

PLACES of the PASSION

The High Priest's Courtyard



**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*Reaching Out in Christian Love to All*

1375 Highway 210

Huxley, IA 50124

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*In this service for Week 4 of Lent, the place of the Passion is the Courtyard, outside of where Jesus is put on trial before the high priest and where Peter denies Jesus. We are called to confess that we often tend to distance ourselves from Christ, when we should be drawing closer to him. The meaning, history and spiritual inspiration associated with the Courtyard help us to grow to understand more deeply the hard road our Lord took that the way to heaven might be open to us.*

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

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

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

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Gracious and most merciful Father—

**In the light of your holiness I see myself as I really am.**

And I am guilty.

**I confess that I have impure thoughts and unclean lips.**

I think too highly of myself and too little of others.

**I cling too tightly to the treasures of this world.**

That I cannot open my hands to receive blessings from you.

**My feet walk in the path of sin.**

I wander astray and become a stranger to righteousness.

**Forgive me, and set me again on the path that leads to life.**

Deal with me not as I deserve, but according to your mercy.

**Not because I am worthy but because you are gracious. Lord,  
have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**

*(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great,  
Christ's love is greater.)*

Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

**I shall follow where you guide!**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”**

**ELW 774**

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929; Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924; Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

1 What a fel - low - ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,  
 last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,

lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Refrain*

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

Let us ever walk with Jesus.

**To see the depths of his love.**

To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

**To gaze upon the heights of his grace.**

To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

**We follow Christ to the courtyard.**

It belongs to the High Priest Caiaphas—but Peter is there and so are others.

**Peter denies Jesus three times.**

But all is not lost. After his collapse God's grace is amazing.

**Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!**

**\*KYRIE**

*setting 3 page 138*

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**

Let us pray.

**Merciful and mighty Father, like Peter we can make great boasts, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!"**

**When we fail and fall, and get lost in guilt, restore to us the**

joy of our salvation; through Jesus Christ,  
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:8-12**

*This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called “servant songs.” Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant’s healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.*

<sup>8</sup>By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people.

<sup>9</sup>They made his grave with the wicked

and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup>Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
**I shall not be in want.**

<sup>2</sup>The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
**and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
**and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

<sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I  
shall fear no evil;  
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort  
me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
**you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### **SECOND READING: James 2:8-13**

*Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful  
of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak.  
Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead,  
a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and  
mercy for those in need.*

<sup>8</sup>You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the  
scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you

show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup>For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup>For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup>So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup>For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*setting 3 ELW page 142*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 26:69-75**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." <sup>71</sup>When he went out to the



porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup>Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup>Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. <sup>75</sup>Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

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

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*No children's church or confirmation class today due to spring break*

### REFLECTION HYMN:

**"What Wondrous Love is This"**

**ELW 666 (verses 1, 2)**

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914-1997, alt.; Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

## What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

### SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

### “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW 779

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5; Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.; public domain.

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

### \*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**

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Response: Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

**MEAL** *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING**

**HYMN OF THE MONTH:**

**“Take My Life, That I May Be”**

**ELW 583**

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vicente Mendoza, 1875–1955  
Music: William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954; Music © 1999 Augsburg  
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***Refrain***

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee. ***Refrain***

Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. ***Refrain***

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee. ***Refrain***

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne. ***Refrain***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your  
gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

### \*DIALOGUE

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

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed  
one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup  
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless this feast.  
Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth,  
burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### COMMUNION HYMNS:

“All Are Welcome”

ELW 641

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

## All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions;  
 claim the faith of Je - sus;  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger;  
 claim from floor to raf - ter;



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

# “As the Grains of Wheat”

ELW 465

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950; Music: Marty Haugen; Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under Onelicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

## \*TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen**

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**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 Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

**\*BLESSING**

Jesus invites us to walk with him to the high priest's courtyard, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

**Let us ever walk with Jesus!**

**\*SENDING**

**“Be Thou My Vision”**

**ELW 793**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

Music: Irish traditional; public domain.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ringing of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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### **Those Serving in Today's Service**

Pastor: Pastor Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dove

Lector: Matt Williams

Acolytes: Maddie Schonhorst; Aubrey Lewis

*Technicians:* Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries, Megan Rowedder

### **This Week at Palestine**

Today, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Fourth *Sunday of Lent*

*No Choir*

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion; *no children's church or music with Nels*

Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

*April newsletter deadline*

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

10:30 a.m. Area Pastor's Study

7:30 p.m. Bible Study via ZOOM

Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

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

10:30 a.m. Green Hills Devotions

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Quilters

6:00 p.m. Light Supper served by Sr. Choir

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Worship Service

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; children's church

Music with Nels

10:45 a.m. First Communion class

5:00 – 6:15 p.m. Theology on Tap

Lectionary texts: Isaiah 53:3-5; Psalm 23; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5;  
Mark 6:7, 12-13

**Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:**

**Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

**Attendance: 71**

General: \$4,039.00

Honey Bees Sunday Collection: \$50.00

Youth: \$37.00

Honey Bees Mid-Week Collection: \$35.00

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support.



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

ENews Prayer: Pray that, as our neighbors suffer misfortune, poverty, hunger, homelessness or physical or mental illness, we will not judge them, blame them or decide where they do and don't belong but will instead respond as Jesus did, with boundless mercy, respect, care and hospitality.

**Join us for Theology on Tap** Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>  
from 5 – 6:15 p.m. @ Fenceline Beer Lab in Huxley,  
107 S Main Ave, Huxley, IA 50124



**Join us at 6 p.m.**

**Wednesdays during Lent.**

March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Lasagne

*Sponsored by Sr. Choir*

March 29<sup>th</sup>

Soups

*Sponsored by*

*Fellowship/Evangelism*

*The family of Shirley Saveraid expresses their thanks for the support given to them during the last several months through thoughts and prayers for Shirley.*

*The funeral on March 3, 2023 was a tribute to a "lady" who lived a fulfilled and interesting life. Thanks for all the kitchen help, getting the church ready, and Pastor's support. During a time when there is a lot of grief it was so helpful to get the support needed to prepare for the funeral.*



Thank You



**There are still hives (a.k.a. jars) available to take home and "fill" for our Lent midweek offerings!**

Remember, returned hives are eligible for the bee raffle on Easter! Our offering efforts are through Lutheran

World Relief (LWR). You can also write checks made to Palestine Lutheran Church and in the memo section write "Lent Special Offering."



## **Palestine Fish Fry (again)!**

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Dine in or carry out!

*Free-will donation*

Meal will include 2 pieces of fried fish, fries, coleslaw, roll, and *dessert*

**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.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**What? Or Why?** (based on John 9)

What do we believe? Our Lutheran heritage is rooted in theological debate, and such conversations have always been a part of our tradition.

Disagreements about theological propositions and biblical interpretations have led to split after split among Lutheran church bodies and congregations. At the same time, our theological and biblical commitments have led us to seek the unity of the church with mergers among Lutheran denominations and with common communion agreements with our ecumenical neighbors. In our broader culture it also seems that theology often leads the way in conversations about faith. Theological principles from various religious communities are used to argue for or against laws, corporate practices, and cultural expectations.

In today's gospel story we find something different leading the way: the blind man's experience of the healing power of Jesus. This experience is at odds with the theological thought of the religious leaders. The narrative reads like a trial, one in which the primary witness is hostile to the line of questioning from the prosecution. The conversations the leaders have with the man and his parents are a mess of misunderstanding that leads to insult and accusation. They are talking about theology; he and his parents are talking about experience. No one is there to translate between the two.

Why do you believe? Our understandings of God are certainly shaped by the communities of which we have been a part and theologies we have learned. Yet, God's grace is not something we logic our way through; it is something we experience. The early church debated all sorts of theological positions, but their witness was grounded in their experience of death and resurrection. *What* we believe is important, but as we step into each day as witnesses of God's love for the world, *why* we believe may be the most hope-filled message we have to share.