
2. 1 Bath towel (light-weight maximum 52" x 27", dark color recommended)
3. 1 Toothbrush (adult size, in original packaging)
4. 1 Comb
5. 1 Nail clipper (metal, attached file optional)

If you would like to use this list as a devotional and collect each item each week as a family (think one item per person in household) you may!

Devotions for Offering will go to postage, items to put together additional care kits. Personal Care Kits will be collected on Palm Sunday (3/28).

**Until Your Love
Reaches Every Neighbor**



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



Lent



The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church” (see the Leaders Edition to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 617). It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

In the early church, the weeks before Easter were a time in which the whole community took responsibility for the training of catechumens. Not only were the catechumens enriched by this formation, but those already within the community were strengthened in their faith along with them.

Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.



Legend of the Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends is a candle holder with a legend still shrouded in great mystery. It is said that when you give the candle holder to a friend, that it will solidify your bond with that person for the rest of your

lives. The interlocked arms of the figures are meant to be symbolic of the bond shared between close friends.

Mayan Indian legend is where the Circle of Friends story originates. The clay candle holders that have made it to modern times are based on ancient groups celebrating around actual bonfires; dancing and sharing stories of each other's good qualities and becoming closer to one another. Our Circle of Friends candle holder pottery ranges from 3 to 7 people and come in a variety of muted, earthy tones. While some others are made with modern materials, those from Sunland Home Decor are only made with clay similar to those of ancient times.

The mood created by this unique art piece is that of warmth and friendship. When a tealight or votive candle is placed in the center it casts shadows around the room that appear to dance along with the flame.

Jesus created a circle of followers whom he labelled as friends. He called them friends because he revealed to them the mission and purpose for which he came. And shared them the struggles and burdens that he bore in his earthly ministry. Jesus invited them into the vastness of his inner personal life and celebrated with them joy and sorrow. Friendships are relationships that you choose and foster while family is what you are born into and involve other people's network of relations and choices.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you." John 15:12-16



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



The devastating winter storm that caused power grid failure, dangerous shortages and fatal conditions across the state of Texas in February will have long-lasting impacts on those most vulnerable in the affected areas. To help with long-term relief and as an anti-hunger synod, the Southeastern Iowa Synod will be sending a gift to fight hunger as the recovery in Texas continues.

There is currently a matching grant through the Office of the Bishop for the first \$7,000 contributed to this effort by individuals, congregations, or partner ministries of the Southeastern Iowa Synod.

The Office of the Bishop will be collecting gifts to be sent to the Southwestern Texas, Texas – Louisiana Gulf Coast, and Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana synods until March 26th, 2021. After this date, gifts can be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Gifts can be [given online](https://seiasynod.org/texas-disaster-relief-2021/) @ <https://seiasynod.org/texas-disaster-relief-2021/> or checks can be sent directly to the Southeastern Iowa Synod at:

2635 Northgate Drive
Iowa City, IA 52245

Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

A Love That Lets Go (based on Mark 8)

Sometimes we are just not to be trusted with the task of loving. When we really, really love someone or something, our fingers can grasp too tightly, and our fists clench a little too firmly. For fear of losing what we love, we can squeeze the life out of what we were trying to protect.

Today, Jesus announces the trajectory of his mission: he is going to be put to death after great suffering and rejection, and he is going to be raised from the dead on the third day. This announcement sends Peter's hands reaching out to hold onto Jesus with fierce firmness. Peter doesn't want to lose the one he loves, and he goes so far as to shame and criticize Jesus for his words.

Have you ever acted like Peter, letting fear of losing someone you love thwart your ability to actually love them?

When Jesus says that those who try to save their lives are going to lose their lives, he is talking about our instinct to hold on too tightly to the things that we love. Somewhere in this move, our love actually becomes control. In the moment when the instinct to control takes hold, love and life are lost.

Jesus' words invite us to back up. We acknowledge our tight grip on God, on each other, on our own hearts. We let a little air in to those places where our tight grip has been suffocating life. We gather to worship a God who loves this world so deeply that God would rather die at our hands than coerce us into reciprocating that love. Today, we come to know God's love, which never seeks to control or pin us down, but which breathes life into the world.