

March 9, 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

P.O. Box 189

Huxley, IA 50124

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First Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 9th, 2025

In this service for Week 1 of Lent, we listen to Jesus say from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are do," and we ponder the meaning of these words.

*=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.*

Words That Last Forever Litany

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

"The word that goes forth from my mouth shall not return to me empty," says the Lord. "It shall accomplish that which I purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Extinguish the First Lent Candle "Forgiveness"

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(ELW p. 94)

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.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

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**

“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.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



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;



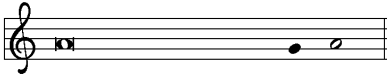
lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

***GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



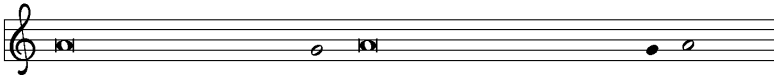
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



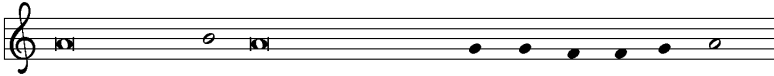
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**God of forgiveness, you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Create clean hearts in us, we pray. Cleanse us from our sin, that our joy may be complete. Then we will live in your light. Then these ashen souls will be ignited with your forgiving grace. Through your Son, 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: Joel 2:12-19

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land,
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹In response to his people the LORD said:

I am sending you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a mockery among the nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

page 252



***GOSPEL: John 3:14-21**

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children will leave to go to Children's Church

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1st & 2nd grade – Upstairs to the left

3rd & 4th grades – Upstairs to the left

5th & 6th grades – Downstairs

7th & 8th grades – Conference room

HYMN OF THE MONTH: "How Can I Be Free From Sin" W&P 65

Text: Graham Kendrick and Steve Thompson; Music: Graham Kendrick and Steve Thompson;
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D F#m/A Bm D⁷ Em⁷ F#m⁷ Bm⁷

1 How can I be free from sin? lead me to the cross of
 3 How can I know peace with-in? lead me to the cross of
 5 How can I live day by day? lead me to the cross of

Em⁷ Asus A D F#m/A Bm⁷ D⁷

Je - sus; from the guilt, the pow'r, the pain,
 Je - sus; sing a song of joy a - gain,
 Je - sus; fol - low - ing his nar - row way,

Em⁷ F#m⁷ Bm⁷ Em⁷ A⁷ D *Fine*

lead me to the cross of Je - sus.
 lead me to the cross of Je - sus.
 lead me to the cross of Je - sus.

F#m⁷ Bm⁷ F#m⁷ Bm⁷

2 There's no oth - er way, no price that I could pay,
 4 Flow - ing from a - bove, all - for - giv - ing love,

Em⁷ G/A A⁷ D

simp - ly to the cross I cling,
 from the Fa - ther's heart to me.

F#m⁷ Bm⁷ F#m⁷ Bm⁷

This is all I need, this is all I plead,
 What a gift of grace, his own righ - teous - ness,

Em⁷ E⁷ Em⁷ A⁷ Em⁷/A G/A A⁷ D.C.

that his blood was shed for me,
 cloth - ing me in pu - ri - ty.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Oh, Love, How Deep”

ELW 322 (versus 1-4)

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt. Music: English ballad, 15th cent. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his

thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and

God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

*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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys,

that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*):

Kristy Brownfield, Sam Engler, Betsy Johnson Alice Kahler, Gemma Lynch, Judy McKinney, Joey McBride, Cindy Peterson, Larry Pote, Havanna Roelfs, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Pastor Stubbs, Omar Tesdell, Ramsey Tesdell

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (*especially*):

Clara Eisenmann, Dan Eisenmann, Dena Bloodsworth, Charles Bowers, Sarah Piper, Helen Miller, Jacob Leedom, Dan Bushaw, Elaine Paradise, Charlize Flick, Lee Briggs, Thomas Noll, Linda Lewis, Roger Larson, Sally Greve, Krisha Barrett, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Shirley Pierce

Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

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.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

“Ah Holy Jesus”

Sr. Choir

AUTHORS Craig Courtney, Johann Crüger, Johann Heermann, Robert Seymour Bridges; CCLI SONG #4658089; COPYRIGHTS Words: Public Domain; Music: 2006 The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.); Reprinted under CCLI #2551458

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

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

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*** SENDING SONG**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

ELW 543

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008, alt.; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906; Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Children are dismissed to go downstairs for:



CHILDREN'S MUSIC WITH NELS



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Ringing 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 Dove

Lector: student(s)

Acolyte: Kinsey Calvert

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Brayden DeVries, Owen Williams

This Week at Palestine

Sunday, March 9th, 2025 *First Sunday of Lent*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

Music with Nels

"Cookie Sunday"

New member orientation

First Communion Class

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025

10:00 a.m. Area pastor's study (Pastor)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, March 12th, 2025

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

1:00 p.m. Quilters

6:00 p.m. Light Dinner

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Mid-week Lenten service

Sunday, March 16th, 2025 *Second Sunday of Lent*

No Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

Lectionary texts: Genesis 2:4-17; Psalm 27; 1 Thess 4:13-18; John 14:1-6

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:

Sunday, March 2nd, 2025:

General: \$4,663.00

Attendance: 120

Benevolence: \$55.00

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



Palastine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palastine Lutheran Church
PO BOX 189
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.
4. Text **GIVE** to 515-207-6435.

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



Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There is a sign up in fellowship hall to sign up for shifts. The Clothing Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

***Please consider staffing at least one shift.
Sign-up is in fellowship hall.***



Join us at 6 p.m.

Wednesdays during Lent.

March 12 th	Breakfast for Supper	<i>Sponsored by Fellowship/Evangelism</i>
March 19 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Sr. Choir</i>
March 26 th	Soups	<i>Sponsored by Confirmation & R.O.C.K.</i>
April 2 nd	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Council</i>
April 9 th	TBA	<i>Sponsored by Property Committee</i>

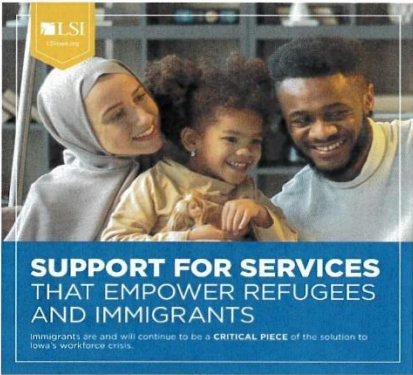


Easter Lilies for Easter Worship

Order your Easter Lily for **\$20** for Easter Sunday Worship.

Call Tracy Sheldahl at 515-450-1961. Please let her know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone. The deadline to order is **Sunday, March 23rd**.

**Lent Mid-Week and Family Home Devotional Offerings
(collected over 40 days for Palm Sunday (April 13th))**



Monetary donations for mid-week to support LSI. Make note in memo section of check "LSI".

Holy Week and Special Offering

We will be collecting Donations of Food (per list below) & Special Monetary Donations from April 13th – April 27th to help serve both the Food Pantry & the Ballard Clothing & Food Pantry.

❖ **Huxley & Kelley "Cupboard" Food Pantry.**

Over the past year, the pantry has served 2400 people. The pantry is located at 503 E 1st Street (behind the south Casey's).

❖ **Ballard Clothing & Food Pantry**

Located at 602 N Main Ave., Suite 105, Huxley. Free to anyone in the Ballard Community.

Fill a grocery bag with food items and bring to church any time between April 6 & 27. — Pick up bag at church entrances

- Targeting the Most Popular Choices:**
- Chef Boyardee Beef Ravioli (canned)
 - Dinty Moore Beef Stew (canned)
 - Chicken Breast Chunk (can)
 - Carrots -sliced and diced (canned)
 - Baked beans/pork and beans (canned)
 - Manwich (canned)
 - Helper meals (boxed)
 - Pears (canned and cups)

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.

Journeying through the Wilderness (based on Luke 4)

The wilderness has captured the imaginations of artists, adventurers, and spiritual seekers for thousands of years. It can be a place of profound self-discovery, exploration, beauty, and solitude. It is a place of few distractions: no commerce, no schedule, no business as usual. The wilderness can be a freeing place that opens us up to experience life in new and profound ways.

However, the wilderness is also disorienting and lonely. The landscape can be brutal and unforgiving. Wilderness wanderers can easily find themselves lost, exhausted, and dirty. The unbearable heat of the day, the uncomfortable cold of the nights, and the lack of food, water, or shade can bring people to their breaking point. The wilderness has been a place of exile and punishment, and a place where people's strength, determination, and faith are put to the test.

The complexities of the wilderness set the stage for today's gospel story, in which we get a glimpse of who Jesus is and who he is called to be. In the wilderness, we see the depth of Jesus' faith. Jesus is not swayed by the allure of power, control, authority, or physical comfort. He does not buy into the tempter's lies. Even in the disorientation and isolation of the wilderness, Jesus trusts in the Spirit, who has led him to this place and who gives him the strength to live into his call throughout his journey.

We are at the beginning of our own journey, a Lenten season of metaphorical wilderness wandering. The good news is that we do not go alone. The Spirit goes before us, behind us, beside us, and within us. Along this journey, the many voices of the tempter may try to lure us in with power, control, authority, or comfort. And yet, our trust and our identities lie with the One who already defeated the tempter. We already have all we need. In Christ, we are already loved, forgiven, and made whole, no matter where our journeys take us.